



California Strategic Growth Council

Annual Report to the Legislature 2020–2021



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Honorable Members of the State Legislature:

I am pleased to present you with the 2021 Annual Report for the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The past several years have brought unprecedented challenges, from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic with its sharply unequal impacts on our communities, to wildfires supercharged by climate change, and to changing State and Federal budgets challenging us to think outside the box to undertake major projects. These circumstances have raised the urgency to confront issues of existing inequity and the disproportionate burden and exposure climate change places on the shoulder of California's communities.

SGC's extraordinary staff – working with communities and stakeholders across California – have boldly responded to these challenges, launching meaningful collaborations with partners on the ground, tackling root causes, and making sizable investments in frontline communities. As highlighted in the report, SGC remains steadfast in its mission to create healthy, thriving, and resilient communities. In the words of Governor Gavin Newsom, SGC and its partners are building a *California for All*; a vision executed through achievements and strategies such as:

Building on the State's efforts to address the housing shortage and build climate-friendly affordable housing, this year SGC made available an unprecedented \$780 million through the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program.

Motivated to increase equity and uproot racial injustices in government and in our internal operations, SGC continued the implementation of the Country's first Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) at the State level. Each SGC program team devised root cause analyses investigating the racial, socio-political, and health inequities their teams seek to address, resulting in indicators and actionable strategies that were incorporated into the REAP and program operations.

Residents and partners on the ground are best positioned to identify and address their climate challenges through tailored, community-led solutions and SGC continued to support this approach through the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC). A recent UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation evaluation report found that "local knowledge, partnerships, and established trust that TCC partners have in their communities allowed them to identify changing needs and respond quickly during the pandemic."

Continuing our work to support communities' capacity to drive action through the Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program, SGC launched the Partners Advancing Climate Equity pilot program, focused on increasing the capacity of local leaders from across California to advance community-driven, equitable, climate solutions.

2020 demonstrated the need for integrated solutions and centering communities in identifying challenges and developing of solutions to address California's urgent challenges. I invite you to learn more about SGC's approach, to support this critical work, and to lift up and share the innovative programming, inclusive collaboration, and transformative approach SGC and its partners are taking to serve California's communities.



Sincerely,

Lynn von Koch-Liebert

Executive Director, California Strategic Growth Council



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

About the California Strategic Growth Council

The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is a multi-agency Cabinet-level body established in 2008 to support sustainable growth through activities, policy coordination and collaboration, community investment, and data and tool development.

Together, these activities improve air and water quality; protect natural and agriculture lands; expand affordable housing and clean and healthy

transportation options; promote public health and racial equity; advance adaptation and resilience; encourage infill and compact development; strengthen the economy; and revitalize urban and rural centers and communities.

2020-2021 Accomplishments At-a-Glance

In coordination with its partners, SGC operates an array of innovative community investment programs, collaborative policy initiatives, and technical assistance and capacity building activities. This Annual Report highlights the many accomplishments of each of SGC's programs and initiatives, and spotlights projects, programs, and people to illustrate the far-reaching impacts of our investments and initiatives. The following list represents just a few highlights from SGC's body of work throughout Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

State Awards \$2 Million to Ten California Native American Tribes for Climate and Clean Energy Projects

Nearly \$2 million awarded through the Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Program (TGC) will support Tribally led projects that identify solutions to reduce greenhouse gases, improve clean energy access, and advance climate resiliency on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities. Funded by the California Energy Commission and administered in partnership with SGC, the TGC Program focuses on the unique needs of Tribal governments and the valuable ongoing role Tribes serve in helping the State achieve its climate goals. The TGC Program is also supporting a statewide climate and energy gap analysis of Tribal lands, which will assess Tribes' renewable energy needs and climate change vulnerabilities.

Transformative Climate Communities Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Investment Framework

SGC developed a proposed investment framework for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) which is currently lacking in California. SGC developed the framework by conducting a comprehensive literature review, developing a state-wide working group made up of DUC experts, and consulting with academics, community organizations, DUC residents, data analysts, and local, State, and federal

agencies. To overcome data gaps and limitations, staff developed a DUC Data Spatial Analysis Tool (DUC Tool) to identify communities that may be eligible under the proposed investment framework and verified the accuracy of the tool with community experts throughout California. This investment framework will inform the next Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) Guidelines update. SGC will improve the investment framework and DUC Tool with further research and stakeholder collaboration through a grant from the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Evaluated the Beneficial Impacts of the Transformative Climate Communities Program

In May 2021, the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation (LCI) released evaluation reports documenting the second year of implementation at three TCC sites – Fresno, Ontario, and Watts/South Los Angeles – and the first year of implementation at one site, the Pacoima/Sun Valley neighborhoods of Northeast Valley Los Angeles. LCI's report found that TCC investments in social infrastructure enabled communities to swiftly adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic – showcasing the need for innovative and comprehensive community programming in the face of evolving challenges and needs. Highlights for the implementation grants include:

“We are not aware of such a comprehensive, community-driven, and place-based climate action program anywhere else in the world.”

– Luskin Research Team

- » Transform Fresno broke ground on keystone infrastructure projects;
- » Watts Rising provided critical food distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- » Ontario Together completed 100 new TCC-funded affordable units and built 75 new affordable units that leveraged TCC funding to finance the project;
- » Green Together in Northeast San Fernando Valley established partnerships and a governance structure to ensure meaningful community engagement and accountability.

Launched New Pilot Program Supporting Local Leaders by Building Capacity to Lead Equitable Community Climate Action

Launched in February 2021 by SGC’s Community Assistance for Climate Equity team (CACE), Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) is a pilot program focused on increasing the capacity of local leaders from across California to advance community-driven, equitable climate solutions. PACE’s inaugural cohort was composed of 22 leaders representing California’s diverse communities, organizations, and lived experiences.

The pilot reflects SGC’s commitment to long-term capacity building and advancement of health and racial equity in under-resourced communities. The members of the inaugural cohort work on an array of issues at the intersection of climate and equity, including affordable housing, air quality, youth and resident empowerment, water and wildfire resilience, and urban greening.

BOOST TURNS STATE LEGISLATURE’S **\$1 MILLION INVESTMENT**

INTO NEARLY

\$50 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING
FOR UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES
TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

BOOST Pilot Program Produces Big Results for Communities and Valuable Takeaways for State Agencies and Partners

In April 2021, SGC’s California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program (CCI TA) in partnership with the Institute for Local Government (ILG), concluded the BOOST pilot program. Through BOOST, ILG provides customized coaching – such as staff training, grant application support, and stakeholder and community engagement – to 10 cities and two regions in support of their climate-related goals. Among BOOST’s major achievements:

- » Grant-writing assistance for 59 grant applications, resulting in nearly \$50 million in funding, including \$42 million in California Climate Investments funding;
- » Supporting the development of six Climate Action and/or Resiliency Plans in the cities of Paramount, Ventura, Bakersfield and Salinas, and updates for San Diego and East Palo Alto;
- » Facilitating important discussions between local agency partners, State agency staff and technical assistance providers working on 12 grant programs from five different State agencies.

During Fall 2021, SGC and ILG will select between 5–7 disadvantaged and/or low-income communities for the second round of the BOOST Program.

SGC Continued Implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan

In 2019, SGC adopted the first public-facing Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) in the State of California, which highlights strategic actions for Council leadership and SGC program teams to address and advance racial equity and transform California State government. In 2020–2021 SGC’s community investment programs, policy initiatives, and organizational and inter-agency activities prioritized actions that advanced equity.

Examples of REAP implementation:

- » The TCC Program facilitated a root cause analysis to inform the development of its Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Pilot Program;
- » Health and Equity Program, in partnership with the UC Berkeley Othering & Belonging Institute, administered a stakeholder engagement initiative around the Health in All Policies Task Force;
- » The CACE Program launched its Partners Advancing Climate Equity initiative;
- » Each SGC team conducted, analyzed, and reported the results from root cause analyses, investigating the racial, socio-political, and health inequities their teams seek to address. The analyses resulted in indicators and actionable strategies that were incorporated into the REAP.

These examples are just a few of many efforts to integrate racial equity within SGC programs, operations, and practices; the Annual Report embodies SGC actions and approaches to address and advance racial equity in California State government.

State Metropolitan Planning Organization Working Group

SGC, in collaboration with the California Association of the Councils of Government, relaunched the State Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Working Group to foster collaboration on shared issues and challenges. The group includes planning directors from each of California’s 18 MPOs and key State officials representing several SGC member agencies and their departments. Activities include focusing on opportunities for sharing data, improving how State funding programs measure, align, and support regional plans, and discussing opportunities to reform Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008) and the regional planning process in California.

Adapted to Changes Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

SGC adapted our work to ensure that we could continue to serve communities and grantees effectively through the COVID-19 pandemic, including working with them to adjust timelines and activities in response to changing conditions. SGC staff continue to partner with other State agencies to contribute to response and recovery activities. As California’s communities real from the pandemic, SGC looks forward to working through our programs to promote a sustainable and inclusive recoveries in California’s communities.

- » When COVID-19 posed an obstacle to the Climate Change Research Program’s (CCR) community-engaged research, CCR hosted a forum for grantees to share virtual engagement best practices with one another;

AHSC HAS MADE AVAILABLE

\$785,000,000

THROUGH ROUND 6 FOR PROJECTS

- » In response to the pandemic, Affordable Housing and Sustainable Community (AHSC) staff worked closely with its technical assistance (TA) providers to ensure that TA and capacity-building activities remained readily available as prospective applicants prepare for Funding Round 6. Staff worked with TA providers to develop a webinar series and consultation sessions to ensure accessible TA in lieu of in-person meetings;
- » Throughout the pandemic, SGC’s Council meetings were adjusted to embrace remote and digital public engagement, assuring community and stakeholder voices were not neglected.

Other Highlights from 2020-2021 Include:

- » For Round 6 of the AHSC Program, SGC originally released a notice of funding available (NOFA) of \$405 million. In September of 2021, the Council approved an increase to the NOFA amount by \$380 million. That brought total AHSC Round 6 funding up to \$785 million – one of the single largest allocations of affordable housing funding in California’s history;
- » Through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC), SGC awarded \$52 million to 20 acquisition projects, 2 fee title projects, and 10 planning grants resulting in permanent protection of important agricultural lands at risk of development throughout California;
- » To create a more equitable program, the SALC Program conducted extensive outreach and facilitated workshops to inform the program’s model and create meaningful changes for the next round of funding;
- » As directed by the SGC Council, the CCR Program has started to update its Research Investment Plan which guides the development and implementation of the program and provides a foundation for the Council’s research investments.

California Strategic Growth Council Program Funding: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and Approach

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Program Funding Overview			SGC's Approach				
Programmatic Area		Funding Allocations	Fostering Collaboration	Advancing Health and Racial Equity	Supporting Communities Capacity to Drive Change	Building Resilient Communities	Integrating Research and Data for Policy Innovation
Transformative Climate Communities	State Operations	\$671,000					
	Local Assistance	\$48,915,000	X	-	X	X	-
Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities	State Operations	\$7,955,000					
	Local Assistance	\$798,884,700	X	X	-	X	-
Climate Change Research	State Operations	\$250,000					
	Local Assistance	\$4,750,000	X	-	X	-	X
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation	State Operations	\$590,000					
	Local Assistance	\$38,104,600	X	-	X	X	-
Tribal Programs	State Operations	\$53,813					
	Local Assistance	\$2,000,000	X	X	X	-	-
Health and Equity Program	State Operations	\$515,000	X	X	X	-	-
Community Assistance for Climate Equity	State Operations	\$477,000					
	Local Assistance	\$1,900,000	-	X	X	X	-
California Transportation Program	State Operations	\$349,000	X	-	X	-	X
High Speed Rail Partnership		\$722,020	X	-	X	X	-
TOTAL		\$906,137,133					



ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

Mission

The California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) mission is to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and high quality of life for all Californians.

Our Vision

Healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all.

History

California lawmakers established SGC in 2008 to support sustainable community development in California – with a focus on State agency coordination to improve air and water quality and natural resource protection, increase the availability of affordable housing, improve transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support adaptation and resilience (Public Resource Code Sec. 75125(a)). In order to realize these benefits, SGC has the following statutory roles:

- » Identify and review activities and funding programs of State agencies to meet the goals listed above, encourage sustainable land use, and to revitalize urban centers;
- » Recommend policies, investment strategies, and priorities to the Governor, the Legislature, and appropriate State agencies to encourage the development of sustainable communities, such as those that promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety;
- » Provide, fund, and distribute data and information to local governments and regional agencies to assist in developing and planning sustainable communities; and
- » Manage and award grants and loans to support the planning and development of sustainable communities.

