



CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act

CASE STUDY

Impact on Environmental Protection

SAN FRANCISCO, 1998-PRESENT

Mission Bay Housing Project

Protecting the San Francisco Bay from Sewage Overflows

When the Catellus Development Corporation planned the Mission Bay Project, it was to consist of thousands of housing units, a 43-acre UC campus, and millions of square feet of office space. The project planned to hook into the City of San Francisco's combined sewage system. The additional sewage from the proposed Mission Bay Project would have increased sewage overflows by 2 million gallons per rainy season.

After environmental groups raised concerns about these projected overflows through a CEQA-enabled environmental review process, Catellus agreed to several

mitigation measures. The company separated the new development's stormwater from the City's system, included a state-of-the-art water filtration system at five storm-water outfalls to the Bay, created wetland habitat along a Bay-front public park, and assembled a team of consultants to evaluate the feasibility of further reducing stormwater pollutants through additional innovations.

The CEQA process allowed these measures to be agreed upon without litigation, and fostered a collaborative approach that encouraged cooperation between the developer and the environmental groups involved.

SOURCE: CEQAWORKS.ORG

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.