



**LEADERSHIP COUNSEL**

**FOR**

**JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY**

PLANNING AND INVESTING IN DISADVANTAGED  
COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY AND  
SUSTAINABLE CALIFORNIA

2016 SPEAKER SERIES  
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# OUR WORK

LCJA fundamentally shifts the dynamics that have created the stark inequality that impacts California's low income, rural regions. Based in the San Joaquin and Eastern Coachella Valleys, we work alongside the most impacted communities to advocate for sound policy and eradicate to secure equal access to opportunity regardless of wealth, race, income, and place.

Through community organizing, research, legal representation, and policy advocacy, we impact land use and transportation planning, shift public investment priorities, guide environmental policy, and promote the provision of basic infrastructure and services.

# WHAT IS HEALTHY PLANNING

- Planning process that is inclusive of all residents and allows for meaningful participation
- Engages leaders from disadvantaged communities from start to finish, including through implementation phases
- Brings a diverse range of stakeholders to the table to work together
- Plan is true to community priorities and includes policies and programs designed to meet needs

# CASE STUDY: ORGANIZING IN CITY OF FRESNO



# MAKING THE PLANNING PROCESS INCLUSIVE

- **Organizing & Advocacy**

- Allow sufficient time for community residents to review documents and develop comments and recommendations
- Honest and open communication between agency staff and elected and community residents

- **Communication between Government and Community and Accessible Decision-making**

- Community meetings at convenient locations and times to identify and prioritize needs to shape planning efforts.
- Ensure translation and interpretation services
- Maintain ongoing dialogue between planning staff and community as well as between elected officials and constituents

- **Bring together diverse stakeholders**

- Held meeting between elected officials, community based organizations, local government staff, and resident partners from disadvantaged communities

- **Maintain Accountability to Commitments throughout implementation**

- Implement what plan promises to implement
- Maintain ongoing communication with community organizations and community residents

# FROM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO EQUITABLE PLANNING

- Prioritize investments in existing communities over sprawl (City's infill policy)
- Parks Master Plan
- Industrial Compatibility Assessment
- Prioritize investment for affordable housing for lower income residents

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTHY PLANNING

- Local
  - General Plan
  - SB 244 Analyses
  - Unmet Needs Processes
  - Active Transportation Plans
- Regional
  - Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategy
  - Municipal Service Reviews – LAFCO processes
  - Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans



“They call this the  
golden valley. But  
where is the gold?”

— ISABEL SOLORIO

BY LAURA BLISS, JOURNALIST FOR “THE ATLANTIC”



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