Structure and Organization

The Council and Key Staff

SGC is governed by a multi-agency Council composed of 10 members – three public members, one each appointed by the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly; and the seven Cabinet members – all of whom serve SGC’s mission with their extensive leadership and expertise in land use planning, local government, resource protection and management, public health, and community development and revitalization. Each agency member of the Council appoints a high-ranking member of their team as their Key Staff person to serve as the primary liaison between the member and SGC’s staff leadership. These Key Staff meet with SGC executive leadership at least once a month and provide guidance and strategic support to SGC programs and policy initiatives.

Executive Director Transition

In April 2021, SGC’s previous Executive Director Louise Bedsworth stepped down after nearly three years as SGC’s Executive Director and a decade in State service.

Bedsworth’s successor, Lynn von Koch-Liebert, served as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Consumer Services at the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency (BCSH) since 2017, and was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom as the new Executive Director of SGC in August 2021.

During the transition, Jessica Buendia, SGC’s Chief Deputy Director stepped in as Acting Executive Director to coordinate with Council members, Key Staff, and SGC staff, overseeing our programs, policies, partnerships, and day-to-day activities in service of SGC’s vision for healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all.

Meet Our Council



Samuel Assefa
Council Member
*Director of the Governor's Office
of Planning and Research*



Lynn von-Koch Liebert
Executive Director



Michael Flad
Public Member
Assembly Appointee



Nicole Capretz
Public Member
Senate Appointee



Jared Blumenfeld
Council Member
*Secretary of the California
Environmental Protection Agency*



Lourdes Castro Ramírez
Council Member
*Secretary of the California Business
Consumer Services and Housing Agency*



Wade Crowfoot
Council Member
*Secretary of the California Natural
Resources Agency*



Mark Ghaly
Council Member
*Secretary of the California Health
and Human Services Agency*



David Kim
Council Member
*Secretary of the California State
Transportation Agency*



Karen Ross
Council Member
*Secretary of the California
Department of Food and Agriculture*



Juan Sánchez Muñoz
Public Member
Governor's Appointee

Programs and Initiatives

SGC collaboratively operates an array of innovative community investment programs, collaborative policy initiatives, and technical assistance and capacity building activities.

Integrated Community Investment Programs

SGC operates five investment programs that take holistic, equity-focused approaches to effectively reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, help communities adapt and build resilience in the face of climate impacts, increase high-quality affordable housing and clean transportation options, conserve natural and working lands, and increase access to healthy food, good jobs, and training and educational opportunities. Four of five of these programs are part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Program (TGC) is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Transformative Climate Communities

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to reduce GHG emissions and local air pollution. Funded by CCI and administered in partnership with the California Department of Conservation (DOC), TCC offers both Planning Grants and Implementation Grants.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) builds healthier communities and protects the environment by increasing the supply of affordable places to live near jobs, stores, transit, and

other daily needs. Funded by CCI and administered in partnership with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), AHSC makes grants and loans to three different project types.

Climate Change Research

Funded by CCI, The Climate Change Research Program (CCR) supports science-to-action, engaging both researchers and community partners in all stages of the research process to advance California's climate change goals.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) fights climate change by protecting productive farmlands permanently and encouraging infill development. Funded by CCI and administered in partnership with the California Department of Conservation, SALC offers planning grants and funding for land acquisition, either for easements or fee title purchase.

Tribal Programs

The Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Program (TGC) provides funds for California Native American Tribes to conduct planning activities to reduce GHG emissions, improve clean energy access, and advance climate adaptation and resiliency on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities. TGC is funded by a one-time investment from the ARRA (2009) and administered through a partnership between the California Energy Commission (CEC) and SGC. SGC hopes to obtain funding to continue the program in the future.

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program

The Health and Equity Program (HEP) represents a commitment from the Governor and Legislature to advance cross-sector collaborative action on the social determinants of health and racial equity. The HEP team is responsible for supporting the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Taskforce (Executive Order S-04-10), which brings together over 22 departments to collaborate around promoting healthy and equitable communities, infusing health and equity practices and metrics into SGC's own policy and program areas, leading the implementation of SGC's Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP), and supporting the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) to build the capacity of state government to address institutional and structural racism. HEP works in close partnership with the Public Health Institute (PHI) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and relies heavily upon input from a wide range of stakeholders.

Integrated Regional Policy and Planning

SGC's unique mandate and positioning as an inter-agency body enables it to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to advance work that seeks to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians at all levels of California government. The work manifests through partnerships such as the High-Speed Rail Sustainable Growth Partnership with the California High-Speed Rail Authority; the Integrated Regional Conservation and Development Initiative (IRCAD); participating in the California Natural Resource Agency's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy interagency policy team; supporting the State Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Working Group; and preparing the California Transportation Assessment, a report to the State Legislature pursuant to AB 285 (Friedman, 2019).

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Community Assistance for Climate Equity

The Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE) provides technical assistance and builds capacity for California's most under-resourced communities through the California Climate Investment Technical Assistance Program (CCI TA) and the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC). Both CCI TA and RCC enable communities to build community-driven leadership, collaborative partnerships, knowledge, and skills to access public funding to plan and implement climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency projects. The work of CCI TA and RCC supports cross-sector climate action that advances multi-benefit solutions and addresses historical inequities.

SGC's Approach

Realizing SGC's vision for healthy, thriving, resilient communities for all -- through investment programs and collaborative policy work -- requires multiple approaches; organized under the five key themes that follow.

Fostering Collaboration

Fostering healthy, thriving, resilient communities for all requires the collaboration, commitment, and creativity of diverse government, non-profit, private, and community stakeholders. Through its membership and partnerships, and by building meaningful collaboration into our program guidelines, SGC plays a unique role in facilitating and leading robust collaboration and partnership. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SGC adapted to ensure that we continue to serve our applicants and grantees; such as working with them to adjust timelines and activities in response to changing conditions. SGC staff also partnered with other State agencies to contribute to response and recovery activities.

Advancing Health and Racial Equity

Achieving SGC's vision requires directly addressing stark inequities that persist in California, where people of color and other historically marginalized communities shoulder the largest health burdens and face the greatest economic barriers. SGC strives to foster a workforce and professional environment that represents California's diversity. Building staff capacity to comprehend, address, and advance health and racial equity is key to achieving this goal. Our community investment programs, policy initiatives, and organizational and inter-agency activities prioritize actions that advance health and racial equity, cementing SGC's nation-wide leadership in addressing racial inequities in State government.

Supporting Communities' Capacity to Drive Action

To effectively address climate risk, communities must collaboratively envision and implement projects, programs, and policy changes that improve residents' lives. In order to do so, residents need a seat at the table to drive decisions, and local governments and organizations in underserved communities need the tools and the capacity to access funding – whether from the State or other sources. Through our programs and initiatives, SGC has developed models for technical assistance and assembled comprehensive capacity-building resources and services tailored to community and program needs. This approach has promoted community-driven climate resilience and generated long-lasting positive outcomes for communities across California.

Building Resilient Communities

SGC is committed to helping California communities prepare for disruptions due to climate change, public health emergencies, economic downturns, or other factors, to recover from such shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from disruptive experiences. Resilient communities are well-planned, socially cohesive, safe, and economically stable. Built infrastructure can withstand changes and shocks, while continuing to provide critical services. Resilient communities maximize equity and protect their most vulnerable residents so they do not simply survive disruptions but are able to thrive despite and after such events. Finally, resilient communities value and help care for healthy natural systems and working lands that, even in the face of change, can adjust and continue to provide clean air and water, habitat and refuge, and employment and recreational opportunities.

Integrating Research and Data for Policy Innovation

SGC is perhaps best known for our community investment programs, which are designed to enable grant recipients to advance innovative research and policy solutions, even as they implement affordable housing, clean transportation, urban greening, workforce development, land conservation and other projects that bring multiple benefits to residents. In tandem with our grant programs, SGC staff lead and contribute to a variety of innovative data, research, and policy initiatives and partnerships seeking solutions that advance our vision for healthy, thriving, resilient communities for all.



WHAT WE DO

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

SGC works to realize build and support healthy, thriving, resilient communities for all by collaboratively operating an array of innovative community investment programs, integrated policy and data initiatives, and technical assistance and capacity-building programs. This section reports on their activities and accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2020–2021, spotlighting projects, programs, and people to illustrate the far-reaching impacts of SGC’s investments and initiatives.

IN THIS SECTION

Investment Programs

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

Transformative Climate Communities

Climate Change Research

Tribal Programs

Collaborative Policy Initiatives

Health and Equity Program

Integrated Policy and Planning

Capacity Building

Community Assistance for Climate Equity



INVESTMENT PROGRAM

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) builds healthier communities by increasing the supply of affordable places to live near jobs, stores, transit, and other daily needs. Administered in partnership with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), AHSC makes grants and loans to three different project types. AHSC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), strengthen the economy, and improve public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

AHSC HAS MADE AVAILABLE

\$785,000,000

THROUGH ROUND 6
FOR PROJECTS

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations ¹	\$7,955,000	\$7,903,700	\$51,300
Local Assistance ²	\$798,884,700	\$-	\$798,884,700
Total	\$806,839,700	\$7,903,700	\$798,936,000

1 \$6.7 million was transferred to the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide loan and grant administration services to assist in the State's goal of making strategic investments to that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2 The local assistance will be awarded in January 2022.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities 2020-2021 Highlights

- » SGC originally released a notice of funding available (NOFA) of \$405 million for Round 6 of the AHSC program but in September of 2021 the Council approved an increase to the NOFA amount by \$380 million. That brought total AHSC Round 6 funding up to \$785 million – one of the single largest allocations of affordable housing funding in California's history.
- » Round 6 of AHSC has occurred almost entirely within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Round 6 guidelines for the program focused significant effort towards revisions that would support and accommodate applicants, local governments, and disadvantaged communities as they felt its impacts. The AHSC program went through several drafts in response to stakeholder needs and feedback. Through efforts to inform interested parties, the program developed its digital engagement strategies for both the AHSC guidelines and application workshops.

AHSC ROUND 6 GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT INCLUDED

 **OVER 115**
PUBLIC COMMENT LETTERS

140 PARTICIPANTS
IN 2 WORKSHOPS 

- » The outcomes of the AHSC guidelines revision process was a number of signification changes, including:
 - » Expansion of eligibility for Transit operations expenditures to five years (from two years)
 - » A new broadband readiness requirement for all projects
 - » The inclusion of tenant legal services as an eligible program cost
 - » The strengthening of the workforce strategies scoring section in the AHSC application
 - » AHSC expanded the experience requirements to include the experience of an organization’s principal to increase opportunity for community-based developers.
- » The AHSC program also made changes to funding would have an impact across the State’s varying geographies. To support greater regional distribution, AHSC increased discretionary funds to 20% of funds, after having been reduced to 10% in Round 5. A new process was developed to prioritize geographic targets for regions throughout California.
- » Building on AHSC’s focus on sustainability, all-electric buildings (and near all-electric buildings) were included for the first time in the AHSC guidelines. Building Electrification was further incentivized through the Green Building scoring section.

————— AHSC ROUND 6 —————
 APPLICATION SUPPORT INCLUDED
OVER 230 APPLICANTS PARTICIPATED
IN 2 APPLICATION WEBINARS
 &
17 TAILORED CONSULTATION MEETINGS
WITH PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

- » AHSC continued to work with technical assistance (TA) providers to ensure that TA and capacity-building activities remain readily available in the lead-up to the Round 6 application submission deadline. AHSC TA supported at least 30 applicants throughout the application process, meeting them where they were – building the program’s equity.
- » AHSC guidelines require consideration of climate impacts and resiliency for its investments, pioneering how a major State infrastructure program can ensure grantees consider the potential for climate disaster to impact their projects and ensure they are advancing community resilience. AHSC relies on Cal-Adapt, a website supported by both the California Energy Commission (CEC) and SGC’s Climate Change Research Program (CCR), which serves as a portal to State climate information that grantees use in their applications. Cal-Adapt provides climate data to potential AHSC grantees, allowing for the visualization and downloading of climate projections and supports municipal adaptation planning practices, education, and advocacy. AHSC integrated the Cal-Adapt tool as part of its grant application for the first time in Round 3. AHSC worked with the Cal-Adapt team in their efforts update the website to offer even more relevant data to applicants for Round 6 through the Cal-Adapt Snapshot tool.
- » AHSC funds applicants to work with residents and community-based organizations to advance community visions while protecting residents and community stakeholders from displacement. In the City of Berkeley, the affordable housing developer for the Maudelle Miller Shirek Community Project levered an AHSC grant to partner with Health Black Families, Inc., a South Berkeley based nonprofit dedicated to the health of Black families to provide community services on the ground floor of the housing development. Services include an affordable, long-term health center; on-site social services provided by the City of Berkeley Mental Health department; and third-party services for previously unhoused residents.

