

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

California Senate Bill "SB-1", titled "Sustainable Communities Investment Program" or "S.C.I.P." was recently passed by the California State Legislature and is now on Governor Brown's desk, awaiting his signature or veto. The bill, sponsored by Senators Darrell Steinberg and Mark De Saulnier, is (as some people describe it), "redevelopment coming back on steroids". If the bill is signed by the Governor, new agencies, now called "Sustainable Community Investment Agencies" would be set up throughout the state. They would determine a blighted area, use eminent domain to gain the property with the possible hand-off of the property to a favored developer. This is, as described by some, no more than "Social Engineering". From what I have read and heard, a large number of citizens oppose SB-1 for the following reasons: The definition of "blight" by which the "Sustainable Community Investment Agency" can use eminent domain for "insufficient land use" is poorly defined and a threat to property rights. Section "Thirty Four One Ninety One point Ten dash B", of the General Provisions, display the bill's primary beneficiaries as those in the construction industry. Section "Thirty Four One Ninety One point Twenty dash E One" addresses Joint Power Authorities which are growing out of control without adequate oversight from the public to assure accountability. Section "Thirty Four One Ninety One point Thirty One dash A" calls for an audit after five years for a newly formed Joint Power Authority. This is inadequate for such large money demands being handled by a few people under less than transparent conditions. The audits should be reviewed and approved by the Controller and made public. Governor Brown shut down the redevelopment agencies for two reasons: they did not deliver on what they promised and the State of California needed the money. Why come back with something equal to or worse than what we had? Where is the magic money coming from to restart such a program? It's too bad that this Senate Bill was ignored for so long and now time is of the essence. If you care to read the bill and its contents, type in California Senate Bill One on your computer. As of today there is still time to contact Governor Brown and urge him to say "NO" to Senate Bill SB One. A telephone call, no doubt, would be the best at this point. Governor Brown's telephone number in Sacramento is "Nine One Six, Four Four Five, Two Eight Four One", again, "Nine One Six, Four Four Five, Two Eight Four One". Or contact Governor Brown on the internet.

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