

Council on Environmental Quality



2026 Chief FOIA Officer Report to the Attorney General

Section I: FOIA Leadership and Applying the Presumption of Openness

The guiding principle underlying the Department of Justice's (DOJ) 2022 [FOIA Guidelines](#) is the presumption of openness. The Guidelines also highlight the importance of agency leadership in ensuring effective FOIA administration. Please answer the following questions about FOIA leadership at your agency and describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA.

A. Leadership Support for FOIA

1. The FOIA requires each agency to designate a Chief FOIA Officer who is a senior official at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(j)(1) (2018). Is your agency's Chief FOIA Officer at or above this level?

Answer: Yes.

2. Please provide the name and title of your agency's Chief FOIA Officer.

Answer: Jocelyn D'Ambrosio

3. What steps has your agency taken to incorporate FOIA into its core mission? For example, has your agency incorporated FOIA milestones into its strategic plan?

Answer: The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and was tasked with assisting federal agencies in their implementation of NEPA. In fulfilling this statutory mandate, CEQ encourages public disclosure and engagement consistent with NEPA.

CEQ also takes seriously its own FOIA practice and upholding the presumption of openness. In 2025, CEQ published a final rule updating its FOIA and Privacy Act regulations to incorporate amendments to the FOIA set forth in the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016; to conform to guidance for Federal agencies from the Department of Justice; to make them easier for the public to understand and use; and to better reflect CEQ's current policy and practice. 90 FR 6828 (Jan. 21, 2025). CEQ's FOIA regulations reaffirm CEQ's commitment to providing the fullest possible disclosure of records to the public.

CEQ is continuing to review its internal FOIA operating procedures, including its practices with respect to proactive disclosures, and is considering whether to adopt a handbook for FOIA personnel. In addition, CEQ will continue to provide FOIA training for non-FOIA personnel.

B. Presumption of Openness

4. DOJ's 2022 FOIA Guidelines provides that "agencies should confirm in response letters to FOIA requesters that they have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions." Does your agency provide such confirmation in its response letters?

Answer: Yes.

5. In some circumstances, agencies may respond to a requester that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of requested records if acknowledging the existence of records would harm an interest protected by a FOIA exemption. This is commonly referred to as a Glomar response. If your agency tracks Glomar responses, please provide:

- the number of times your agency issued a full or partial Glomar response during Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (please separate full and partial Glomar responses if possible);
- the number of times a Glomar response was issued by exemption during FY 2025 (e.g., Exemption 7(C) – 20 times, Exemption 1 – 5 times).

Answer: CEQ made no Glomar responses in the reporting period.

6. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied, please describe them here.

Answer: In 2025, CEQ continued to consider ways to enhance proactive disclosures, including reducing redactions applied under the deliberative process privilege and continued to make proactive disclosures of frequently requested records, such as CEQ's staff list.

Section II: Ensuring Fair and Effective FOIA Administration

DOJ's 2022 [FOIA Guidelines](#) provide that “[e]nsuring fair and effective FOIA administration requires . . . proper training, and a full understanding of FOIA obligations by the entire agency workforce.” The Guidelines reinforce longstanding guidance to “work with FOIA requesters in a spirit of cooperation.” DOJ also “urge[s] agency Chief FOIA Officers to undertake comprehensive review of all aspects of their agency’s FOIA administration” as part of ensuring fair and effective FOIA administration.

A. FOIA Training

1. The FOIA directs agency Chief FOIA Officers to ensure that FOIA training is offered to agency personnel. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(j)(2)(F). Please describe the efforts your agency has undertaken to ensure proper FOIA training is made available and used by agency personnel.

