



September 3, 2021

The Honorable Dave Cortese  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3070  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 37 – REMOVAL OF OPPOSITION  
As Amended September 3, 2021**

Dear Senator Cortese:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I am writing to remove our opposition to your Senate Bill 37 regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

Formerly, SB 37 would have prohibited use of CEQA's "common sense" exemption for projects on sites listed on the state's Cortese List. RCRC was concerned that the bill would have added additional costs and delays for a large universe of minor projects at potentially thousands of sites on the Cortese List. We believe the amendments adopted in Assembly Appropriations Committee and on the Assembly Floor substantially improve the bill to avoid these unintended consequences while still protecting public health, safety, and the environment.

For these reasons, we are pleased to remove our opposition to your SB 37. We look forward to working with you in the future to continue to refine the Cortese List and address contaminated sites throughout the state. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jkennedy@rcrcnet.org](mailto:jkennedy@rcrcnet.org) or (916) 447-4806.

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The Honorable Dave Cortese  
Senate Bill 37  
September 3, 2021  
Page 2

Sincerely,



JOHN KENNEDY  
Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair, Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic  
Materials Committee  
The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Josh Tooker, Chief Consultant, Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic  
Materials Committee  
Lawrence Lingbloom, Chief Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Greg Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Kirstin Kolpitzke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Genevieve Wong, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Scott Seekatz, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus