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CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act

CASE STUDY

Impact on Equity and Environmental Justice

SACRAMENTO, 2021

Aggie Square

Thanks to CEQA, Campus and Innovation Center Provides Local Jobs, Affordable Housing

The CEQA process gave voice to a community's concerns about a major campus and innovation center planned for Sacramento. Through the CEQA litigation process, stakeholders significantly improved the project to benefit all parties.

The City of Sacramento approved a UC Davis extension project that would bring substantial housing construction and economic investment to Sacramento. A community coalition, Sacramento Investment Without Displacement (SIWD), sued the city over concerns that the project would cause gentrification and would displace existing residents. Over the course of more than 90 stakeholder

and community meetings, residents spoke out and spurred the creation of a Community Benefits Partnership Agreement. This agreement provides money to build affordable housing and infrastructure and stabilize housing costs. It guarantees that local residents get priority for both the entry-level and the higher-wage jobs that will be created by this project.

The agreement also includes better transportation options, youth education programs, and more. The City of Sacramento will gain thousands of new, good-paying jobs and a significant boost to its housing stock.

SOURCE: MATT BAKER, PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE

California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)

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CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is an important tool for advancing environmental justice (EJ) and protecting the rights of communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and poverty in our state. The law allows a community to not only be notified of development projects that are being proposed for their neighborhood; it also provides them with a formal process to share their concerns and recommend improvements so that a project can better serve and protect the community. CEQA also provides a mechanism for holding certain projects accountable if they insufficiently analyze potential harms against local residents and neighborhoods.