Answer: All new entrants to CEQ, including staff, detailees, interns, and law clerks, attend records training within 90 days of their start dates. This training instructs new entrants on their obligations under the Federal Records Act (FRA) and on the role of FOIA. All CEQ employees review this information as part of CEQ’s annual records training. CEQ’s FOIA professionals regularly inform CEQ’s non-FOIA professionals about their FOIA obligations, including the presumption of openness, and provide updates and information on the FOIA process as necessary. Given CEQ’s relatively small size, CEQ provides targeted in-person training and legal counseling to all CEQ staff, detailees, interns, and law clerks who help process incoming FOIA requests and consultations, or who may be called on to assist CEQ in responding to particular requests given their subject matter expertise.

The CEQ Chief FOIA Officer, in coordination the CEQ FOIA Public Liaison, actively encourages CEQ FOIA personnel to attend trainings offered by the Department of Justice’s Office of Information Policy. Additionally, the FOIA Public Liaison provided advanced FOIA training to CEQ’s FOIA professionals, law clerks, and other attorneys during the reporting period.

2. Did your FOIA professionals, or other personnel at your agency with FOIA responsibilities, attend substantive FOIA training during the reporting period, such as training provided by the Department of Justice?

Answer: Yes.

3. If yes, please provide a brief description of the type of training attended or conducted and the topics covered.

Answer: CEQ FOIA professionals attended in-house training on CEQ FOIA policy, training on searching old paper records; training on the b6 privacy exemption; and training on adjudicating FOIA requester status.

4. Please provide an estimate of the percentage of your FOIA professionals and staff with FOIA responsibilities who attended substantive FOIA training during this reporting period.

Answer: 100%

5. OIP has [directed agencies](#) to “take steps to ensure that all of their FOIA professionals attend substantive FOIA training at least once throughout the year.” If your response to the previous question is that less than 80% of your FOIA professionals attended training, please explain your agency’s plan to ensure that all FOIA professionals receive or attend substantive FOIA training during the next reporting year.

Answer: N/A.

6. Describe any efforts your agency has undertaken to inform non-FOIA professionals of their obligations under the FOIA. In particular, please describe how often and in what formats your agency provides FOIA training or briefings to non-FOIA staff, and if senior leaders at your agency received a briefing on your agency’s FOIA resources, obligations and expectations during the FOIA process.

Answer: All new entrants to CEQ, including staff, detailees, interns, and law clerks, attend records training within 90 days of their start dates. This training instructs new entrants on their obligations under the Federal Records Act (FRA) and on the role of FOIA. All CEQ employees review this information as part of CEQ’s annual records training. CEQ’s FOIA professionals regularly inform CEQ’s non-FOIA professionals about their FOIA obligations, including the presumption of openness, and provide updates and information on the FOIA process as necessary. Given CEQ’s relatively small size, CEQ provides targeted in-person training and legal counseling to all CEQ staff, detailees, interns, and law clerks who help process incoming FOIA requests and consultations, or who may be called on to assist CEQ in responding to particular requests given their subject matter expertise.

B. Outreach

7. As part of the standard request process, do your FOIA professionals proactively contact requesters concerning complex or voluminous requests in an effort to clarify or narrow the scope of the request so requesters can receive responses more

quickly? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue and, if applicable, any specific examples.

Answer: Yes. CEQ regularly reaches out to requesters concerning complex or voluminous requests to ensure timely and effective responses. On multiple occasions in the reporting period, CEQ prepared a representative production in response to a request with potentially voluminous responsive records, and provided the requester an opportunity to review the representative materials and amend or narrow the scope of the request to aid in more quickly processing the request and to appropriately target requested records.

8. Outside of the standard request process or routine FOIA Liaison or FOIA Requester Service Center interactions, did your FOIA professionals engage in any outreach or dialogue with the requester community or open government groups regarding your administration of the FOIA? For example, did you proactively contact frequent requesters, host FOIA-related conference calls with open government groups, or provide FOIA training to members of the public? Please describe any such outreach or dialogue and, if applicable, any specific examples of how this dialogue has led to improvements in your agency's FOIA administration.

Answer: CEQ FOIA professionals routinely communicate with requesters regarding CEQ's administration of FOIA and continuously work to improve customer service when processing and responding to requests. CEQ also engaged a frequent FOIA requester about developing clearer language in the requests to identify particular records and avoid potential delays in processing.

9. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires additional notification to requesters about the services provided by the agency's FOIA Public Liaison. Please provide an estimate of the number of times requesters sought assistance from your agency's FOIA Public Liaison during Fiscal Year 2025 (please provide a total number or an estimate of the number for the agency overall).

Answer: Requesters sought assistance from the CEQ FOIA Public Liaison on approximately 10 occasions during FY2025.

C. Other Initiatives

10. Has your agency evaluated the allocation of agency personnel resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands? If so, please describe what changes your agency has or will implement.

Answer: Yes. In the reporting period, CEQ took steps to plan for changes to its available budget, expected at the end of fiscal year 2026 with the expiration of one-time appropriations under the Inflation Reduction Act, and continuously evaluates its current and future FOIA demands. In 2025, CEQ brought on three Information Law Specialists using one-time appropriations to help address the agency's FOIA demands, and is evaluating staffing capabilities going forward to continue to meet program demands while recognizing the agency's resources.

11. How does your agency use data or processing metrics to ensure efficient management of your FOIA workload? For example, case management reports, staff processing statistics, etc. In addition, please specifically highlight any data analysis methods or technologies used.

Answer: CEQ uses internal tracking tools to monitor the agency's FOIA workload. These tools are capable of generating statistical information on demand, including a list of open cases sorted by date; lists of open cases assigned to a particular attorney or Information Law Specialist; lists of complex, simple, or expedited cases; and timelines of cases closed by disposition; among others. CEQ uses these tools to identify trends and manage workflow.

12. Optional -- If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure fair and effective FOIA administration, please describe them here.

Answer: CEQ periodically makes proactive disclosures and directs FOIA requesters to the information they are seeking when such information is publicly available. In addition, CEQ's FOIA personnel meet frequently to review the status of the agency's open cases. Internal peer and supervisor review also ensures appropriate use of FOIA exemptions, with particular emphasis on disclosure and limiting application of the deliberative process privilege, where appropriate.

Section III: Proactive Disclosures

DOJ's 2022 [FOIA Guidelines](#) emphasize that "proactive disclosure of information is . . . fundamental to the faithful application of the FOIA." The Guidelines direct agencies to post "records online quickly and systematically in advance of any public request" and reiterate that agencies should post records "in the most useful, searchable, and open formats possible."

1. Please describe what steps your agency takes to identify, track, and post (a)(2) proactive disclosures.

Answer: CEQ FOIA personnel meet regularly to consider proactively disclosing FOIA productions and other agency documents that we expect will be of public interest.

2. Does your agency post logs of its FOIA requests?

- If so, what information is contained in the logs?
- Are they posted in CSV format? If not, what format are they posted in?
- Please provide a link to the page where any FOIA logs are posted. If applicable, please provide component links.

Answer: CEQ posts logs of its FOIA requests in Portable Document Format (PDF). The logs contain CEQ's internal tracking number, the requester, and a description of what is requested. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/information-resources/>.

3. Provide examples of any material (with links) that your agency has proactively disclosed during the past reporting year, including records that have been requested and released three or more times in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D).

Answer: CEQ released its [2025 FOIA Log](#) and regularly releases updated [staff lists](#).

4. Please provide a link (or component links, if applicable) where your agency routinely posts its frequently requested records.

Answer: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/information-resources/>

5. Beyond posting new material, is your agency taking steps to make the posted information more useful to the public, especially to the community of individuals who regularly access your agency's website? If yes, please provide examples of such improvements, such as steps taken to post information in open and machine-readable formats. If your agency is not taking steps to make posted information more useful, please explain why.

Answer: In addition to posting new material, CEQ regularly reviews and makes changes to the organization of the materials on its websites, in an effort to make the information more useful and accessible to the public.

6. Does your proactive disclosure process or system involve any collaboration with agency staff outside the FOIA office, such as IT or data personnel? If so, describe this interaction.

