

**CEQA**  
**The California**  
**Environmental**  
**Quality Act**  

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**CASE STUDY**



# *Impact on* **Climate Change & Wildfire**

**SANTA ROSA, 2010**

## **Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital**

### **Hospital Required to Mitigate Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

In 2010, TRANSDEF, along with fellow litigants the Sierra Club and the California Nurses Association, prevailed in challenging Sonoma County's approval of a new Sutter Hospital on the fringe of Santa Rosa. Their claim rested on the EIR's inadequate examination of increased greenhouse gas emissions resulting from auto travel to the new project.

After the litigants won a favorable ruling, the County agreed to require Sutter Hospital to provide a free shuttle to the hospital from the nearest commuter rail station in addition to constructing a bike lane and

providing free transit passes to employees. The facilities earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, the first new, ground-up-built hospital in California to gain the honor. "Gold" ranks as the second-highest certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's rating system.

Thanks to CEQA, stakeholders with concerns about the project were able to bring about significant changes that reduced the environmental impacts of the facility.

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.