PLANNING FOR EQUITY

REALIZING COMMUNITY VISIONS
CASE STUDY

• Location: extremely low-income community, between a freeway and a distribution center

• There’s a lack of resources for the community and poor air quality, in addition to impacts on community safety

• Siting housing with supportive services for formerly incarcerated individuals.

• Siting blighted infrastructure for marijuana distribution or homeless services.

• Advocates are also concerned that there aren’t enough housing options for this population.
ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

- The proximity of residents to negative land uses.

- Disinvestment that impacts the health and well-being of the community.

- Disparities or differences in health and mental health, or the factors that shape health that are systemic, avoidable and therefore considered unjust or unfair.

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Finalized Jan. 9, 2017
REALITY

EQUALITY

EQUITY

REALITY
REMOVING OPPORTUNITY BARRIERS
HISTORIC SEGREGATION

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

- Our communities were built to racially segregate
RACIAL COVENANTS

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

• Health outcomes still favor communities built exclusively for white residents
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
CREATING A PLAN FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT (SB 1000)

Environmental Justice:
“The fair treatment & meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, & enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, & policies.”
THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT (SB 1000)

- Identify communities of concern

- Build stronger relationships between underserved communities and planners

- Build the capacity of neighborhoods to engage in complex planning efforts

- Give planners, planning commissioners, communities, and developers tools to address health equity
IDENTIFY COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN
ROBUST COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES
RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

SGC: Health in All Policies Task Force Action Plan
The California Endowment: BHC
Racial Equity Alliance
California Environmental Justice Alliance
Human Impact Partners
Long Beach
National City
Jurupa Valley
DREAMING BIG

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
**CREATIVE SOLUTIONS**

- **Incentivize** the relocation of negative land uses and provide tax breaks to incentivize the development communities want to see.

- Develop **mitigation** options for air quality or toxics exposure

- Discuss the **fallacies** of “conformity” or what is “appropriate” use by defining “overconcentration” or compounded health impacts

- **Support** the arts and youth activities being brought into the neighborhood

- Keep residents **engaged** in the planning process through collaboratives and trust building
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Rent stabilization

Maintenance and tax support for low-income owners

Home purchase assistance programs

Community land trusts

Community-building activities
PRINCIPLES FOR EQUITABLE PLANNING

• Go where the people are!
• Build a budget and timeline that allows for meaningful feedback
• Keep people informed and engaged – build on-going relationships
• Respect multiple forms of knowledge for collaborative action
• Collaborate with other agencies and staff so it’s easier for groups to collaborate with you
• Understand that it’s your JOB as planners to work with communities and that good engagement will make more creative and relevant solutions
• Take the potential OUTCOMES of your actions into account through a Racial Equity/Impact Analysis - be careful of unintended consequences
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

GENTRIFICATION

• Criminalization of activities
• Rent increases
• Increases in tax auctions or penalties for code violations
• Real estate speculation
• Displacement