- » AHSC works to foster collaboration by incentivizing housing, transit, active transportation, and complementary programming on a local level while encouraging the engagement of local groups and stakeholders in the planning process. The Balboa Park Upper Yard project in San Francisco transformed vacant public land next to a Bay Area Regional Transit (BART) station, to 350 affordable housing units while also including funding for enhanced BART service. Grassroot efforts began in 2010 between local residents and non-profit organizations. The community organized and engaged to build a voice which centered around retaining the character and affordability of their neighborhood while pressing for improvements to pedestrian safety, open space, air quality, and urban greening. which have been incorporated into the Balboa Park Upper Yard Project. Through a collaborative process with developers, the City of San Francisco, and BART, these elements were then incorporated into the Balboa Park Upper Yard Project.
-

“This \$130 million in grants from the State could not have come at a more critical time as we continue to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will allow us to accelerate construction on more than 350 affordable homes and undertake major infrastructure improvements.”

—San Francisco Mayor London Breed in a press release praising the State’s investment

- » AHSC makes an effort to fund projects that build resilience across California’s diverse communities. In Sonoma County, the Roseland Village Neighborhood Center is designed to be resilient despite the region’s climate vulnerabilities, including wildfire, extreme heat, and drought. Its design features include fire hazard prevention measures, cool roofs, tree plantings to provide shade, and features that will minimize the risk of stormwater pollution.



AHSC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Photo Credit:
Six Four Nine Lofts

SIX FOUR NINE LOFTS: MORE THAN HOUSING

The Six Four Nine Lofts project and its associated housing and infrastructure improvements aim to directly benefit low-income communities in the Downtown Los Angeles area. This project was awarded \$5.3 million for 55 affordable housing units from the Round 2 Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC). The Six Four Nine Lofts project is located in the Skid Row neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles and will provide permanent supportive housing and wraparound services for individuals who have been unhoused, including veterans, and Angelenos with chronic health issues.

“The Six Four Nine Lofts Project is a great example of an effective and successful collaboration between the SRHT, community members and various City agencies. Community members and residents will use upgraded housing and infrastructure improvements that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, which are very bad for our planet.”

-Alina Tishchenko, AHSC Analyst, City of Los Angeles.

The Skid Row Housing Trust (SRHT) engaged with an array of Los Angeles City and County government agencies and advocacy groups who serve the communities in Skid Row, in Downtown, and through the region for the project development. The engagement process included public meetings to discuss community needs in the area and the proposed development and was attended by residents and community members of Skid Row, creating a culture of inclusion and proactive public input.

Due in part to the neighborhood’s unhoused population, access to health services is a critical need in the area. As a result, healthcare, mental health, dental, optometry, and social services will be offered through a federally qualified health clinic to surrounding communities regardless of health insurance status, including those who are unhoused or living in transitional housing which is separate from the Six Four Nine Lofts project.

To support active transportation in the community, in partnership with Metro, Six Four Nine Lofts was awarded grant funds to operate and maintain Metro Bike Share Station. The arrangement gives residents an additional means of getting around and accessing daily needs and additional opportunities.

The Six Four Nine Lofts will contribute to the immediate community’s needs while supporting Los Angeles’ efforts to house the unhoused and provide them with long-term stability.



AHSC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

COALINGA PROJECT: CATALYST FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

The Coalinga project in San Joaquin Valley applied a cross-disciplinary approach that integrated local, regional, and State planning efforts; community engagement and leadership; and climate resilience strategies to serve as a new model of economic advancement for low-income residents. This first of its kind project received \$16.8 million from the AHSC program for 75 new units of new net-zero energy affordable housing, 35 vanpool vans, a new all-electric express bus route between Coalinga and the heart of Fresno, and discounted transit passes. The project area will benefit from over 7,000 feet of new sidewalk, 1.9 miles of new bikeways, six new bike racks, and 61 new street lights.

“We are proud of the Coalinga AHSC project because it was our chance to really lay out our vision for how innovation can permanently improve the livelihoods of disadvantaged rural communities,” said Kevin Rodin, Principal of Community Development Resource Group. “We saw a huge opportunity to use AHSC Program funds to introduce high-paying local Ag-Technology jobs.”

The project includes a workforce development partnership with West Hills College to train local low-income residents about agricultural technology and increase access to new career pathways. The partnership increases and coordinates workforce and economic development activities that are designed to meet the needs of employers and improve and retain student employment in the Career Technical Education Program. The Upskill Agriculture program aims to boost the rates of low-income students in Coalinga with job placements.

The community of Coalinga suffers from two major climate vulnerabilities: extreme heat and drought challenges. To address extreme heat vulnerabilities, project applicants are installing insulation to create high-performance attics for both residential units and the community building. The affordable housing development will generate 100 percent of its energy use from renewable resources onsite, making the project resistant to heat or wind-related rolling blackouts. To address vulnerabilities related to drought challenges, the project will include a fully integrated landscape irrigation system to improve irrigation efficiency.

In addition to extreme heat and drought challenges, Coalinga residents are exposed to below average air quality. In order to protect the community from pollution while reducing climate emissions, the Coalinga project employs a transit and vanpool implementation strategy. The affordable housing development includes heating, ventilation, and air cooling (HVAC) systems with continuous exhaust vents to ensure LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) indoor air quality standards are met or exceeded. Project applicants believe this combination of zero net energy affordable housing with vanpools and transit improvements will result in staggering air quality improvements throughout the city.

The Coalinga project demonstrates inclusive economic advancement that integrates local, regional, and State planning efforts while uplifting the local community, creating affordable and sustainable housing, and addressing the region’s climate challenges.



AHSC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

ARCATA COMMONS: BRIDGING COMMUNITIES TO RESOURCES

The Arcata 30th Street Commons is a Tribal-led project that provides 36 multifamily affordable housing units in a transit-oriented neighborhood of Arcata. The project received \$11.4 million in funding from the AHSC program. Arcata 30th Street Commons provides 36 safe and affordable housing units for low-income residents, including Native Americans, seniors, and other vulnerable populations. The project also features a community room, cultural area, community garden, children's playground, and meeting space for the Yurok Health and Human Service Department and Yurok Wellness Program to provide essential services, training, and socialization opportunities for residents.

“This project represents the first time that Yurok citizens will have access to affordable housing in an area where there is a State university, a Native American health clinic, transportation, and all of the other quality-of-life improving amenities Arcata has to offer,” said Richard Myers, the Chairperson of the Yurok Indian Housing Authority’s (YIHA) Board of Commissioners.”

— Richard Meyers

To reduce climate emissions and pollution and provide greater accessibility to education, health care, and other essential services and amenities, the project includes sustainable transportation services and infrastructure for the Humboldt and Del Norte County Tribal communities. The sustainable transportation infrastructure bolstered or created by the AHSC investment includes a new electric bus that replaces a gas-powered bus connecting the project to Arcata’s local transit network, the construction of new bike lanes, 1,000 feet of ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible walkways, and a one-mile multi-use trail and a pedestrian bridge to connect residents of the project to a grocery store, Humboldt State University, and city’s transit network.

By implementing a host of transportation improvements, the project aims to address key accessibility issues, such as lack of access to healthy food options, faced by the Yurok reservation.

To further address unemployment and poverty, the Arcata 30th Street Commons project will leverage the job referral programming from local workforce development organizations including Northern California Indian Development Council, Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance, Redwood Community Action Agency, Humboldt County Veterans Services, Humboldt 2nd Chance Program and the Express Employment professionals.

The project is a testament to the collaborative nature of the AHSC Program and most importantly, the need to put community needs front and center in investments being made throughout California.



INVESTMENT PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) fights climate change by protecting productive farmlands permanently and encouraging infill development. Administered in partnership with the California Department of Conservation (DOC), SALC offers planning grants and funding for land acquisition through easements or fee title acquisition. SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen the economy, and improve public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

DURING 2020-2021
SGC INVESTED
\$52,046,171
IN
**32 LAND CONSERVATION
PROJECTS**

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$590,000	\$590,000	\$-
Local Assistance ¹	\$38,104,600	\$52,046,171	\$(13,941,571)
Total	\$38,694,600	\$52,636,171	\$(13,941,571)

¹ Additional funds expended in this round were taken from rollover funding from prior rounds.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation 2020-2021 Highlights

- » Through SALC, SGC awarded \$52,046,171 to 20 acquisition projects, 2 fee title projects, and 10 planning grants across California from Shasta County to Imperial County. These awards will result in the permanent protection of important agricultural lands at risk of being developed.
- » The Council approved updated SALC Round 7 Program guidelines to expand planning grant funding and make Tribal entities eligible for funding.
- » The SGC and the DOC accepted pre-proposals for the program's seventh consecutive round. The Council is scheduled to vote on awards for Round 7 in November 2021.
- » During 2020-2021, SALC successfully completed one planning grant and 20 easement acquisitions, resulting in the permanent protection of 21,030 acres.
- » SALC staff hosted 6 acquisition and planning grant workshops as well as hosted two listening sessions to gather input from community members regarding equity in the SALC program.

In 2020–2021 More than 40 Different Organizations Participated in Listening Sessions to Make the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program More Equitable

- » During the Spring of 2021, SALC did extensive outreach to communities of color through email campaigns, direct calls, workshops, and listening sessions to inform the program’s overall framework and increase racial equity. To further the work of the listening sessions, a working group comprised of interested community members and representatives from community-based organizations, land trusts, Tribes, and government agencies convened to discuss ways to meaningfully implement relevant solutions within SALC, including updating the next round of SALC guidelines.
- » A SALC grant awarded to the Ag Land Trust in Monterey County, helped the Agricultural Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) protect their 113 acre organic farm and support the communities’ capacity to drive change. ALBA uses the site to create opportunities for low-income field laborers through land-based training in organic farm management. Since 2001, ALBA has provided training and support to over 600 farmers, of whom over 200 launched a farm on ALBA’s land and nearly 100 went on to farm independently. Hundreds more have leveraged new skills to secure better employment. SALC’s investment into ALBA’s model and work will drive generational change and economic mobility in the region while preserving Monterey County’s working lands, a testament to SGC’s creating community capacity to drive change approach.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AVOIDED THROUGH SALC PROJECTS

4,661,913 MTCO₂EQ

IN ROUND 6 FUNDING

19,194,436 MTCO₂EQ

TOTAL THROUGH SALC’S FIRST 5 ROUNDS

- » SGC awarded the City of Reedley SALC funding to establish a farmland mitigation program to compliment the City’s General Plan Policies aimed at protecting, enhancing, and mitigating any unavoidable loss of agricultural lands within the planning area. Public outreach was conducted throughout the grant process to inform and educate the community and elected officials about the program. After robust public engagement, the City of Reedley successfully developed a program document that provided background and analysis of the agricultural and working lands throughout the planning area, best practices in farmland preservation and mitigation programs from across the State, community engagement feedback, and implementation suggestions that best serve the community. The program document will provide an overall direction for decision-making that will result in the protection of the agricultural lands and viability of the agricultural economy in the region.

- » The 1,424-acre Ullman Ranch is located west of Bridgeport in Mono County and is being conserved for water, wildlife, and sustainable cattle ranching with support from a SALC grant. Through a collaborative effort, local rancher George “Corky” Ullman and the Eastern Sierra Land Trust secured federal, State, and local funding needed to complete the project. The property was conserved via an agricultural conservation easement through a partnership between SALC and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Ullman Ranch is home to a wide range of iconic Eastern Sierra wildlife and has long been a priority for conservation in the region. The partnership demonstrated SALC’s ability to foster local-state-federal collaboration to preserve California’s natural treasures and protect biodiversity in California’s ecosystems.



SALC: THE HUMAN SCALE

LYNN OVERTREE

“The team at SALC took a chance on SBALT and believed in us beyond the faith we had in ourselves.”

—Lynn Overtree, Executive Director,

San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

Lynn Overtree is taking up the torch at the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) as Executive Director, carrying on a nearly three-decade effort to conserve the county’s regionally significant lands. A San Benito resident with over 30 years of experience with California land trusts, Lynn understands the importance of sustaining productive agriculture, preserving open space, and maintaining the rural character of the San Benito region.

Preserving San Benito’s rural character and protecting its farmland from conversion to non-farm uses is vital to achieving greenhouse gas reduction, biodiversity, and agricultural goals in California, as well as protecting pioneers in sustainable farming practices.

San Benito is home to Foster Ranch, whose owners Phil and Katherine Foster, participate in research trials to share innovative organic practices and host frequent farm tours for growers, researchers, policy-makers, and technical service providers, in addition to serving organic produce to hundreds of loyal shoppers from the greater area. The challenge, as Lynn sees it, is securing funds fast enough to meet the ever-growing demand for land conservation.

“That’s where SALC came in,” Lynn said. “The team at SALC took a chance on SBALT and believed in us beyond the faith we had in ourselves.” The team encouraged the Land Trust to apply for SGC’s SALC grant and secure a conservation easement for Foster Ranch. Since awarding the grant, SALC has guided the

Photo Credit
Cathy Summa-Wolfe

Trust through the grant administration and easement acquisition process, and SALC's partner program – Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program – has funded SBALT's staff time to support them in applying for match funding from Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements, a program by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Lynn maintains that, beyond enabling the Fosters to do what they do best, SALC's support will have far-reaching effects on the Trust and land conservation in San Benito. Through the Foster Ranch easement, the Land Trust has built awareness within the community and trust among public agencies in the Santa Clara Valley, who have expressed excitement for future partnerships with the Trust.

