

Environment & Energy

Warehouses Must Limit Pollution After California Settlement

By Zach Bright

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- Settlement resolves lawsuits against city of Fontana
 - Requires city to adopt warehouse regulations
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Warehouse projects face dozens of new pollution restrictions in Fontana, Calif., after a settlement resolved allegations that the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced Monday.

The settlement resolves claims in lawsuits filed by the state attorney general's office and the Sierra Club over approval for a warehouse project.

The settlement aims to protect a nearby high school and the surrounding Southern Fontana community from industrial pollution by requiring Fontana to adopt an ordinance with the state's strictest environmental rules for future warehouse development.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District, which oversees Fontana, also will revise its CEQA guidance to encourage future projects to weigh existing nearby pollution sources and site projects where they will do the least harm to human health.

The ordinance, pending approval from the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, would require warehouses projects to design sites to keep idle trucks away from schools, hospitals, and day care centers. It would promote zero-emission vehicle use, solar panel installation, and environmentally friendly building materials.

The ordinance also includes provisions to make working conditions safer for construction crews, warehouse employees, and truckers while boosting economic development, the attorney general's statement said.

Fontana recently approved dozens of warehouse developments, totaling about 16 million square feet in southern Fontana in the last five years, according to the state attorney general's news release.

The developer at the center of the lawsuit, Duke Realty, will have to set up a \$210,000 community benefit fund for Jurupa Hills High School, which borders the development, and provide five-year air filter supplies to 1,750 nearby households.

The Sierra Club has received funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the charitable organization founded by Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg Law is operated by entities controlled by Michael Bloomberg.

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