Answer: Yes, for posting purposes. CEQ's FOIA professionals are also the agency attorneys responsible for providing counsel on CEQ programs and records management. As such, collaboration with agency staff outside the FOIA office is unnecessary to identify documents for proactive disclosure. CEQ's FOIA office works with additional agency staff to collaborate on posting. In addition, because CEQ's primary public website is hosted by the Executive Office of the President (EOP), CEQ coordinates with EOP when making proactive disclosures when the disclosures have technical requirements.

7. Optional -- Please describe the best practices used to improve proactive disclosures and any challenges your agency faces in this area.

Answer: Due to CEQ's small agency size, CEQ does not have enterprise software to track and manage previously disclosed records.

Section IV: Steps Taken to Make Better Use of Technology

A key component of FOIA administration is using technology to make information available to the public and to gain efficiency in FOIA processing. DOJ's 2022 [FOIA Guidelines](#) emphasize the importance of making FOIA websites easily navigable and complying with the [FOIA.gov](#) interoperability requirements. Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is using technology to improve its FOIA administration and the public's access to information.

1. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA-related technological capabilities to identify resources needed to respond to current and anticipated FOIA demands?

Answer: Yes.

2. Please briefly describe any new types of technology your agency uses to support your FOIA program.

Answer: EOP provides CEQ its technological infrastructure, including its records management platform, its website for public disclosures, and NUIX Discover, a suite of electronic discovery tools for managing document requests. During the reporting period, CEQ upgraded its FOIA tracker SharePoint application for internal request management.

3. Does your agency currently use any technology to automate request intake, customer service, or record processing? For example, does your agency use artificial intelligence or other tools to conduct searches or make redactions? If so, please describe and, if possible, estimate how much time and financial resources are saved since implementing the technology.

Answer: Yes. CEQ uses the federal FOIA portal foia.gov to help automate its request intake. CEQ uses NUIX Discover and Adobe Acrobat to conduct searches and make redactions. These software suites have a multitude of technologies that assist in searches and redactions. For example, CEQ uses a script developed by its staff to identify the frequency and type of redactions in a particular PDF record.

4. OIP issued [guidance](#) in 2017 encouraging agencies to regularly review their FOIA websites to ensure that they contain essential resources and are informative and user-friendly. Has your agency reviewed its FOIA website(s) during the reporting period to ensure it addresses the elements noted in the guidance?

Answer: Yes.

5. Did all four of your agency's [quarterly reports](#) for Fiscal Year 2025 appear on FOIA.gov?

Answer: Yes.

6. If your agency did not successfully post all quarterly reports on FOIA.gov, please explain why and provide your agency's plan for ensuring that such reporting is successful in Fiscal Year 2026.

Answer: N/A.

7. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 requires all agencies to post the raw statistical data used to compile their Annual FOIA Reports. Please provide the link to this posting for your agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report and, if available, for your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

Answer: The website containing CEQ's FOIA resources is available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/information-resources/>. CEQ's Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report is available on that website, at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/DRAFT-CEQ-FY24-Annual-FOIA-Report-Human-Readable.pdf>.

At this time, CEQ's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report is still under review by DOJ OIP.

8. In February 2019, DOJ and OMB issued joint [Guidance](#) establishing interoperability standards to receive requests from the National FOIA Portal on FOIA.gov. Are all components of your agency in compliance with the guidance?

Answer: Yes.

9. Optional -- Please describe your agency best practices in better utilizing technology and any challenges your agency faces in this area.

Answer: CEQ has modest resources and must coordinate with the EOP Office of Administration on the adoption of any new technologies.

Section V: Steps Taken to Remove Barriers to Access, Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests, and Reduce Backlogs

DOJ's 2022 [FOIA Guidelines](#) instruct agencies "to remove barriers to requesting and accessing government records and to reduce FOIA processing backlogs." Please answer the following questions to describe how your agency is removing barriers to access, improving timeliness in responding to requests, and reducing FOIA backlogs.