“By SALC funding the program, we're able to have the easement that allows us to promote the organization that builds the awareness, in a community of people who want to see the conservation.”

“San Benito was an overlooked county and those of us with SBALT are proud that the Foster Ranch is its first SALC-funded project,” Lynn wrote to SGC. “The goals of SALC align perfectly with our goals and those of the Fosters.”





SALC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Photo Credit:
City of Arcata

ARCATA: EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH WHILE CONSERVING LAND

The City of Arcata is working on several major planning efforts that will ensure continued preservation of forest and agricultural lands by concentrating development in and around the City's downtown. This approach satisfies the City's need for housing and economic development in the downtown area while avoiding development pressure. Through the SALC program, the SGC awarded a planning grant to the City of Arcata to develop a Strategic Infill Redevelopment Plan (SIRP).

“The SALC grant provided critical funding to assist the City developing the Arcata Gateway Plan. The Arcata Gateway Plan concentrates growth near the city’s downtown, focusing on sustainable mixed-use infill to protect the Arcata Bottom agricultural lands to the west and the redwood forested foothills to the east. The Gateway Plan highlights these values to grow opportunity and build community equitably”

—David Loya, Community Development Director, City of Arcata

The SIRP is a large-scale planning effort to update the General Plan and several related implementation plans. Collectively, these plans will ensure the continued preservation of working and agricultural lands. The project is being developed with an equity lens, having social justice and the impact of development on vulnerable communities imbedded in the analysis. Disparities in housing and economic outcomes for people of color have been documented by the City of Arcata and as a result, the SIRP will plan for implementation steps to address such inequities. In addition, the SIRP will address underrepresentation of underserved communities in planning practices by directly involving these communities.



SALC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Photo Credit
La Cuesta Ranch

LA CUESTA RANCH: REIMAGINING CONSERVATION AND WORKING LANDS

The City of San Luis Obispo is nestled between the Los Padres National Forest and the Pacific Ocean and is surrounded by the natural landscape of rolling hills, oak woodlands, and chaparral that allow for wildlife habitat and corridors, agricultural uses, and recreational opportunities. As population continues to grow and housing demands persist, private ranches surrounding San Luis Obispo are under constant pressure to subdivide and convert to other uses. In an effort to combat urban sprawl and promote smart growth and sustainable communities, SGC awarded the City of San Luis Obispo a SALC grant to purchase an agricultural conservation easement for over 1,000 acres of the La Cuesta Ranch property, located along the northern border of the City of San Luis Obispo Sphere of Influence and Highway 101.

“The City of San Luis Obispo is profoundly appreciative of the funding and support for this project from the Strategic Growth Council and Department of Conservation in advancing our ambitious climate action and land conservation goals.”

—Bob Hill, Sustainability and Natural Resources Official, City of San Luis Obispo

The Miozzi family established La Cuesta Ranch over a century ago and continue to steward the property as a working cattle ranch. Protection of the property in perpetuity provides numerous environmental, economic, and public health benefits that complement the City of San Luis Obispo’s Greenbelt Protection Program.

The landowners and the City of San Luis Obispo are committed to a long-term conservation partnership as a means of keeping the ranch in the family, as well as opportunities to work with students and faculty at the adjacent California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, to promote soil health, rangeland productivity, and best practices to ensure the ranch’s sustainable agricultural operations long into the future.



SALC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

ROBINSON RANCH: TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

The 3,070-acre Robinson Ranch is one of the original pioneer ranches in Nevada County and has been operated by the Robinson family for seven generations. It is also one of the largest remaining ranches in Nevada County. The ranch, which is nestled between Penn Valley to the east and developed areas to the north and west, provides a buffer between development and the 11,800-acre Spenceville Wildlife Recreation Area.

“The SALC Program has completely transformed the agricultural conservation landscape and has allowed significant progress to prevent suburban sprawl and encourage infill in communities throughout California. Robinson Ranch is a hallmark project in Nevada County because it involves a prominent ranching family that has loved and worked this land for over 100 years and has chosen to preserve the cultural, ecological, and agricultural values forever,”

—Erin Tarr, Executive Director, Bear Yuba Land Trust.

In 1995 and again in 2014, the ranch was identified as part of a Special Development Area to accommodate large land holdings in a future planned development. This changed when the Robinson family decided instead to protect the property from development in perpetuity. In 2014, the Robinsons worked to conserve 1,477 acres of the ranch with the support of the Trust for Public Land and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2017, SGC awarded the Bear Yuba Land Trust a \$3.45 million Agricultural Conservation Easement grant through SALC to conserve the remaining 1,593 acres under two additional easements. The easements, which were completed in 2020, ensure that the entire property will be available for agricultural use and protect critical wildlife habitat forever. They avoid 264,757 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would have occurred from development of the land.

The easements also honor the legacy of Sue Hoek’s father, Neil Robinson, and the five generations who grazed the property before them. In addition to continuing her family’s operation of the ranch, continued grazing and irrigation of the pastures will help protect neighboring communities from wildfires. Future plans include providing new farmers who may not be able to buy their own land opportunities to lease portions of the ranch, giving them a start in an industry that has been notoriously difficult for new farmers and under-resourced ranchers to enter into.

SALC’S CONSERVATION OF ROBINSON RANCH

AVOIDS

264,757 METRIC TONNES
OF GHG

THAT WOULD HAVE OCCURRED
FROM DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND



INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES

The Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) empowers the communities most impacted by pollution to choose their own goals, strategies, and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and local air pollution. Administered in partnership with the California Department of Conservation (DOC), TCC offers both planning grants and implementation grants. TCC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

“We are not aware of such a comprehensive, community-driven, and place-based climate action program anywhere else in the world.”

—Luskin Research Team

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Transformative Climate Communities	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$671,000	\$670,684	\$316
Local Assistance ^{1,2}	\$48,915,000	\$48,915,000	\$-
Total	\$49,586,000	\$49,585,684	\$316

1 \$60 million was originally appropriated in 2019-20 Budget Act to Transformative Climate Communities and was reduced to \$51.2 million due to COVID-19 impacts on the cap-and-trade auction proceeds.

2 This amount includes \$200,000 remaining fund from Budget Act 2017-18 that was dedicated for Technical Assistance.

Transformative Climate Communities 2020–2021 Highlights

- » Executed all TCC Round 3 implementation and planning grants, awarded in June 2020. All Round 3 implementation grantees (City of Oakland, City of Riverside, City of Stockton) were former planning grantees and are now implementing their community visions for resilience and transformation.
- » The TCC Program received a Pew Charitable Trusts grant for approximately \$60,000 to continue its work on an investment framework for disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs). The funding will build on the program’s DUC Working Group activities over 2020-2021 to address key barriers to health and well-being investments in DUCs. The work will focus on improving data integrity, data access, and infrastructure investment and maintenance models that can be shared across the state.
- » Two Round 3 implementation grantees, City of Oakland and City of Stockton, developed innovative advance payment mechanisms for project partners with less financial capacity to enable their participation in the grant.
- » Watts Rising has completed the Greening Public Housing Project which planted 200 shade trees throughout three public housing properties as a part of the Urban Forestry strategy. Youth Education training on urban forestry was held as youth participated in tree planting efforts. The project produced a location map for all trees planted at the three sites.

ACROSS TCC'S THREE ROUNDS OF IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS:

AVOIDED

197,271 MTCO₂EQ GHG EMISSIONS (EST.)

LEVERAGE AT LEAST*

\$625 MILLION IN **NON-TCC FUNDING**

RELY ON OVER

107 DIVERSE PARTNERSHIPS

- » Oakland's Better Neighborhood, Same Neighbors project partner Planting Justice completed acquisition of a historic 3-acre nursery to build an urban aquaponics farm and prevent the site from becoming an industrial facility.
- » Transform Fresno continues to break ground on key connectivity projects, including an electric vehicle car share with charging sites at Fresno Housing Authority buildings and a food hub that will serve Southwest Fresno residents.
- » The Transform Fresno collaborative also utilized the relationships built through the TCC implementation grant to apply for and secure a \$450,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Southwest Fresno, in an area overlapping with the TCC project area. The grant will focus on planning for the redevelopment of 134 distressed public housing units and will ensure public housing residents are included in the revitalization of Southwest Fresno.
- » Ontario Together's affordable housing project Vista Verde Apartments, a 101 unit net zero energy building, was completed, and residents began moving in early 2021. TCC community engagement supported the housing outreach and application technical assistance to residents.
- » Stockton Rising's complete streets project broke ground creating safe and walkable street along a portion of Miner Avenue in the City of Stockton and distributed 900 Community Supported Agriculture produce boxes to families in the project area.

- » Sacramento’s Community Engagement Plan includes the development of an oversight council. In June 2020, the SIMPL (Sacramento Integrated Multi-Modal Place-Based Living) Resident Advisory board recruited residents and stakeholder leaders into the Leadership Council. This group will develop evaluation tools to assess the effectiveness of TCC activities and will conduct engagement activities in the community.
- » Eastside Climate Collaborative in Riverside successfully consulted with partners to create on-the-job training aimed at local greenhouse gas (GHG)-reducing employment sectors to support sustainable economic development. The TCC Transformative Plan, Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity Plan - includes trainings in the following sectors:
 - » **GRID Alternatives** (solar installation) – trainees will receive a Basics Installation Training Certificate
 - » **Next Generation Farmer** – trainees will earn a certificate in sustainable agriculture
 - » **On the Job Training** – trainees will be connected into GHG reduction sectors where they will learn high-level transferable skills
- » The Green Together: Northeast San Fernando Valley coalition held ribbon-cutting for the opening of Bradley Green Alley & Plaza, a formerly blighted alley converted into community greenspace with public seating and urban greening elements.
- » The East Oakland Neighborhood Bike Routes plan was granted \$17 million to repave and create a system of greenways, also known as bike boulevards, with traffic signals to help cyclists safely use major streets. The street improvements are located within the “Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors” area and will enhance the Higher Ground x Scraper Bike Team Bike Share and Youth Development project, which will enroll 500 youth into a local bike sharing program and increase active transportation in the area.

- » The City of Pomona, a Round 3 planning grantee, secured an additional \$1.2 million for a local park and pedestrian improvements, both located within the city’s TCC planning area. The City of Pomona attributed attracting additional funding to the TCC Working Group. The awarded TCC project “Pomona Activated for Community Transformation and Sustainability (ACTS)” focuses on attracting additional funding opportunities, community-based solar, and sustainable transportation planning.
- » The South LA Climate Commons Collaborative, a TCC planning grantee, partnered with Los Angeles Department of Transportation to secure a Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) grant for a mobility access pilot program in the TCC project area. Partners from the TCC planning grant have continued to convene to inform the planning and implementation of the STEP grant.
- » In June 2021, the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), a Round 3 TCC planning grantee, secured \$500,000 in additional outside funding from the City of San Diego to fund the development of Boston Avenue Linear Park. Design of the Boston Avenue Linear Park is funded as part of their TCC planning grant’s “Create Green Vision to Reduce GHGs” focusing on greening the Barrio Logan and Logan Heights neighborhoods of San Diego. EHC credited their success to the TCC-related community engagement that encouraged community members to attend and advocate for the project during city council meeting.
- » In response to COVID-19, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) Displacement Avoidance Group (a TCC grant beneficiary) created and distributed informational resources to residents at community events. Additionally, in collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, the Displacement Avoidance group helped distribute informational flyers about L.A. Connected, an economic assistance program, to 4,000 Watts Rising project area residents.
- » Community Engagement Plans during COVID 19 also transitioned into virtual settings. In Ontario, the Community Health Improvement Association hosted workshops providing education to resident leaders about COVID-19 prevention, treatment, and vaccine rollouts through partnerships with local hospitals and public officials. Personal protective equipment (PPE) training was provided for all Community Engagement Plan team members.



TCC: THE HUMAN SCALE

Elder Michael Cummings

“When the pandemic hit, TCC stepped right in and we were able to work with local organizations and schools to pass out food in our community.”

—Elder Michael Cummings

Elder Michael Cummings is passionate about keeping schoolchildren in Watts safe and inspired to pursue higher education. He started Safe Passages to School Program over twenty years when he wanted to help schoolchildren get to and from school safely and to support their education. The program provides adult supervision along the routes that students travel to get to and from school in order to decrease the chances of the students encountering violence in the community. As a direct impact of the program, crime rates dropped while school attendance and grade point averages increased. However, maintaining enough funding has always been the biggest difficulty with running the Safe Passages to School Program.

