

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Mission Statement

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. We aim to protect our property, defend our community, and preserve our rural way of life from city annexations, eminent domain, home and land devaluation, and other encroachments to our county land.

Background of SEDA

Initially the project proposed was SEGA (Southeast Growth Area) which was introduced to the public approximately in 2007. It was proposed and adopted as the general plan in 2008. Its implementation was halted due to the recession. In 2014 the concept was accepted as the general plan. It was reintroduced as SEDA (Southeast Development Area) to the public in May of 2022 as a specific plan for the development.

The current plans are to annex 9000 acres into the city with specific plans of developing high density areas with affordable housing in order to accommodate a growth of 250,000 people to Fresno's current population of 544,000.

Why didn't we hear about this?

- 1) The City of Fresno Planning and Development Department sent out a postcard informing the area of three informational meetings: Tuesday, **May 3rd** at 6 p.m., Tuesday, **May 17th** at 6 p.m., and Tuesday, **May 31st** at 6 p.m. The meetings were designed to present information only.
- 2) However, there was enough opposition that an extra meeting was held by the City on **June 14th**. Residents were asked to present their concerns. The City of Fresno would not address the concerns at the meeting as they stated they would be addressed on the website. To date, we are unaware of the concerns being posted or addressed on the website.

Background of SEPO

Southeast Property Owners referred to as SEPO started when individuals met after the City of Fresno's June meeting. It became a group by word of mouth and has been meeting once a week since July 2022.

Why are we opposing the annexation?

- 1) Water availability - adding 250,000 people to Fresno's current population of 544,000 will strain an already stressed water situation.
- 2) Permanent Loss of Prime Agriculture Land
 - a. Agriculture eliminated
 - b. Loss of prime agricultural soil
- 3) Loss of Property Value - due to
 - a. high density housing
 - b. as well as affordable housing
- 4) Importation of crimes, homelessness, gangs, and drugs
- 5) Loss of personal property
 - a. high density - eminent domain
 - b. increase of traffic - more road construction
- 6) Loss of county residency
 - a. Changing water source from well water to city water

- b. Changing from County ordinances to City ordinances
- c. Changing from Sheriff's protection to City Police protection
- 7) Loss of rights
 - Ability to shoot and hunt
- 8) Trails - maintenance?, eminent domain?, splitting of property?
- 9) Farming forced out - due to dust, sprays, etc.
- 10) Climate Change concerns
 - a) more asphalt and housing will increase the temperatures
 - b) Wildlife habitat destroyed
- 11) Property owners have not been properly contacted by the City of Fresno nor been kept informed

What has SEPO accomplished to date:

- 1) Established SEPO and its officers
- 2) Established contact information
- 3) Presented our concerns through a Letter of Concerns to the Mayor, Fresno City Council and Fresno Board of Supervisors.
- 4) Presented our concerns in person before the Fresno City Council meeting
- 5) Presented our concerns in person before the Fresno County Supervisors meeting
- 6) Met individually with Fresno County Supervisors: Steve Brandeau, Nathan Magsig and Buddy Mendes
- 7) Have been interviewed two times by Channel 21
- 7) Distributed a flyer to residents in the area concerning the annexation
- 8) Unifying a group of people opposing the annexation

What can we do to help?

- 1) Inform your neighbors of the City's plan. Encourage them to connect with us.
- 2) If interested, join our weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings.
- 3) Stay updated through Facebook
- 4) Stay updated through the Website
- 5) Stay updated through an email contact
- 6) Sign the petition on the flyer or our website to be counted as an opposing voice.
- 7) Join us in protest before the Fresno City Council when they are to vote concerning the annexation
 - a. Dates will be posted when we need your personal support. (The greatest impact we can have is protesting before the Fresno City Planning Commission and the Fresno City Council.)
 - b. We encourage anyone who opposes the annexation to speak to the Fresno City Council during their comment period.

What is the next step?

- 1) The Environment Impact Report should be coming out the end of March or sometime in April.
- 2) There are 45 days to express opposition (or tie it up in the legal system).

Contact Information

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