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## **National City Affordable Housing Development Awarded \$9.2 Million For Design That Boosts Community Health** *Environmental Health Coalition celebrates decades-long effort to improve National City housing, transportation options*

NATIONAL CITY, June 30, 2015—Today, the State of California's Strategic Growth Council awarded \$9.2 million to the Paradise Creek Affordable Housing Project in National City through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. Today's grant, awarded to the project for its innovative approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and commitment to community health, makes the \$80-million development mostly funded.

Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) celebrates state funds going toward one of the most significant increases in affordable housing and transportation access in Old Town National City. Conceptualized as part of Old Town National City's Westside Specific Plan, the development remediates vacant land previously unusable due to high pollution levels and features public transit, a public park and biking and walking paths.

"The community had a vision for a healthier neighborhood and this \$9.2-million support brings it to fruition," says EHC Policy Advocate Carolina Martinez. "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. We're grateful to work with the City and the developers to fulfill one of the community's most important projects."

EHC, an organization fighting toxic pollution in low-income communities, worked with residents of Old Town National City for years to collect input for the Westside Specific Plan and cultivate a community vision for healthy neighborhoods, leading to this development. With EHC, the City continues to work closely with co-developers Community Housing Works and Related California to break ground in October 2015. Developers plan to complete the first phase of construction by 2016 and the final phase by 2017.

"This project is the culmination of over a decade of hard work by the City of National City and its' many stakeholders to help meet the housing needs of our residents," says National City Mayor Ron Morrison.

For more information on Environmental Health Coalition and its efforts to reduce toxic pollution in National City, visit [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org).

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION: Founded in 1980, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) builds grassroots campaigns to confront the unjust consequences of toxic pollution, discriminatory land use and unsustainable energy policies. Visit us online at <http://www.environmentalhealth.org>.