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Presentation on Environmental Justice

Please find my presentation from the 3 24 22 Commission Meeting

Additional submitted attachment is included below.
Ensuring Community Benefits and Environmental Justice in the Lithium Valley

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March 24, 2022
Take Away Points

• Mining impacts on communities provide cautionary tale

• Environmental Justice is an appropriate goal for the development of the Lithium Valley

• CEQA intended to promote transparent, accountable and democratic governance → process matters

• CEQA should be the floor, not the ceiling
  → HIA & Community Benefits Agreements
Context: Mining Dependent Communities

- Boom and bust cycles
- Long-term environmental impacts/ lack of long-term accountability
- Limited educational/ career pathways into better paying jobs
- Inadequate investments in community well-being
- Imbalance between economic and other community interests
Defining Environmental Justice

Distribution: Hazards/Opportunities

Process: “We speak for ourselves!”

Thriving Communities

Respect for different knowledge
EJ in Federal Policy

“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socio-economic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.”

EJ Recommendations

• Focus on engagement and impacts for the most over-burdened and disadvantaged people
  • Farmworkers, undocumented immigrants, tribal residents, youth, elders
  • Support meaningful engagement
• Focus on cumulative and long-term impacts
• Focus on strategies to increase health and well-being
CBA: Changing the Relationships

HOW DEVELOPMENT WORKS WITHOUT A CBA

- Development Agreement
- City
- Developer
- Affordable Housing Groups
- Unions
- Environmental Groups
- Church Groups
- Neighborhood Groups
- Other CBGs

HOW DEVELOPMENT WORKS WITH A CBA

- Project Information & CBA Negotiations
- Development Agreement
- City
- Developer
- Affordable Housing Groups
- Unions
- Environmental Groups
- Church Groups
- Neighborhood Groups
- Other CBGs
- Coordinated Coalition
- CBA
Promising Practices for CBAs

- Legally-binding agreements
- Three-way agreement: company-government-community parties
- Elements: Labor agreements, local procurement, environmental protections, significant investments in education and health
- Monitoring and enforcement mechanisms
- Lifecycle and lifetime assurances