



**Southeast Property Owners**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Opposition to City of Fresno's SEDA Plan is Growing**

FRESNO, CA., July 26, 2023 — In response to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), drafted for the Southeast Development area (SEDA) plan and released on July 14, 2023, the board of the grassroots organization Fresno Southeast Property Owners (SEPO) urges the public's growing participation in the public comment period which ends August 28, 2023.

SEPO started as a group of under 20 property owners one year ago and has since gathered the signatures of over 400 people who oppose the city's plan to develop Southeast Fresno. But they are committed to reaching more people. SEPO encourages the public to participate in the growing force of opposition by attending the two remaining drop-in events the city will be hosting on July 27, 2023 at Sequoia Elementary School and August 12, 2023 at Young Elementary School. Both events begin at 5:00 p.m. A webinar will also be held on August 16 via ZOOM beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Planning and Development department were noticeably unprepared for the turnout at the first drop-in event last Monday. SEPO has been working over the last year to properly inform and educate property owners on what the city is failing to disclose regarding issues like water, eminent domain and loss of productive agricultural land.

After review of the EIR and various private and public meetings with the county board of supervisors, city council members, Planning Commission representatives, and other community cohorts, SEPO is in absolute opposition of the plan noting that:

- The city has not reached a tax agreement with the county.
- There is not sufficient infrastructure to carry out the plan.
- The funds are not available to cover the \$900 million estimated cost for the plan.
- The inner city will lose existing funds to improve areas already within city limits to support the development of southeast Fresno County, thus neglecting the betterment of their own communities.

The SEDA is a stretch of nearly 9000 acres of primarily productive agricultural land in Southeast Fresno. The city of Fresno plans to develop affordable housing units in the area to help accommodate the anticipated population surge of 250,000 people in the coming years.

Fresno Southeast Property Owners (SEPO) is a grassroots coalition of residents from Southeast Fresno who, have organized to confront city planners, developers and representatives with our concerns over the city of Fresno's Southeast Development Area (SEDA) plan. For more information, or for assistance navigating the public comment period, please contact SEPO by visiting the website or facebook page.

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