Being proud of the California community of Watts comes naturally to Elder Michael Cummings. His hometown of Watts, he said, “is the foundation that spreads among the communities around and those surrounding Watts.” He spent the last two decades committed to uplifting Watts and currently serves as the Executive Director of We Care Outreach Ministries, a non-profit organization he began with his wife, Sauna. We Care Outreach Ministries’ mission is to improve the quality of life for all Watts youth and residents, restore hope, strengthen family values, and build constructive relationships within communities presently divided by racial and cultural barriers.

In 2019, the Watts Rising Collaborative was awarded a \$33.25 million Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grant and additionally leveraged over \$160 million to fund community-identified infrastructure projects that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Watts and improve the economic and public health of Watts residents.

The Safe Passages to School Program was included in the TCC-funded Walk Bike Watts project through the Watts Rising Collaborative but faced new challenges when the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools in March 2020 and schools transitioned to remote learning. The Safe Passages to School Program transitioned from helping children and teens get to and from school safely, to working with local organizations in the community, such as East Side Riders, and schools to distribute food. Such work highlights necessary social investments that must be made to create resilient communities that not only withstand adversity but also bounce back stronger than before.





TCC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Photo Credit
AeroCine Pros

ONTARIO TOGETHER: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Ontario is taking a multi-pronged approach to address the city's affordable housing needs, from funding low-income housing construction, to stabilizing rent for mobile home parks and building new transitional housing. As the COVID-19 pandemic made stark California's longstanding inequities, the completion of the TCC-funded Vista Verde Apartments in June 2021 came at a time of heightened housing need. The TCC Ontario Together collaborative – a project by the City of Ontario – leveraged community engagement platforms to get the word out about the Vista Verde Apartments affordable housing opportunity and provide technical assistance to prospective residents.

“I couldn’t believe that this came out of COVID, 2020, losing my job. I was draining my savings and I wasn’t sure what I was going to do. Then I got accepted into this amazing program and I feel like it’s changing the course of my life.”

—Anonymous Resident “Veronica”

SGC awarded the Ontario Together collaborative a \$33.25M Round 1 TCC Investment in 2018 to fund affordable housing, 365 new trees, solar panel installations on affordable multi-family and single-family homes, over 5 miles of bike lanes, 3 miles of sidewalk improvements, and the Ontario Carbon Farm, which will compost green waste from local restaurants and provide job training and fresh produce opportunities for the community.

Vista Verde Apartments: Expanding Quality Affordable Housing

The Vista Verde Apartments project includes 100 affordable units on 3.85 acres of previously vacant land. The apartments are net zero, relying in large part on rooftop solar panels, and include a community garden, enhanced bus service times and bus shelters, free transit passes for each household, and a trail for cyclists and pedestrian. Once housed at Vista Verde, residents will have access to training program about how to apply for transit passes, use public transit, and job opportunities related to the construction and operation and management of the Vista Verde Apartments.

Community Engagement: Social Infrastructure Promotes Community Resilience

By investing in social infrastructure, the Ontario Together collective overcame the great communication challenges that characterized the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the success of the Vista Verde project and its residents. Crucial to this effort was the rollout of a community engagement plan, that resulted in the creation of a neighborhood council and support for Social Impact Artists – a local non profit group that played a crucial role in informing residents of the Vista Verde affordable housing opportunity. The Social Impact Artists conducted outreach events to inform and assist residents in applying for affordable housing units and provide resident training on tenant rights and responsibilities. These artists conducted 4 workshops that reached 1,242 residents and provided Technical Assistance to 360 residents. The combined engagement activities resulted in 3,000 pre-applications to the Vista Verde Apartments. Local residents were prioritized as applications for the 100 affordable housing units were being reviewed.



TCC: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Photo Credit
Fresno City College

WITNESSING COMMUNITY- LED TRANSFORMATION IN FRESNO

Fresno's communities have long struggled with environmental, health, and economic disparities. Fresno's Chinatown, Downtown, and Southwest Fresno communities experience high levels of air pollution, lack of access to parks and healthy food options, and face an economically distressed Downtown.

In 2018, through a Round 1 TCC Implementation Grant, SGC awarded \$66.5 million to the City's Transform Fresno collaborative – which includes over 18 funded projects and 4 leveraged projects – distributing approximately \$11.5 million towards affordable housing and \$16.6 million towards urban greening projects. The community and City of Fresno came together through a historic participatory budgeting process to select a package of impactful infrastructure and community projects with widespread benefits to residents and businesses. These projects and their successes are summarized in the sections that follow.

TRANSFORM FRESNO AT-A-GLANCE

18
TCC FUNDED
PROJECTS

PLANTING OF
1,458 TREES
IN THE PROJECT AREA

PROJECTS EST. TO REDUCE
20,816 METRIC TONS
OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

TCC SUPPORTED JOBS

337
DIRECT JOBS

112
INDIRECT JOBS

190
INDUCED JOBS

Last year, Transform Fresno broke ground on its flagship infrastructure projects in the cores of Chinatown and Southwest Fresno, marking a major milestone of reinvesting in schools, housing, and green spaces in these historically disinvested areas.

Transform Fresno Community Engagement Plan: 2020 Public Outreach Merit Award

In 2020, the American Planning Association (APA) recognized the Transform Fresno Community Engagement Plan with the 2020 Public Outreach Merit Award. Developed collaboratively by the City of Fresno and the Southwest Fresno community, the plan is a key component of TCC Transformative Plans that create awareness about TCC and enable a community-driven approach to planning in the region. This approach has been vital to the success of Fresno's projects.

Monarch Affordable Housing Project Groundbreaking

Chinatown is in Fresno's oldest neighborhood and has some of the highest concentrations of both poverty and air pollution in the nation. 2020 saw groundbreaking for the Monarch Affordable Housing Project, a

high-density, 57-unit mixed use development that will encourage the use of mass transit and pedestrian walkways. The project also includes retail space to stimulate economic development. This project is connected to complementary TCC investments, including Chinatown Urban Greening- Pedestrian Pathways and lighting and tree planting and enhanced bus service along Fresno Street, that will collectively improve accessibility, health, and affordable housing for the Chinatown community.

Fresno City College: West Satellite Campus

SGC invested \$16.5 million to support urban greening projects on Fresno City College's satellite campus that provide many health benefits to the surrounding neighborhood. TCC urban greening components will create a park-like campus for residents in the area. The design process was informed by community engagement that led to amenities like "student study parks", educational and wayfinding signage, and pathway and safety lighting to provide a welcoming public space.

“It has been amazing to watch the community take ownership of the Yo’Ville Community Garden; the residents are excited to be involved in something that benefits themselves, the community and our world.”

—Amber Donat, Project Coordinator, Fresno Metro Ministry

The project will also plant over 450 trees to maximize shading, which reduces urban heat and improves public health, and includes several landscape infrastructure features for drought resistance, storm water retention, and groundwater recharge. The new satellite campus will also serve as a Magnet Core to catalyze improvements in the overall health of the region.

Yo’Ville Community Garden

In 2019, the Yosemite Village (Yo’Ville) Community Garden and Urban Farm Incubator celebrated its groundbreaking. The community-designed 7-acre site incorporates organic and permaculture techniques along with methods that promote carbon sequestration and water conservation. 94 garden plots were constructed for residents to learn and grow fruits and vegetables. 2020’s activities included planting days in which residents planted trees, shrubs, native plants and perennials.

The efforts of the Transform Fresno collaborative will undoubtedly change the landscape of the community for years to come. Monarch Affordable Housing Project is projected for completion by mid-2022 and will provide the community with infrastructure supporting urban greening, access to transit, and economic opportunities that will have positive impacts for the residents of Fresno.



INVESTMENT PROGRAM CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

The Climate Change Research Program (CCR) supports science-to-action, engaging both researchers and community partners in all stages of the research process to advance California's climate change goals. CCR is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.

“CCR’s emphasis on working directly with communities allows for more partnerships which are needed to meet the challenges of climate change effectively.”

– Dr. Max Wei, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020–2021 Climate Change Research	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$250,000	\$249,956	\$44
Local Assistance ¹	\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	\$–
Total	\$5,000,000	\$4,999,956	\$44

1 This funding was appropriated in 2019-20 Budget Act. Six grantee agreements were executed in FY 2020-2021.

Climate Change Research 2020-2021 Highlights

- » In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCR program was able to secure appropriation extensions from the Legislature for CCR Round 1 and Round 2 grantees, and executed no cost extensions for all 14 awards. Additionally, staff convened a virtual meeting in the Fall of 2020 that provided grantees with an opportunity to discuss general engagement challenges and how to successfully engage with non-academic partners and audiences.
- » Two CCR grants funded in Round 1, “Integrating Land Use and Climate Change on California’s Central Coast: Impacts and Adaptations for Local Communities” from University of California, Santa Cruz and “Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities to Design and Target Protective Policies” from University of California, Los Angeles successfully completed their projects in March 2021 and June 2021, respectively. The research teams gave final presentations on the projects results to SGC and interested State agencies who will use the research findings to inform their work.
- » As directed by the SGC in 2018, SGC has started updating the CCR program’s Research Investment Plan (RIP), which guides the development and implementation of the program and provides a foundation for all the Council’s research investments. The RIP will be applied to a Research Strategy and Framework that will also include SGC’s approach, vision, and strategy for funding applied, policy-relevant, and partner-driven climate change research. CCR is partnering with SGC member agencies through the Program’s Steering Committee, SGC Key Staff, and interagency groups to ensure agency engagement and crosscutting needs inform the update.

- » As a part of the RIP update effort this year, CCR began the update process by partnering with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to conduct stakeholder engagement for the 2021 the State’s Climate adaptation Strategy. The partnership allows for leveraging and coordination on stakeholder engagement to support multiple State policy efforts.
- » SGC is delighted to be hosting its second California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Fellow, benefiting from the technical expertise of fellows that previously have only served in the California Legislature. SGC was one of seven State agencies to be placed with a CCST Fellow. Nicole Hernandez, is working on supporting the CCR program, the State Climate Adaptation Strategy, and OPR’s Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program (ICARP).
- » Together with the California Energy Commission (CEC), CCR staff will support the Tribal Government Challenge Program (TGC). The TGC program, funded by the CEC and administered by SGC, is based on the recognition that State and Tribal partnerships are essential to meeting California’s climate and energy goals. California Native American Tribes received nearly \$2 million in grant awards last fall to identify solutions to reduce GHG emissions, improve clean energy access, and advance climate adaptation and resiliency on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities. Eight Tribes received up to \$250,000 to complete proposed projects.
- » SGC’s partnership with the CEC also supports a contract to conduct a statewide climate and energy gap analysis of Tribal lands, which will provide a snapshot of Tribes’ current needs and priorities related to renewable energy, climate change, and other relevant issues. This gap analysis will facilitate SGC, CEC, and SGC’s partner agencies’ understanding of Tribal needs to inform the design of future funding opportunities and programs. SGC staff are working to leverage the various Tribal efforts SGC is involved in to build connections, relationships, and facilitate sharing of information and findings between Tribes and State agencies.

- » The Greenlining Institute published *Making Racial Equity Real in Research*, informed by the 2019 Climate Change Research Symposium hosted by SGC's CCR program. The resource is meant to be leveraged by researchers to learn how to conduct research activities that advance racial equity. The resource is also intended for institutions and agencies, including research funders seeking to embed racial equity and community engagement requirements into their grant guidelines. SGC is very excited to see the CCR program's vision uplifted in *Making Racial Equity Real in Research* and to broadly share the resource with researchers and institutions in California and beyond.

- » SGC partnered with the CNRA to host two Forest Science Convenings, bringing together researchers and agency staff to discuss the breadth of forest science in California. The convenings resulted in increased communication and collaboration between scientists and agency staff. The CCR program also provided \$5 million in funding to University of California, Irvine to conduct research to advance sustainable management of California's forests, including synthesizing and producing new datasets.



CCR: THE HUMAN SCALE

DR. MAX WEI

“I appreciate CCR’s emphasis on this research model, to work hand-in-hand with the community to inform and ‘ground truth’ some of our modeling assumptions.”

—Dr. Max Wei

Dr. Max Wei, a research scientist in the Energy Analysis and Environmental Impacts Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, is interested in climate change projects which focus on the intersection of climate resilience and equity. He and his team were awarded CCR funding to develop the CAL-THRIVES toolkit for the Fresno community and other disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley to improve their resilience to extreme heat.

Dr. Max Wei is no stranger to working on climate science projects. He has been at the Energy Analysis and Environmental Impacts Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab for twelve years and currently works as a research scientist in the division. Dr. Wei, who was previously an engineer at Intel for twelve years before coming to Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, understands the interdisciplinary nature of climate change and resilience solutions. This inspired him to bring a diverse project group together composed of technical experts, social scientists, and the community-based organization West Fresno Family Resource Center (WFFRC) to create CAL-THRIVES, one of this year’s CCR grant-funded projects.