A. Remove Barriers to Access

1. Has your agency established alternative means of access for any categories of first-party requested records, outside of the typical FOIA or Privacy Act process?

Answer: Yes.

2. If yes, please provide examples. If no, please indicate why not. Please also indicate if you do not know.

Answer: CEQ accepts non-typical first-party requests for records. In FY2025, CEQ responded to informal first-party requests for records from current and past employees.

3. Please describe any other steps your agency has taken to remove barriers to accessing government information.

Answer: CEQ continuously strives to provide records requested under FOIA. In 2025, CEQ reclassified and realigned its Information Law Specialist positions to better streamline its FOIA processing workflow.

B. Timeliness

4. For Fiscal Year 2025, what was the average number of days your agency reported for adjudicating requests for expedited processing? Please see Section VIII.A. of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report.

Answer: 111 days.

5. If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was more than ten calendar days, according to Section VIII.A. of your agency's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual FOIA Report, please describe the steps your agency will take to ensure that requests for expedited processing are adjudicated within ten calendar days or less.

Answer: All but two requests were adjudicated within 10 calendar days. The high average number of days is attributed to two outlier cases, reflecting a change in staffing. CEQ has carefully reviewed its process and has stressed the importance of adjudicating expedited requests quickly, within 10 days, with its FOIA team.

6. Does your agency utilize a separate track for simple requests?

Answer: Yes.

7. If your agency uses a separate track for simple requests, according to Annual FOIA Report section VII.A, was the agency overall average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer in Fiscal Year 2025?

Answer: No. For FY2025, the average number of days to process simple requests was 88 days.

8. If not, did the simple track average processing time decrease compared to the previous Fiscal Year?

Answer: No.

9. Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025 that were placed in your simple track. Please use the following calculation based on the data from your Annual FOIA Report: (processed simple requests from Section VII.C.1) divided by (requests processed from Section V.A.) x 100.

Answer: 20%

10. If your agency does not track simple requests separately, was the average number of days to process all non-expedited requests twenty working days or fewer?

Answer: N/A.

C. Backlogs

Backlogged Requests

11. If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.2, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

Answer: No.

12. If not, according to Annual FOIA Report Section XII.D.1, did your agency process more requests during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did during Fiscal Year 2024?

Answer: Yes.

13. If your agency's request backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

- An increase in the number of incoming requests
- A loss of staff
- An increase in the complexity of the requests received (if possible, please provide examples or briefly describe the types of complex requests contributing to your backlog increase)
- Litigation
- Any other reasons – please briefly describe or provide examples when possible

In the past two fiscal years, CEQ received approximately 3 times as many FOIA requests as it received in the prior six years. Much of the increase is attributable to a small number of frequent requesters. Many of these requests have resulted in voluminous search results for potentially responsive records. Additionally, CEQ spent considerable resources addressing multiple FOIA requests under litigation during the reporting period.

14. If you had a request backlog, please report the percentage of requests that make up the backlog out of the total number of requests received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged requests from Section XII.A) divided by (requests received from Section V.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency has no request backlog, please answer with "N/A."

Answer: 26%.

Backlogged Appeals

15. If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2025, according to Section XII.E.2 of the Annual FOIA Report, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2024?

Answer: Yes.

16. If not, according to section XII.E.1 of the Annual FOIA Report, did your agency process more appeals during Fiscal Year 2025 than it did during Fiscal Year 2024?

Answer: N/A.

17. If your agency's appeal backlog increased during Fiscal Year 2025, please explain why and describe the causes that contributed to your agency not being able to reduce its backlog. When doing so, please also indicate if any of the following were contributing factors:

- An increase in the number of incoming appeals
- A loss of staff
- An increase in the complexity of the requests received (if possible, please provide examples or briefly describe the types of complex requests contributing to your backlog increase)
- Litigation
- Any other reasons – please briefly describe or provide examples when possible

Answer: N/A.

