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## Affordable Housing Near San Diego Gets \$9.2M From State

July 10, 2015 7:47 pm | *Environmental Health Coalition*

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An affordable housing project that will bring more than 200 rental units just south of San Diego received a much-welcomed financial boost on June 30, when the state of California awarded \$9.2 million to support the development, an environmental justice organization reported. ([http://www.equalvoiceforfamilies.org/air-quality-victories-for-environmental-health-coalition-in-2012/environmental-health-coalition\\_logo/](http://www.equalvoiceforfamilies.org/air-quality-victories-for-environmental-health-coalition-in-2012/environmental-health-coalition_logo/))

One key to this overall effort, supporters say, was feedback from residents about community needs in National City, California, the location in which the Paradise Creek Affordable Housing Project is scheduled to open next year.

The project will help the environment and community by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and hosting a public park, transit area and paths for pedestrians and bicyclists, according to Environmental Health Coalition (EHC).

The development, which will follow sustainable “green building” guidelines, has been in the works for more than a decade, EHC and developers said.

“The community had a vision for a healthier neighborhood and this \$9.2-million support brings it to fruition,” Carolina Martinez, EHC policy advocate, said in a



statement. “We know with better access to public transit, biking and walking paths, residents have transportation options that could lead to reduced air pollution and childhood asthma rates.”

Citing San Diego County environmental data, EHC says (<http://www.environmentalhealth.org/index.php/en/where-we-work/local/national-city>) National City has 32 million pounds of hazardous substances. Also, at least as of 2010, kids who are 17 years old and younger had a higher hospitalization rate for asthma compared to other youth in San Diego County, the environmental organization said.

More than 60 percent of the city’s 59,834 residents are Latinos, and a quarter of its residents live in poverty, according to the Census Bureau (<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0650398.html>).

The development will open its doors in the city’s Westside area, which is also known as Old Town, EHC said. Westside sits near Interstate 5, a major highway in the San Diego area. To the area southwest of Westside is a major marine terminal, which is operated by the Port of San Diego.

EHC and other supporters consider the Paradise Creek Affordable Housing Project a major step forward, given that officials once deemed the land that the development occupies as being too polluted. Work crews have removed that contamination, according to developers.

With the \$9.2 million from a California state council that focuses on strategic growth, the Paradise Creek Affordable Housing Project has most of the \$80 million needed for the entire project, EHC said.

The affordable housing project also has major support from city officials, banks, the federal government, consultants, architects and Community Housing Works,

a nonprofit organization.

*Environmental Health Coalition*

*(<http://www.environmentalhealth.org/>), which is based in National City, California, works to fight toxic pollution in low-income communities, especially in the San Diego area.*

📌 affordable housing

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