

# **Observations from the Field: Lessons from Community-Led Planning Efforts in Sacramento**

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## About me:

- Originally from Oildale, CA
- Over 17 years experience in community engagement, organizing, and advocacy work
- Bachelors and masters degrees in community development from UC Davis
- Recently opened a new firm to focus on social and environmental justice issues in our region and across the state



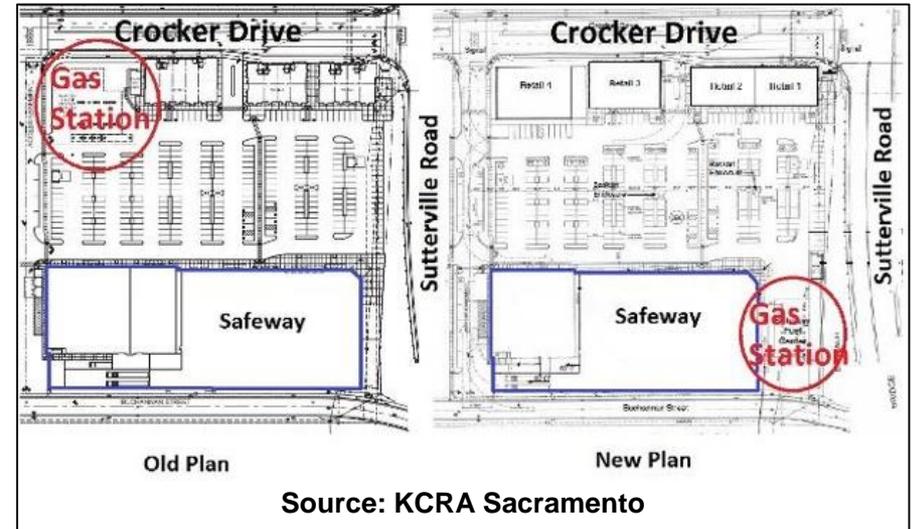
# Case Study 1: Delta Shores

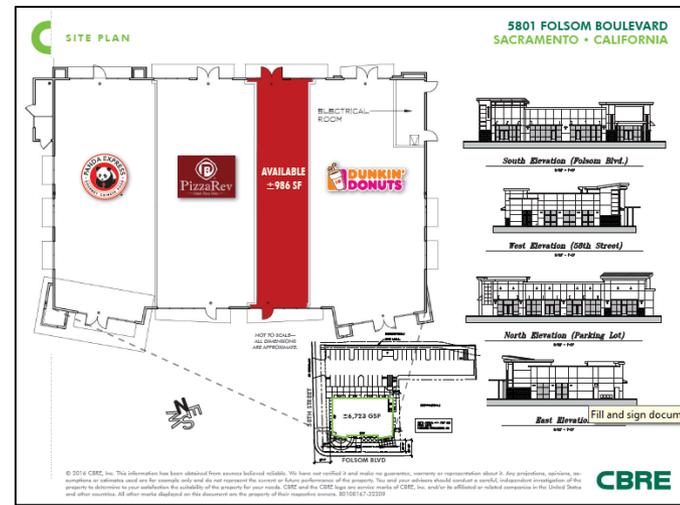
- Located just South of a historically black community
- Typical commercial proposal: large big box stores, large parking lot, border of drive-thrus with four-lane road
- Developer paid consultants to communicate with community for almost a decade before project moved to planning process



# Case Study 2: Safeway Fuel Station

- Original plans for larger development finalized after extensive community review and feedback
- Developer sought variance to original plan to include a 16-pump discount retail fuel station
- Developer partnered with churches in neighboring, low-income community of color to offer jobs in exchange for support of fuel station
- The variance was eventually defeated





# Case Study 3: Dunkin Donuts Drive-Thru

- Pending variance on a development called College Square South to include two large drive-thrus
- Across the street from a new light rail extension
- In a community with the **highest** level of emergency department visits due to respiratory symptoms in our County
- Same developer, same company, more affluent community – no drive-thru

# Key Lessons Learned:

- Planning has a huge role in health outcomes for our communities: accountability is coming, so get ready
- Planning today needs to address historical legacies of racism and racist land use policies: work to build your colleagues' understanding of the issues and best practices for solutions
- Community members are the front line of defense and can help lead offense: take the time to build their capacity to engage in discreet projects as well as systemic solutions

# Thank you!

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