SACRAMENTO GENERAL PLAN UPDATE:
REALIZING COMMUNITY VISIONS
WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

• A guide for planning & land use.

• Sets guidelines on execution of a neighborhood’s priorities & vision for growth.

• Reflects state, city, county, & neighborhood-specific goals.
GENERAL PLAN MANDATORY ELEMENTS

- Land Use
- Circulation
- Housing
- Conservation
- Noise
- Safety
GENERAL PLAN OPTIONAL ELEMENTS

Healthy Communities Element

Social Equity Element

Historic Preservation Element

Parks & Recreation Element
SACRAMENTO GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

Economic Development
Education, Recreation, & Culture
Environmental Resources & Constraints
Historic & Cultural Resources
Housing
Land Use & Urban Design
Mobility
Public Health & Safety
Utilities
WHAT IS LAND USE?

- Policy that dictates how available lands are used:
  - Residential housing
  - Businesses
  - Agricultural
  - Industrial plants/Manufacturing
  - Open space like parks
  - Schools
  - Hospitals
GENERAL PLAN IN ACTION

DEVELOPER DAVE VS
BUILDER BEN
DEVELOPER
DAVE

- Wants to build a mixed-use development w/ housing & retail.
- Knows the city wants to build mixed-use developments.
- Wants to build in areas of need while respecting community character.
- Wants to build near transit.
- Wants to be environmentally responsible.
DEVELOPER
DAVE

• City permits require him to work with the local Neighborhood Association(s) for feedback & final approval.

• Dave attends community meetings & works with members to refine the development.

• Dave returns to the City with an Association approved project that reflects the neighborhood’s vision.
**BUILDER BEN**

- Wants to build a warehouse that also serves as a distribution center.
- Knows there will be lots of traffic, noise and air pollution.
- Wants to build in a centrally located area regardless of community impacts.
- Does not address environmental responsibility, community character, or neighborhood needs.
• Finds a space that could be a neighborhood store.

• Attends Neighborhood Association meetings, but does not disclose the negative impacts of his development. Instead he focuses on creating a few jobs while transforming a vacant lot.

• He gets Association approval.

• The development diminishes the neighborhood character, home values, environmental & public health.
CREATING A PLAN FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Disadvantaged communities suffer from poorer health outcomes & life expectancies, lower scoring & performance in school, lower wages & higher unemployment, & are more susceptible to gentrification.

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)

Cities & counties are now required to include an Environmental Justice element in their General Plan that identifies disadvantaged communities within their area.

Once identified, the EJ element must address health risks like air quality, healthy food access, safe homes, or even the promotion of active, physical activities.
THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT (SB 1000)
HISTORIC SEGREGATION

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

Map 1. Life Expectancy by Zip code
Sacramento County, 2012

Map 2. Mortgage Deficient
Covenants Evidenced
Sacramento County
CREATIVE PLANS IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS
CLEANING UP THEIR ACT

NATIONAL CITY
CLEANING UP THEIR ACT

NATIONAL CITY

• The Environmental Health Coalition worked with the town to address the mixture of housing, schools, & polluting industries.

• With the help of community leaders & elected officials, the EHC drafted a plan which amended zoning regulations about where polluters could continue to conduct business.

• They also started taking steps to turn a contaminated piece of land into a green industrial park where polluters are relocated away from residential areas.
CLEANING UP THEIR ACT

JURUPA VALLEY
The Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice worked with community members to protect the neighborhood of Mira Loma Village from the impacts of a nearby warehouse.

They filed, and won, a lawsuit with the City of Jurupa.

Now, the EJ element is required as a part of the city’s general plan for current & future environmental hazards.

It also addresses public participation, buffers from emissions, increased access to affordable housing, and prioritizing equitable distribution of public facilities.
IMPROVING HEALTH

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS
HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

• Creating zoning definitions & incentives for grocery stores.

• Define grocery stores vs corner stores vs convenience stores vs liquor stores, & even FAST FOOD restaurants.

• Healthy food sidewalk vendors who accept CalFresh/EBT & WIC vouchers.

• NY & LA already moving on this.

• THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING....
THANK YOU