

A “thank you” to legislators who exempted the proposed L.A. football stadium from California’s environmental review law? |

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Artist's rendering of proposed football stadium in City of Industry (photo from www.stadiumsofprofootball.com)

Last fall, [I wrote about](#) the California Legislature’s effort to exempt the proposed football stadium in the City of Industry from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). I didn’t follow up on that post, but the Legislature [ultimately approved the exemption](#) in a special session in the fall. Now, [Los Angeles Times journalist Patrick McGreevy reports](#) that the stadium’s developer, Ed Roski’s Majestic Realty, treated three key California lawmakers — including the bill’s sponsor — to “hard-to-get tickets to Lakers playoff games” this year. (Here’s another [unflattering perspective on the events that led to that bill’s passage](#), from the San Jose Mercury News).

While it’s surely impossible to show a direct connection between the gifts and the legislators’ votes, it’s hard to see what the state gains by allowing this type of gift-giving.

All that aside, this legislation was unprecedented and dangerous. With [another potential stadium developer now seeking a similar exemption](#) from environmental review under CEQA, we’re only beginning to see the mischief this type of law can create, with others asking for equal treatment.

[Update: I misidentified the LA Times reporter who covered this story. It’s corrected now.]