

Prop. 99 Proves to be a Sham Cities Seek to Exploit New Law's Purported Home Protections

The following is a news release from Marko Mlikotin in Sacramento who worked with AOA on the Proposition 98 campaign.

Recently, at a meeting of the City of Baldwin Park's Project Area Committee, the city announced that it would begin the formal process of seizing approximately 100 homes by eminent domain that will benefit a politically connected developer.

During the June election, proponents of Prop. 99 dismissed charges by critics that the measure included several loopholes that would allow government to continue seizing private property from unwilling sellers to give to a private developer.

"The Prop. 99 campaign told us that their ballot measure protected our homes from eminent domain abuse," said Cruz Baca Sembello, a Baldwin Park homeowner. "So, how come I am losing my home to a developer's bulldozer?"

The Alliance has identified two cities so far that are actively seeking to undermine the purported intent of the new law. The City of Baldwin Park has plans to seize over 300 businesses and 200 homes by eminent domain. Some of the local property owners were featured in television commercials opposing Prop. 99 and supporting Prop. 98, a competing measure supported by advocates of private property rights.

The City of Vista, located in north San Diego County, has also refused to guarantee local homeowners that their homes are exempt from an ambitious redevelopment project that involves the use of eminent domain.

The Institute for Justice (IJ) was among several organizations that were critical of Prop. 99 for including several loopholes and exemptions that will allow modest homes and productive businesses to be seized by eminent domain. For example, IJ's analysis concludes Prop. 99 would allow public agencies to circumvent purported home protections by rezoning residential neighborhoods to business/commercial property designations.

If you know of any other cities that are taking advantage of eminent domain to take your property or other property, please contact Marko Mlikotin at (916) 444.8781