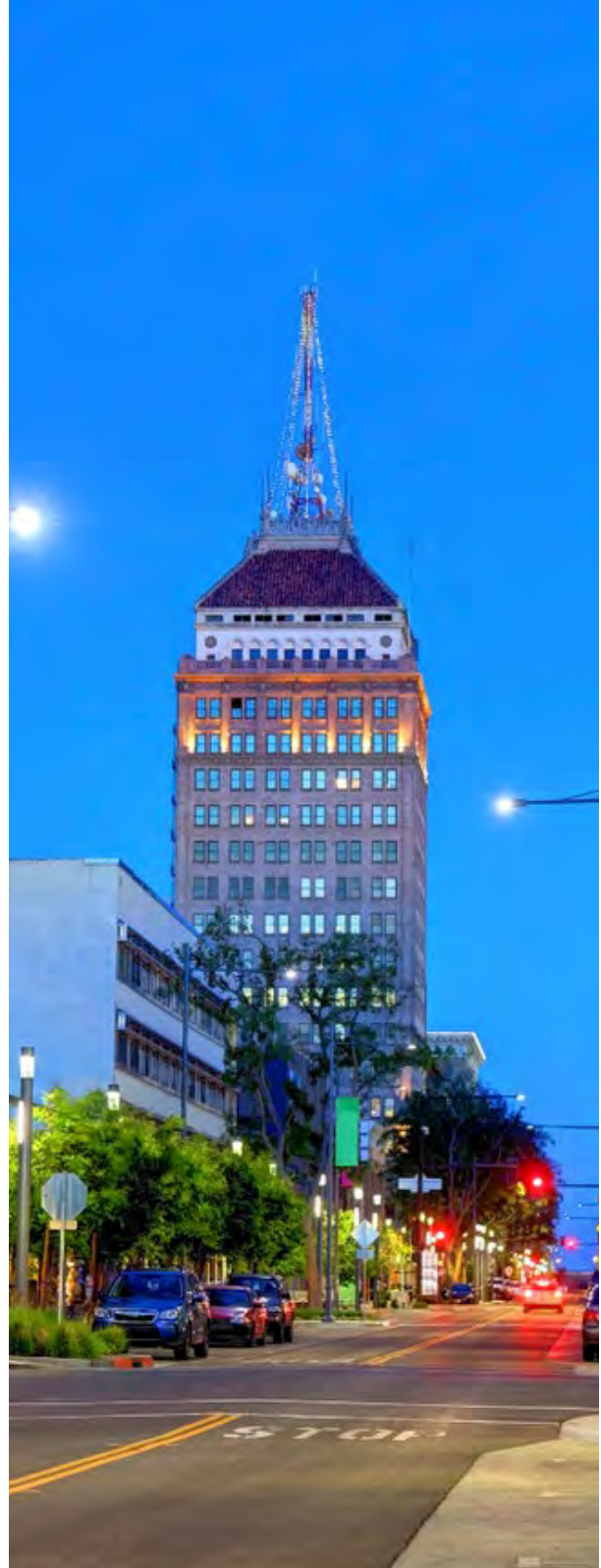
CAL-THRIVES is a toolkit for the Fresno community and other disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley to improve their resilience to extreme heat. This project concluded that Fresno residents face some of the highest utility bills in California and are often uncomfortable in their homes during the

summer due to high temperatures. To combat extreme heat and improve the comfort of residents in disadvantaged communities, CAL-THRIVES found State policies and programs can address heat resilience through the implementation of local cooling centers and passive cooling measures, such as cool walls and cool roofs, when homes are repainted or when roofs are replaced.

The \$1 Million in CCR funding allowed CAL-THRIVES to conduct extensive outreach within the Fresno community to extend the building modeling tool (CityBES.LBL.gov) to model residential neighborhoods, and to include resilience measures and metrics in the tool. This funding also enabled the team to study and identify policy and program gaps that the State can address to improve heat resilience in disadvantaged communities. CCR's emphasis on working directly with communities, Dr. Wei believes, allows for more broad partnerships which "are needed to meet the challenges of climate change effectively." The community-engaged research model helped the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab team gain insight on how the Fresno community copes with extreme heat, their attitudes regarding community cooling centers, and the issues that they face, such as high utility bills and inadequate cooling in their homes.

"The West Fresno Family Resource Center also conducted almost 100 phone interviews. As a trusted member of the community, I think they were able to collect this data more efficiently than we as an outside lab could have," Dr. Wei said in an email to SGC.

Dr. Wei hopes the CAL-THRIVES toolkit can be shared more broadly to other communities, particularly in the Central Valley, and that the toolkit can help residents suffering from heat waves with more information and tips to cope with the extreme weather. He also hopes CAL-THRIVE and similar projects can support future policy development.





CCR: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

RESPONDING TO EXTREME HEAT VULNERABILITY IN CALIFORNIA

Extreme heat is one of the most pervasive climate impacts, affecting all Californians in different ways. Information on heat impacts and adaptation measures are needed to address the many public health and financial impacts for homeowners and renters. The CCR program funds research projects that address these topics, with results providing critical information for decision-makers at all levels as well as communities about how to minimize and cope with extreme heat impacts.

California Toolkit for Heat Resiliency in Underserved Environments - CAL THRIVES (led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory)

CAL THRIVES is an interdisciplinary project that aims to help Fresno's most vulnerable populations adapt and build resilience to extreme heat through the development of a Cooling Resilience Toolkit. The Toolkit will provide tools and materials to cities and communities to boost climate resilience, such as prioritized cost-effective passive and active in-home cooling measures; optimal locations and best practices for community cooling centers; and guidance to inform local spending on community resilience.

The researchers have used several methods of engagement with Fresno's communities, City of Fresno Sustainability Office, Fresno Economic Opportunity Commission, Fresno Housing Authority, Transformative Climate Communities-Fresno, Tree Fresno, and low-income energy assistance (ESA) programs at the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to ensure community experience and preferences guide the project's team research. The engagement process has yielded important insights related to cooling equipment options, what cooling related measures are typically included in existing low-income energy assistance and weatherization programs, how the community deals with extreme heat, and residents' willingness to implement new building cooling measures. This guidance from the community is combined with technical modeling in the project to make recommendations and ultimately a toolkit to guide adaptation efforts.

Measuring the Impacts of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities to Design and Target Protective Policies

The research project aims to increase heat-related climate resiliency in California, particularly for climate vulnerable communities, by developing spatial tools that support the design, implementation, and utilization of State resilience programs. The project, led by the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, also aims to quantify anticipated impacts of increased heat on

conditions related to occupational health and welfare, reproductive health, energy use and costs incurred by low-income households, low-income residential housing exposure to wildfire, and residents' access to utility services. These studies on climate impacts are the first comprehensive estimates of the financial and health costs of extreme heat events for Californians and are providing the first statewide spatial policy-targeting tool that integrates vulnerability factors and climate impacts to guide investments on climate adaptation and resilience.

The project's research findings show that significant shares of subsidized housing are located in some of California's hottest census tracts, and certain types of subsidized and affordable housing, particularly mobile home units, appear more vulnerable to fire. Additionally, the research indicates that official statistics may be significantly underestimating the impact of heat exposure on outdoor workers' health and safety. Furthermore, when studying low-income households and affordable housing, findings demonstrate that the impacts of extreme heat on low-income households increase energy expenditures and risk of utility disconnection due to financial stress.

One more highlight of the research is on climate-induced impacts on prenatal health in the third trimester, where findings show that extreme heat causes an increase in deliveries on the day of, and the day following heat exposure, and that the deliveries occur up to two weeks earlier. The publication "[The impact of high ambient temperatures on delivery timing and gestational lengths](#)" (2019, Nature Climate Change) was cited by nearly 300 news outlets in just two months. The publication in Nature was later used in a letter by US Senators to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention asking to prioritize development of solutions to address the health impacts of climate change.

All of this research is being fed into conversations with policy and decision makers at the local, regional, and State level, including into the State's forthcoming Extreme Heat Framework, to identify actions and next steps to protect vulnerable communities.



CCR: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

RESEARCH TO INFORM CLIMATE-SMART PLANNING

Planning efforts to successfully mitigate and adapt to climate change require tools that use a variety of data sources, including sea level rise, weather, wildfire, water availability, land use, and ecosystem health. These tools must be accessible, user-friendly, and incorporate the right level of data to help guide climate-smart local and regional land use planning decisions. The CCR program funds research to develop these kinds of tools in partnership with community stakeholders - highlighted in the projects below.

“Cal-Adapt has been eye-opening for housing developers and municipalities to plan for long-term climate impacts when applying to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. They think more critically about the buildings, landscaping, and transit improvements, and have shifted and accommodated design elements.”

—Climate Resolve

Integrated land use planning to support climate resilient ecosystems and local communities

Led by San Diego State University, the Connecting Wildlands and Communities project is developing an integrated land-use planning framework to support climate-resilient ecosystems and local communities in the San Diego Region. A \$1.7 million Round 1 CCR grant awarded in 2018 enables the region to address fire risk, water security, and land use to support local jurisdictions and the region’s Tribes’ planning efforts.

Through engagement efforts, 634 project partners and stakeholders and 112 planners provided feedback on research objectives to specifically address the needs of their communities and apply targeted datasets in planning processes. The project is also working with 18 regional tribes through the Tribal Working Group, an effort highlighted in *SGC’s 2019–20 Annual Report*.

Increasing Data Accessibility and Climate Resilience Planning Support through Cal-Adapt

Led by the University of California, Berkeley, the project expands and improves Cal-Adapt, a State-funded platform that provides data related to climate change projections in California. The update to Cal-Adapt’s tools, features, and data accessibility was kickstarted through a \$824,853 Round 1 CCR grant in 2018 and will aid stakeholders in developing action plans to adapt to climate impacts.

The **Local Climate Snapshot tool** is a new feature of the Cal-Adapt tool from CCR’s grant that enables a

user with little to no knowledge of climate change to see climate impacts in California in one online location. This feature was requested by stakeholders, especially from local and regional planners, and will allow for more accessible data that can be integrated into locally relevant climate action plans and adaptation strategies.

Integrating Land Use and Climate Change on California’s Central Coast (led by University of California, Santa Cruz)

Funded by a \$373,643 Round 1 CCR grant in 2018, this project integrates land use and land cover data with climate trends to demonstrate the climate vulnerability of agricultural, municipal, and natural communities on the Central Coast, aiming to provide information to identify which climate adaptation strategies will best support resilience for the region.

A case study in Salinas assessed local zoning plans, environmental needs, and water supply shortages under climate change, providing vulnerability models to managers to help in planning efforts. However, land use planners highlighted affordable housing as its most fundamental need, which led to the team proposing a follow-on research project that was awarded a \$722,777 Round 3 CCR grant in 2020. The project aims to produce maps of areas vulnerable to displacement, exclusion, and gentrification to empower county and municipal planners to meet affordable housing goals while fostering sustainable development.



INVESTMENT PROGRAM TRIBAL PROGRAMS

Credit: Karuk Tribe

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, SGC staff continued pursuing opportunities to improve California Tribes' access to State grant programs. SGC partnered with the California Energy Commission (CEC) to fund eight Tribal energy planning projects through the Tribal Government Challenge Planning Grant Program (TGC) and to carry out a Statewide Gap Analysis to better understand Tribes' current needs and priorities related to renewable energy, climate change, and other relevant issues. Meanwhile, staff across SGC worked to reduce barriers for Tribes to apply to SGC's grant programs.

SGC PROVIDES NEARLY
\$2 MILLION
TO 10 TRIBES
FOR CLIMATE AND CLEAN
ENERGY PLANNING PROJECTS

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tribal Programs	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$53,813	\$53,813	\$-
Local Assistance ¹	\$2,000,000	\$1,962,638	\$34,560
Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,962,638	\$34,560

1 The Interagency Agreement between SGC and CEC was signed in December 2019. SGC executed eight grant agreements in FY 2020-2021.

Tribal Government Challenge

Created through a partnership between SGC and the CEC, the TGC program provides funds for California Native American Tribes to conduct planning activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve clean energy access, and advance climate adaptation and resiliency on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities. The program is funded through one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, but SGC staff hope to obtain funding to continue the program in the future. In 2020, ten Tribes received funding through this program to implement the following eight projects:

Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria

The project will analyze and model the current state of energy consumption on Tribal lands, assess available renewable energy resource options, and identify strategies for meeting the Tribe’s goals and objectives for energy self-determination through renewable and reliable power.

Karuk Tribe

The Áhish Áah Project meaning “turn on the light” will identify sustainable pathways for rural California communities to become climate smart by reducing the region’s carbon footprints and accelerating clean energy with a particular focus on Indigenous communities.

Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California

This project will deliver an analysis of hazards and climate change vulnerabilities of the Tribe’s current energy infrastructure and use, as well plan projects that enhance the Tribe’s energy independence and resiliency.

Pala Band of Mission Indians, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians

The initiative will facilitate intertribal collaboration to assess mutual needs, goals, and opportunities that are shared among the three Tribes; identify priorities for intertribal planning and development; and conduct advanced collaborative planning on mutual strategies selected by the three Tribes' leaders.

