

# CEQA

## The California Environmental Quality Act

### CASE STUDY

# Impact on Climate Change & Wildfire

ANAHEIM, 2010

## Anaheim Regional Intermodal Transportation Center

### Expanding Multi-Modal Transportation While Minimizing Impacts to Public Health

Facing a rapid growth trajectory in the region, the City of Anaheim developed plans for a major new multi-modal transportation center. The center would provide non-automobile transit options for commuters and other travelers, including commuter rail, buses, future High Speed Rail, and bicycles. A CEQA review identified construction impacts such as air quality, noise, hazardous materials and harm to cultural resources, and designated proven measures to mitigate these impacts.

The main adverse impact from ongoing operations at the Center would be increased traffic on nearby highways. This impact was considered unavoidable, so, given that

the benefits of the project would outweigh the traffic impact, this project impact did not derail the project. For this project, CEQA's role was to instigate a critical review of the project from a cost-benefit perspective, and mitigate those impacts to the extent possible.

The result was that Southern California supported greenhouse gas emissions reductions by building out regional transit options, while minimizing harm to public health and the environment.

SOURCE: BAE URBAN ECONOMICS (2016). CEQA IN THE 21ST CENTURY. P. 34.

**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.