18. If you had an appeal backlog, please report the percentage of appeals that make up the backlog out of the total number of appeals received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2025. Please use the following calculation based on data from your Annual FOIA Report: (backlogged appeals from Section XII.A) divided by (appeals received from

Section VI.A) x 100. This number can be greater than 100%. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2025 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer with "N/A."

Answer: 50%.

D. Backlog Reduction Plans

19. In the 2025 guidelines for Chief FOIA Officer Reports, any agency with a backlog of over 1000 requests in Fiscal Year 2024 was asked to provide a plan for achieving backlog reduction in the year ahead. Did your agency implement a backlog reduction plan last year? If so, describe your agency's efforts in implementing this plan and note if your agency was able to achieve backlog reduction in Fiscal Year 2025?

Answer: N/A.

20. If your agency had a backlog of more than 1,000 requests in Fiscal Year 2025, please explain your agency's plan to reduce this backlog during Fiscal Year 2026.

Answer: N/A.

E. Reducing the Age of Requests, Appeals, and Consultations

Ten Oldest Requests

21. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest pending perfected requests that were reported in Section VII.E. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

Answer: Yes.

22. If no, please provide the number of these requests your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.E of your Fiscal Year 2025

Answer: N/A.

Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.

23. Beyond working on the ten oldest requests, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending requests.

Answer: In 2025, CEQ reclassified and realigned its Information Law Specialist positions to better streamline its FOIA processing workflow.

Ten Oldest Appeals

24. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were reported pending in Section VI.C.5 of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

Answer: No.

25. If no, please provide the number of these appeals your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.C.(5) of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.

Answer: Four.

26. Beyond working on the ten oldest appeals, please describe any steps your agency took to reduce the overall age of your pending appeals.

Answer: During the reporting period, CEQ changed its appeal review process to include peer reviews designed to expedite the assignment and execution of internal reviews for appeals.

Ten Oldest Consultations

27. In Fiscal Year 2025, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported pending in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report?

Answer: Yes.

28. If no, please provide the number of these consultations your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2024 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.

Answer: N/A.

Additional Information Regarding Ten Oldest

29. If your agency did not close its ten oldest pending requests, appeals, or consultations, please explain why and provide a plan describing how your agency

intends to close those “ten oldest” requests, appeals, and consultations during Fiscal Year 2026.

Answer: See response to 26. CEQ closed out its ten oldest requests and consultations.

F. Additional Information about FOIA Processing

30. Were any requests at your agency the subject of FOIA litigation during the reporting period? If so, please describe the impact on your agency’s overall FOIA request processing and backlog. If possible, please indicate:

- The number and nature of requests subject to litigation
- Common causes leading to litigation
- Any other information to illustrate the impact of litigation on your overall FOIA administration

Answer: Yes. During the reporting period, 9 FOIA requests to CEQ were the subject of ongoing litigation; CEQ was a named defendant in 3 new complaints alleging FOIA violations filed during the reporting period and continued to actively litigate 5 additional ongoing FOIA related cases (the remaining case was fully briefed prior to the reporting period). During the reporting period, plaintiffs challenged CEQ’s alleged failure to respond to FOIA requests within the statutory time period, and continued to litigate cases concerning CEQ’s response time as well as the legality of final responses. These litigations consumed a significant amount of CEQ’s limited FOIA resources, including a third to half of the CEQ’s Information Law Specialists’ time and effort, plus supervisory time. To ensure the agency met its litigation requirements for processing and productions in the litigations, as applicable, CEQ prioritized the FOIA requests subject to litigation, limiting the agency’s ability to work on other FOIA matters, including processing other requests and working on its FOIA backlog, including appeals. In addition, the litigations required the agency to expend its limited FOIA resources on preparing filings and other documents in the litigation. Two of the three requests resulting in litigation that CEQ received during the reporting period came from a single frequent requester. Ongoing litigation over requests filed during prior reporting periods likewise reflected action by another frequent requester.