

Mira Loma, CA Traffic Pollution Case

By: Lindsay Woodson

Mira Loma Case

A small Southern Californian community of 17,600 in the Inland Empire Valley underwent a seminal court case. Throughout the nation's history, Mira Loma Village consistently registers the highest levels of particulate matter in the US, exacerbated by geographic proximity to LA and bordering mountains. Mira Loma, part of Riverside County, is a primary location for one of the nation's mega-warehouses for consumer goods. Consequently, drawing in large amounts of diesel truck traffic. Between 1987 and 2000s the county approved construction of many ware-



Figure 1. Mira Loma Village. Source: http://www.buzzfeed.com/ jessicagarrison/see-how-our-shopping-alters-the-landscape-and-endangers -chil#.vu9Lb4kQY

houses and distribution centers, none of which required environmental study.

Mira Loma Settlement

In the case Riverside County and City of Jurupa Valley were defendants, while Attorney general and Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCAEJ) were the plaintiffs. The City and the project developers agreed to a variety of mitigating actions, including:

Riverside County and City of Jurupa Valley Obligations

- Instituting an Environmental Justice Element to be added to the City's General Plan
- Instituting proceedings to adopt an ordinance to prohibit heavy trucks on the road adjacent to Mira Loma Village (alternative routing)
- Installing air filtration systems in the homes of nearby residents
- Instituting an air quality monitoring program
- Implementing an anti-idling enforcement program
- "Green Project" site including a 100kW capacity solar array, vehicle charging stations, setbacks with landscaping buffer elements, and LEED silver certified buildings for those over 100,000 square feet



Figure 2.Site plan of proposed industrial development, Mira Loma Commerce Center.

CCAEJ and Community Obligations

- Both CCAEJ and the community entered a covenant not to sue City, County, or other affiliated parties unless to enforce judgment
- CCAEJ may not publish any release concerning the judgment without City and County review
- CCAEJ may not disrupt the process of project approval or provide comments to any agency that may issue approvals

Recently approved, Mira Loma Commerce Center a 1.1 million square foot complex (65 acres) of industrial buildings is expected to generate close to 1,500 trips per day. A settlement of the projects EIR requires developers to pay \$1,700 per home to install filters for all homes in the tract -- a total reaching upwards of \$ 215,000 for 103 eligible parcels.