



## A COMMUNITY VISION FOR THE PLATINUM TRIANGLE

*Presented by:*

Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development

*Participating Organizations:*

Child Care Connections  
Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice  
Committee for a Living Wage  
Community Action Partnership  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Dayle McIntosh Center  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local 441  
Kennedy Commission  
Latino Health Access  
Los Amigos of Orange County

Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander  
Community Alliance  
Orange County Central Labor Council  
Orange County Congregation Community Organization  
Painters & Allied Trades District Council 36  
Progressive Christians Uniting – Orange County  
Public Law Center  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
Santa Ana LULAC #147  
Santa Ana River Watershed Alliance  
UNITE HERE Local 681  
United Healthcare Workers West

# A COMMUNITY VISION FOR THE PLATINUM TRIANGLE

**T**he crisis of working poverty threatens the stability of our region and affects everyone who lives or works in our community. We must all take leadership to address this shared challenge.

The Platinum Triangle is envisioned as a vibrant, 24-hour, high density, mixed-use, urban environment that will become one of the most exciting places to live, work, and play in Southern California. Anaheim is considering development proposals for 51.4 acres of city-owned land next to Angel Stadium, in the heart of the Platinum Triangle. Developers are competing for the chance to build on this unique, high-profile site.

As community, business, labor, and faith-based leaders, we believe that large-scale economic development such as this can do great good for Anaheim and all of Orange County. This project presents an extraordinary opportunity to address some of our community's greatest challenges:

- Among the 100 largest cities in the United States, Anaheim ranked lowest in income growth from 1990 to 2000 and suffered a 14% income decline over that period.<sup>1</sup>
- In Anaheim Elementary School District, 82% of the children are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches based on low family income. By this measure of poverty, Anaheim's children are worse off than children anywhere else in Orange County.<sup>2</sup>
- In construction—Orange County's fastest growing industry by employment—47.1% of employees go without health insurance, and an estimated 18.5% are below the federal poverty level. In leisure and hospitality—our second fastest growing industry—40.7% of employees go without health insurance, and 29.7% are below the federal poverty level. By these criteria, Orange County workers in these industries are significantly worse off than their counterparts in San Diego and Los Angeles.<sup>3</sup>
- Countywide, the hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment is now \$28.56.<sup>4</sup> Of the ten occupations projected to have the most job openings from 2002 to 2012, seven pay less than half of this amount: retail salespeople, cashiers, waiters/waitresses, food preparation/serving workers, office clerks, landscaping/groundskeeping workers, and janitors.<sup>5</sup> These are the kinds of jobs that this project is expected to create, but a typical mother and father working full time in these jobs cannot afford a decent place for their family to live.

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<sup>1</sup> *CEOs for Cities, The Changing Dynamics of Urban America* (2004).

[http://www.ceosforcities.org/rethink/research/files/Changing\\_Dynamics-Full\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ceosforcities.org/rethink/research/files/Changing_Dynamics-Full_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education (2004/2005) cited by Orange County Community Indicators Project. <http://www.oc.ca.gov/ceocommunity.asp>

<sup>3</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2003 California Health Interview Survey. <http://www.chis.ucla.edu>

<sup>4</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition (2006) <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2006/>

<sup>5</sup> California Employment Development Department (projections, 2003; wages, 2006). <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>

The city-owned land where this project will be built represents a long-term investment of public resources. As leaders in our community, we have a moral obligation and a fiscal responsibility to make sure that this investment will provide a return for our neighborhoods and our families. What we seek in Anaheim is no less than what has been achieved with similar development projects in San Diego and Los Angeles, including:

- **Housing for Working Families.** Development on this site should address the severe shortage of housing for working families and special needs populations. Particular attention should be paid to the housing needs of those who will build the project and those who will occupy the service industry jobs it is expected to create.
- **Jobs That Support Family Life and Values.** The service jobs created by this development should provide enough compensation for employees to support their families without government assistance, and the construction jobs it creates should meet area wage standards. All of the jobs should provide important benefits such as family health insurance.
- **Job Training, Local Hiring and Business Opportunities.** Jobs and small business opportunities at this site should be targeted toward local firms and residents. Job training should be available to maximize the number of qualified, local applicants.
- **An Investment in Our Children.** The project should address our pressing need for child care facilities open to residents and employees in the area, especially low income families.
- **Accessible Design Standards.** The housing and facilities developed on this site should be accessible to everyone who lives, works, or plays in Anaheim, regardless of ability or disability.
- **Quality of Life.** The project should follow environmentally-friendly design standards and construction practices and should take steps to protect, restore, and enhance the adjacent Santa Ana River. It should also include parks and open space for the entire community.

**WE THEREFORE ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:**

1. As development on this city-owned land moves forward, the voices of people who live and work in Anaheim and the surrounding region must be taken into account.
2. The city's decision making process must be open and transparent, so that the public has enough time and information to participate in the future of our city and county.
3. The project must include measurable, permanent benefits for the community, based on respectful dialogue between community leaders and representatives of the developer.



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