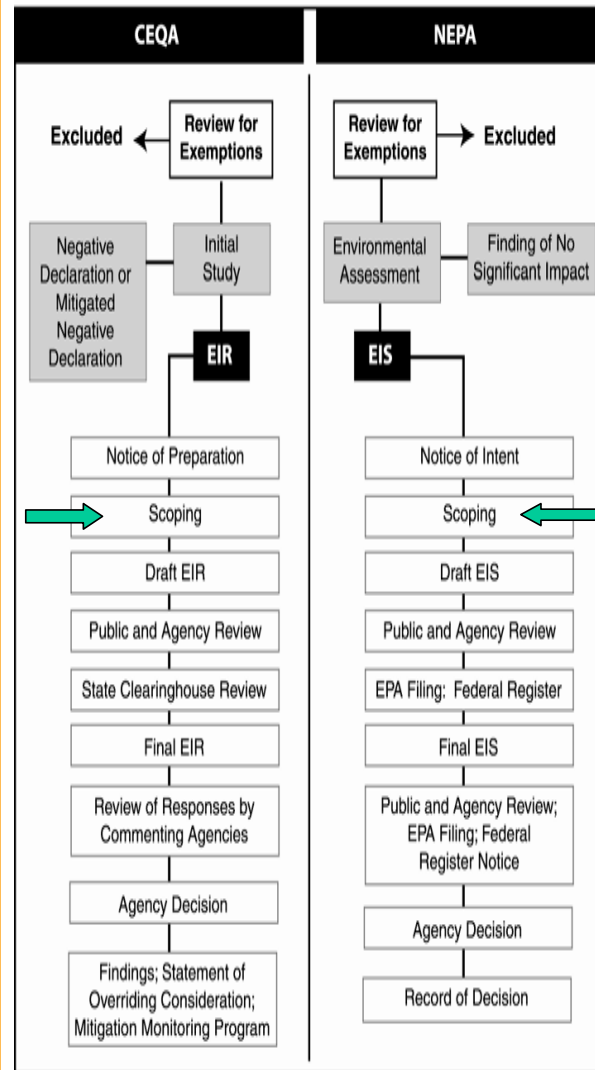




## The National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – NEPA requires that federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment.
- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** – CEQA requires that California state and local agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment.
- **EIS/EIR** – An EIS/EIR is a public document that provides an assessment of the potential environmental impacts resulting from a proposed action and alternatives. Within the EIS/EIR, the potentially affected environment is identified and resources potentially affected are analyzed.
- **Analysis** – Major resource areas to be evaluated in the EIS/EIR include, but are not limited to:
  - Aesthetics
  - Biological Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Geomorphology
  - Land Use
  - Water Quality and Flood Conveyance
  - Indian Trust Assets
  - Air Quality
  - Noise and Vibration
  - Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Management
  - Recreation
  - Traffic

## NEPA/CEQA Process Flow Chart



## Public Involvement Opportunities during the NEPA/CEQA Process

Attend the Public Scoping Meeting in Hamilton City, CA – January 29, 2009

Review and Comment on the Draft EIS/EIR – October-December, 2009

- Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR will be announced in October 2009 in the *Federal Register* and in local newspapers.
- The 45-day comment period commences with the availability of the announcement.

Attend the Public Hearing – November 2009

Review and Comment on the Final EIS/EIR – April/May 2010

- Availability of the Final EIS/EIR will be announced in April 2010 in the *Federal Register* and in local newspapers.
- The 30-day comment period commences with the availability of the announcement.

*While it is the goal of the project team to meet these dates, all dates referenced are tentative and may be adjusted as circumstances dictate during the EIS/EIR process.*