Pit River Tribe

The Tribe plans to carry out feasibility studies on both woody and agriculture biomass and solar energy within the 100 mile square their ancestors traditionally inhabited. The Tribe plans to build alternative energy projects and infrastructure on Tribally-owned lands as well as work with surrounding jurisdictions to cover the entire 100 square miles.

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

This project will support energy planning and feasibility studies for bioenergy generation facilities on Tribal Lands by delivering a standardized tool for bioenergy project review across all Tribal country.

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewart's Point Rancheria

This project aims to lower energy costs, increase resiliency, and mitigate the Tribe's carbon footprint by planning for on-site solar, wind, hydro-power generation; biomass fuel and energy production; and energy efficiency measures, as well as the creation of a Tribal Energy Utility.

Tule River Tribe of the Tule River Indian Reservation

This project will develop a replicable and scalable energy-related plan for the Tule River Tribe with a focus on energy sources, energy use, and renewable energy planning to improve the Tribe's energy development and create critical infrastructure to help the Tribe adapt to climate change.

Statewide Tribal Climate and Energy Gap Analysis

SGC's partnership with the CEC also supports a contract to conduct a statewide climate and energy gap analysis of Tribal lands, which will provide a snapshot of Tribes' current needs and priorities related to renewable energy, climate change, and other relevant issues. This gap analysis will facilitate SGC, CEC, and SGC's partner agencies' understanding of Tribal needs to inform the design of future funding opportunities and programs. SGC Staff are working to leverage the various Tribal efforts SGC is involved in to build connections, relationships, and facilitate sharing of information and findings between Tribes and with State agencies.



COLLABORATIVE POLICY INITIATIVE HEALTH AND EQUITY PROGRAM

The Health and Equity Program (HEP) advances cross-sector collaboration on the social determinants of health and equity through the Health in All Policies Task Force (HiAP Task Force) and the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE). HEP infuses health and equity into SGC policy and program areas by leading the implementation of SGC’s Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP).

HEP works in close partnership with the Public Health Institute and the California Department of Public Health and relies heavily upon input from a wide range of stakeholders.

NEARLY
**30 CALIFORNIA
STATE AGENCIES**
PARTICIPATED IN THE
**CAPITOL COLLABORATIVE
ON RACE AND EQUITY**
DURING 2020–2021

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Health and Equity Program	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$515,000	\$507,700	\$7,300
Total	\$515,000	\$507,700	\$7,300

Health and Equity Program 2020-2021 Highlights

- » In partnership with the UC Berkeley Othering & Belonging Institute, SGC’s Health and Equity Program team led the development of a multi-year HiAP Task Force workplan. The workplan will provide Task Force participating agencies a tool for decision-making, strategic planning, and data analysis and evaluation around high-priority health and equity topics. The plan was formed through a multi-phase stakeholder engagement process, which included: key informant interviews with State agencies; an online survey; and four online, regional listening sessions.

DEVELOPING THE HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES TASK FORCE WORKPLAN

26 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH **11 DISTINCT STATE AGENCIES**

RESPONDENTS REPRESENTING **7 DISTINCT REGIONS** AND **21 COUNTIES** ACROSS THE STATE

4 VIRTUAL LISTENING SESSIONS COORDINATED WITH OTHERING & BELONGING INSTITUTE

- » Building on discussions from the CCORE the HiAP Task Force partnership, which includes SGC, the Public Health Institute (PHI), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) co-hosted a virtual convening in September 2021 around the topic of racial equity, HiAP, and the public health and racial equity impacts of systemic racism.

- » On an ongoing basis, HEP and HiAP staff provide presentations, information, and technical assistance to a variety of audiences seeking to operationalize a Health in All Policies approach. Audiences include State agencies, departments, and interagency working groups; local health departments and governments; non-profit organizations; academic institutions; and more.
- » PHI's HiAP staff spearheaded 100+ hours of training and technical assistance related to racial equity, including the CCORE Learning and Advanced Implementation Cohorts. CCORE is facilitated by PHI, with consultation from Race Forward and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

— DURING 2020-2021 —

SIX SGC STAFF MEMBERS

REPRESENTING EACH SGC PROGRAM

PARTICIPATED IN 85 HOURS

OF CAPITOL COLLABORATIVE
ON RACE AND EQUITY TRAINING

- » From August 2020 to October 2021, six SGC staff members representing each SGC program completed over 85 hours of technical training in the CCORE learning cohort. Staff gained skills to acknowledge the historic role of government in creating racial inequities, to create and implement strategies that advance racial equity, and to train other State colleagues on addressing race, racism, and racial equity in State government service.
- » HEP conducted an annual analysis of workforce demographic data at SGC, overlaid with population data for all of California State Civil Service and the population as a whole to better understand racial equity across the State and State government.
- » In August 2020, SGC's Council unanimously adopted a nationally-recognized resolution committing Council member agencies to action to promote racial equity, both in the context of the Council and within their respective agencies.

- » In April 2021, Council members provided the first written SGC Racial Equity Resolution Report documenting their progress. In October 2020, SGC established the SGC Racial Equity Working Group (REWG) made up of representatives from each Council agency with a focus on tracking the progress and implementation of the SGC's Racial Equity Resolution. REWG is staffed by SGC HEP staff with consultation support from PHI.

MEMBERS OF THE RACIAL EQUITY WORKING GROUP

California Strategic Growth Council

California State Transportation Agency

California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

California Environmental Protection Agency

California Natural Resources Agency

California Health and Human Services Agency

California Department of Food and Agriculture

- » In Fall 2020, each SGC team conducted root cause analyses to investigate the racial, socio-political, and health inequities their programs seek to address. The analyses resulted in indicators and actionable strategies that were incorporated into SGC's programs and operations, reflected in the updated 2021-2022 [SGC Racial Equity Action Plan](#).
- » SGC, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), California Volunteers, and Race Forward, conducted a staff survey to gather perspectives and recommendations to improve each division's workforce and racial equity goals. By consensus, OPR and SGC staff co-created norms and expectations to have conversations around race, institutional racism, and racial equity. Forums include virtual messaging platforms, staff presentations on cultural competency (primarily uplifting voices of color), and providing ideas and recommendations for workforce training and equity.
- » HEP provided strategic input around health and racial equity topics on a variety of SGC and OPR special projects, including grant applications drafted by SGC programs, an OPR Equity Bill Analysis, a report on equitable and sustainable decarbonization, and an early draft of OPR's Planner's Guide to Specific Plans.

- » In December 2020, the Office of the California Surgeon General (OSG) launched its Roadmap for Resilience (Roadmap) to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Toxic Stress, and Trauma-Informed Practices (TIPs). Leading up to the Roadmap, HiAP coordinated a survey for State employees with the OSG, the Essentials for Childhood Initiative (lead by the CDPH and California Department of Social Services), and PACEs Connection (a non-profit) to solicit feedback on incorporation of ACEs and TIPs science in the State's practices, programs, and services.
- » Through the HIAP Task Force, SGC has applied the CDPH Healthy Communities Framework (HCF), a tool that helps State agencies evaluate the impact of policies and practices on community health in California. HCF covers an array of policy areas that determine health outcomes, including active transportation, affordable housing, healthy food systems, land use, and safety and violence prevention. In the last year, HCF has guided an array of strategic HiAP Task Force initiatives, including a multi-phase stakeholder engagement process, and its cross-policy workplan and internal operational guidelines. By applying HCF, SGC continues to promote a data-driven approach to health across California.



HEP: THE HUMAN SCALE

CCORE Leaders Mariana Moscoso and Katherin Canton

“Art has potential and capacity to shift culture. No matter what medium, it revolves around the practice of storytelling – and all of this is a giant story.”

—Mariana Moscoso, California Arts Council

Mariana Moscoso, Arts in Corrections Program Manager and Katherin Canton, Race and Equity Manager of the California Arts Council (CAC), a partner and participant in the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) Advanced Implementation cohort, explore the intersection of art, racial equity, and the future of rehabilitation through their work in the Arts in Corrections Program, a partnership between the CAC and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Together, Mariana and Katherin implement an agency-wide strategic plan with a racial equity focus that seeks to uproot racial inequities. Their experience with CCORE and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity and served as a catalyst to make racial equity a key component of their internal structure and culture and enabled the development of racial equity goals for the CAC to implement.

“CCORE really opened the door for us to have more normalized conversations about race without fear of retribution,” said Mariana. “The open door has been the biggest gift from the program, and it allowed us to focus more on racial justice while providing the tools

Photo Credit
Chrissy Deal

to implement it in government work specifically. We had a new openness to grow.”

“As an organization, it’s been important to find a spot where we were all challenged,” Katherin shares in reflection to their role. “We are in this journey with our grantees and with the community, and we are learning.”

Throughout their journey, CAC has raised critical questions on how to dismantle harmful power structures in their work and made recommendations to make grant applications more accessible, provide training on implicit bias, and change language choice in materials. To Mariana and Katherin, it is important that the Arts in Corrections Program be part of larger structural change and form new narratives for the future involving liberation and equity that focuses on California’s underserved communities.

“Racial equity in the arts means self-determination,” said Katherin. “For us, it means being in that transformative position and creating a system that supports community ownership and agency. It means stepping back and providing space for community members to have agency with funding, platforms, and visions of the future around us.”

CCORE seeks to enable and provide space for leaders like Mariana and Katherin to challenge what equity might look like in State government, but most importantly provide the tools and resources necessary to create lasting impact in their work and further uproot racial inequities in State government.



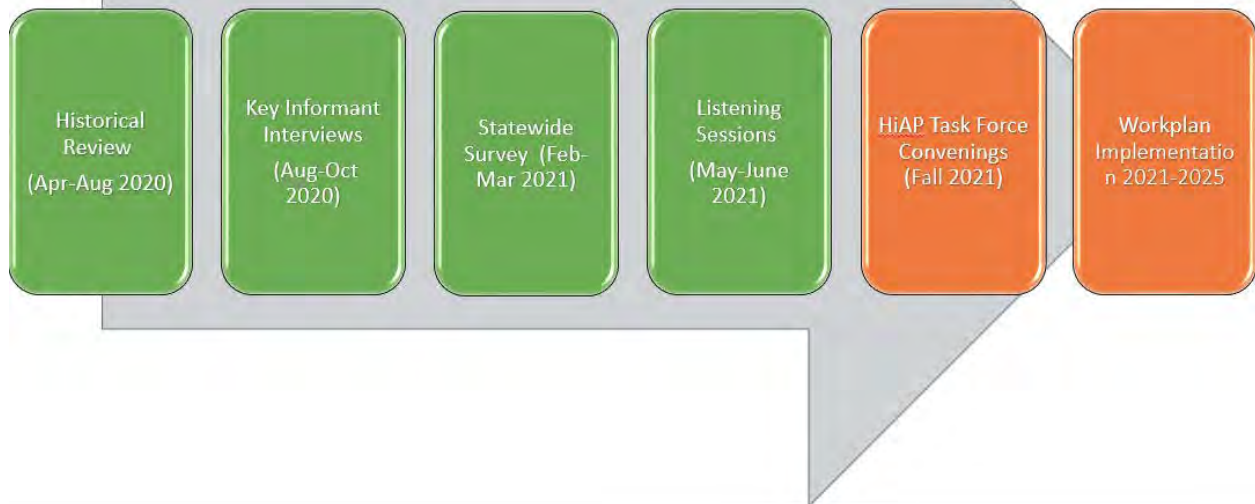
HEP: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

HIAP TASK FORCE: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

As COVID-19, racial injustice, and climate change continue to threaten California's communities, health equity remains a crucial lens through which public policy can promote equity and safety for all Californians.

To help policymakers in all areas of State government understand, explore, and advance their role in fostering healthy, just communities, SGC partners with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the non-profit Public Health Institute (PHI) to facilitate the California Health in All Policies Task Force (HiAP Task Force).

HiAP Task Force Strategic Planning Timeline



Since 2010, the HiAP Task Force has convened representatives of more than 20 State agencies and departments to collaborate with State staff, local jurisdictions, and community-based and philanthropic organizations on innovative and transformative initiatives to benefit California communities.

The HiAP Task Force heavily relies on input from internal and external stakeholders. In Fall 2020, SGC HEP launched a strategic planning and stakeholder engagement process to inform future HiAP Task Force policy priorities. A multi-phase stakeholder input period was conducted from August 2020 to June 2021 consisting of three phases: Key Informant Interviews with State government contacts (August to October 2020); an online survey developed in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) (January to April 2021); and virtual listening sessions, also co-hosted by OBI (May and June 2021). OBI collected, anonymized, and analyzed survey and listening session data.

In September 2021, HiAP will hosted a virtual event for state partners, drawing connections between racial equity and health, and exploring opportunities for State government to further embed racial equity into its approach. Moving forward, the Task Force will operationalize a strategic workplan to track, measure, and advance its priorities with a racial equity focus.

