

CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act

CASE STUDY

Impact on **Equity and Environmental Justice**

JURUPA VALLEY, 2013

Mira Loma Village

Protecting Public Health in Riverside County

On February 14, 2013, then-Attorney General Kamala Harris announced the settlement of a Riverside County CEQA case that alleged failure to adequately analyze and mitigate a project's impacts on residents of Mira Loma Village, who already faced serious health and environmental risks due to poor air quality. The proposed Mira Loma Commerce Center would have exposed residents already disproportionately affected by diesel exhaust and noise pollution to increased diesel truck traffic.

The project proponents and the lead agency (City of Jurupa Valley) agreed to a settlement that includes a number of groundbreaking elements, including adding

an Environmental Justice Element to the City's General Plan; installing air filtration systems in the homes of Mira Loma residents; air quality monitoring in Mira Loma Village; landscaping of the site to minimize exposure to diesel particulate emissions; and, making the project site "green" by including a 100kW capacity solar photovoltaic system, LEED Silver certified project buildings, and electric vehicle charging stations.

Harris stated she believed this project can be a model for "local governments, developers and communities to work together" in creating a thriving economy that does not cause public health to suffer.

SOURCE: CEQAWORKS.ORG

California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)

For more info, contact: Tiffany Eng | tiffany@caleja.org | 510.808.5898 x103



**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.