**THE HIAP TASK FORCE
CONDUCTED 4 VIRTUAL
LISTENING SESSIONS THAT
HAD VOICES REPRESENTING
7 DISTINCT REGIONS AND 21
COUNTIES ACROSS THE STATE**



HEP: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

CAPITOL COLLABORATIVE ON RACE AND EQUITY

SGC's HEP program, in partnership with the Public Health Institute's (PHI), convenes and hosts the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE), which is a community of over 30 California State government entities to work together to learn about, plan for, and implement activities that embed racial equity approaches into institutional culture, policies, and practices. CCORE implements a [2018 commitment by the Health in All Policies Task Force](#) to increase the capacity of State government to advance health and racial equity.

15 staff members between the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research and the California Strategic Growth Council participated in Over 85 hours of CCORE training

PHI, has significant capacity and expertise convening and training governmental partners, advancing equity and facilitating cross-sector, innovative initiatives. Organizations supporting CCORE include RaceForward, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), The California Endowment, and The California Wellness Foundation.

This year, CCORE welcomed 15 new organizational teams into a learning cohort to learn about racial equity in government, and ultimately develop their very own Racial Equity Action Plans (REAPs).

CCORE acknowledges and follows in the footsteps of the racial equity leadership of local communities – more than 40 California city and county jurisdictions – that are normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing racial equity as part of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

SGC and HEP Involvement

In addition to serving as the State-sponsor for CCORE, SGC and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) also participated in the program. In 2020-2021, 15 staff members from SGC and OPR completed over 85 hours of capacity building, training, and skill sharing in the CCORE Learning Cohort.

HEP has been able to incorporate several key concepts gleaned from CCORE in SGC’s operations and cross-programmatic work.

By incorporating CCORE lessons, HEP is promoting an organizational culture of peer-to-peer racial equity learning and accountability.

The Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity Provides:

- 1. A training program for State government entities*
 - 2. Community and space of practice for State employees*
 - 3. Ongoing technical assistance and support to the cohorts*
-



HEP: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving SGC's racial equity vision requires directly addressing stark inequities that persist in California, where people of color and other historically marginalized communities shoulder the largest health burdens and face the greatest economic barriers. The SGC approved the SGC Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) in 2019, making it the first multi-agency State body in the United States to adopt a plan outlining concrete actions to achieve racial equity in its organization, operations, programs, and policies.

SGC'S RACIAL EQUITY VISION STATEMENT

All people in California live in healthy, thriving, and resilient communities regardless of race.

After the second year of REAP implementation, SGC remains committed to taking bold steps to address and eradicate racism so that all Californians live in healthy, thriving, and resilient communities regardless of race. The HEP program provides the staffing and technical assistance necessary to track and evaluating REAP implementation. Informed by REAP, SGC's community investment programs, policy initiatives, and organizational and inter-agency activities prioritize actions that advance racial equity.

During its first year, HEP conducted root cause analyses with each SGC program on health and racial equity and through facilitated discussions, supported staff to identify the racial equity impact of their work. Programs used root cause analyses to define indicators and results for racial equity outcomes attributed to their scopes of work. The following list includes examples of HEP's cross-programmatic support for SGC initiatives:

- » SGC's Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE) team worked to advance and address racial equity in its technical assistance services, a first-of-its kind capacity building pilot (see Partners Advancing Climate Equity), and outreach to organizations with racial equity competencies to bid on SGC contracts.
- » SGC's Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) team launched a broad investment framework for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs), incorporating a result-based accountability model to assess the racial equity impacts of the framework. The DUC framework would represent the first iteration of a State agency-led investment in unincorporated communities.
- » SGC's California Climate Investments (CCI) funding programs – including the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, Climate Change Research, and Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation programs - deepened their commitment to racial equity through intentional, community-driven stakeholder engagement and partnership building.

HEP compiled racial equity implementation highlights and recommendations for implementation actions for 2021-2022, with input from SGC staff and partners, in a [staff report](#) presented to the SGC in September 2021. In 2022, HEP will continue to provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance to advance health and racial equity, both in cross-programmatic scopes at SGC and in inter-agency initiatives, such as the Health in All Policies Task Force.



COLLABORATIVE POLICY INITIATIVE INTEGRATED POLICY AND PLANNING

SGC's unique mandate and positioning as an inter-agency body enables it to coordinate and work collaboratively with public agencies, communities, and stakeholders to advance work that seeks to achieve sustainability, equity, economic prosperity, and quality of life for all Californians at all levels of California government.

The work manifests through partnerships such as the High-Speed Rail Sustainable Growth Partnership with the California High-Speed Rail Authority; the Integrated Regional Conservation and Development Initiative (IRCAD); participating in the California Natural Resource Agency's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy interagency policy team; supporting the State Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Working Group; and preparing the California Transportation Assessment, a report to the State Legislature pursuant to AB 285 (Friedman, 2019).

High-Speed Rail Sustainable Growth Partnership

SGC’s partnership with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) enables SGC to help advance policies and practices to achieve sustainable and equitable outcomes in planned High-Speed Rail station communities, as well as in communities affected by rail construction. SGC staff provide ongoing technical assistance, applying conservation and development best practices and implementation resources to station communities. These include identification of potential new financing tools to support HSR station area development and transit-oriented development districts across California. SGC also provides guidance to HSR staff on the Community Priorities Inventory – a “wish list” of local project ideas generated through community meetings – including how to assess projects for viability and readiness and find potential State resources for project implementation.

SGC provided support for mural paintings on HSRA-owned buildings in Downtown Fresno by building relationships with local community-based organizations. The goals of this collaboration are to create spaces that highlight the local community and arts of Chinatown, Fresno, as well as to build positive relationships with local organizations to support engagement in future community planning activities.

Achievements include:

- » Created proposals for murals based on local arts and culture, featuring local artists in Fresno Chinatown, fostering revitalization and beautification of the community’s built environment;
- » Connected with over 25 local stakeholders in Fresno in preparation of high-speed rail station community planning activities, by building on the successes of SGC’s TCC investment in the area;
- » Provide technical assistance for City of Fresno planners on SGC programs that could support climate change, agricultural conservation, and housing equity goals in the community.

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 High Speed Rail Partnership	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$722,020	\$435,381	\$286,639
Total	\$722,020	\$435,381	\$286,639

Integrated Regional Conservation and Development Initiative (IRCAD)

IRCAD advances the practice of sustainable integrated regional conservation and development planning and action. This initiative focuses on the development of regional planning methods, data and application tools which result in greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and sustainability of regional planning processes and outcomes. SGC has supported the development and application of SGC's Regional Conservation and Development planning tool (RePlan) as a key component of IRCAD. RePlan is an online regional planning tool that integrates numerous datasets and provides practical tools for planners to access and use these data to design and implement an integrated balance of regional conservation and development planning goals. In 2020-2021, SGC worked with the Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Conservation to support their work through RePlan tool applications of IRCAD methods and data.

Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy

As part of an interagency policy team led by the California Natural Resources Agency, SGC provided ongoing support for the Governor's Executive Order N-82-20, which calls for the conservation of at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 and the development of a Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy. SGC has contributed information regarding State programs that support the conservation of lands most vulnerable to development pressures.

State Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Working Group

In collaboration with the California Association of the Councils of Government (CALCOG), SGC relaunched the State MPO Working Group to foster collaboration on shared issues and challenges. The group includes planning directors from each of California's 18 MPOs and key State officials representing several SGC member agencies and their departments. Some areas of activity include data-sharing, alignment of funding and evaluation of regional plans, and discussion related to opportunities to reform Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008) and other regional planning processes in California.

California Transportation Assessment

SGC is preparing the California Transportation Assessment, a report to the State Legislature (pursuant to AB 285, Friedman). The report will describe the state transportation planning and funding system, including the relationship between the California Transportation Plan and the regional Sustainable Communities Strategies. The report will also include a review of key transportation funding programs and explore opportunities to better align existing programs and advance long-term state goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled. SGC is working with a team of researchers from the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies and interagency partners to produce the report and will be sharing findings in 2022.

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 California Transportation Program	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$349,000	\$344,882	\$4,118
Total	\$349,000	\$344,882	\$4,118

Wildfire Resilience and Recovery Planning Grants

SGC teamed up with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to offer \$700,000 (in returned or unused funds from SGC’s Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program) in planning grants to California communities affected by wildfires in 2017, 2018, or 2019. In June 2020, the Council awarded Wildfire Resilience and Recovery grants to four communities – the Cities of Ventura, the Town of Paradise, and the Counties of Sonoma and Los Angeles.

- » **City of Ventura:** Comprehensive Planning for a Resilient Ventura
- » **Town of Paradise:** Make it Paradise: Planning for a More Resilient Community
- » **Sonoma County:** Sonoma County Forest Resource Ordinance to Inform General Plan Update
- » **Los Angeles County:** Los Angeles County Integrated Safety Plan

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
Local Assistance ¹	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$-
Total	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$-

¹ Funding reappropriated from unused funds appropriated to the DOC that were originally awarded by SGC and DOC through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program. The Council approved these awards on 6/30/2020. Four grant agreements were executed in FY 2020-2021.



INTEGRATED POLICY AND PLANNING: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

INCENTIVES FOR SUPPORTING LAND CONSERVATION IN CALIFORNIA

Land conservation is an essential strategy to both combat and adapt to the impacts of climate change while supporting biodiversity, food systems, and public health. The challenge is that demand to conserve land – by land trusts, private landowners, and others – far outstrips the funding capacity of this and other state conservation programs. Additionally, implementation of laws like the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which a number of organizations forecast will require the following of up to one million acres in the San Joaquin Valley, demands that will expand available land conservation options. In the case of SGMA, land repurposing options are necessary to help keep farmers and ranchers on their lands.

“A timely guide, bringing forward practical tools and strategies to address pressing climate, community growth and biodiversity needs, while identifying financial benefits for landowners to advance agricultural preservation on essential working lands.”

–Katie Patterson, California Policy Manager, American Farmland Trust

“This research revealed how there are parallel efforts at the State, regional and local government level as well as in the NGO sphere. As evidenced by the number of incredible professionals who gave their time to be interviewed for this project, there is great interest and momentum to incorporate land conservation, nature-based solutions, climate change adaptation, and many other key factors into action.” said Robyn

Early last fall, SGC, and Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) policy staff engaged Robyn Wong, a UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs graduate student who was interested to explore the financial incentives for land conservation in more depth. Under guidance from an advisory group comprising state agency and non-governmental organization representatives, Robyn and SGC staff produced a report that reviews various financial mechanisms, both current and prospective. Robyn’s research makes clear that while land conservation has many longstanding programs and tools at its disposal, the more innovative strategies currently face barriers that limit their widespread application.

Importantly, this report lays out many of the mechanisms currently available for land conservation, offering a menu of options for landowners, local governments, and others; case studies showcasing where they have been applied; and policy recommendations for those financial incentive programs that remain under development. These are organized according to state themes and priorities: climate risk reduction, infill development and avoided conversion, agricultural preservation and management, and biodiversity protection.

This resource has already helped inform implementation of the Governor’s Executive Order N-82-20 on Nature-Based Solutions and, we hope, will continue to be used in the state and beyond. SGC and its agency partners will consider action on the policy recommendations outlined in this report, such as the exploration of a statewide development rights transfer program.



INTEGRATED POLICY AND PLANNING: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

SUPPORTING HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program (HSP) brings together a variety of State agencies and departments to collaborate on initiatives that promote the development of healthy soils on California's farm and ranchlands. Specifically, the HSP Incentives Program provides financial assistance to implement conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

“The tool made the whole application process more user-friendly for California farmers and ranchers. This SGC RePlan tool is invaluable.”

—Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, Senior Health Soils Program Advisory Panel Liaison

The program’s previous grant proposal submission process required applicants to access multiple websites to locate and interpret information in order to characterize their healthy soil proposal. The inefficiency of the old process resulted in inconsistent proposals that often lacked the information CDFA needed to process and evaluate them. Therefore, SGC worked with the CDFA-HSP team last year to develop an extension to SGC’s Regional Conservation and Development planning tool (RePlan) to streamline application requirements.

This work resulted in the HSP RePlan Tool, which consolidates all required application information with analytical and reporting tools and is linked to the existing CDFA proposal submission portal. The result is a complete detailed proposal for the applicant to upload to the CDFA portal for grant processing and evaluation.

The success of this CDFA RePlan application led to a request for additional improvements to the Healthy Soils Program proposal submission and evaluation process. An inter-agency agreement between CDFA and SGC will result in the addition and updating of critical data sets, metrics, and tools. Perhaps most important to the proposal submission process, the improved HSP RePlan Tool uploads the completed application seamlessly and transparently to the CDFA application portal.

RePlan continues its success in providing project and program support while tying these programs back to the broader set of State conservation and resource management goals.



CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FOR CLIMATE EQUITY

The Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program (CACE) provides technical assistance and builds capacity for California’s most under-resourced communities through the California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program (CCI TA) and the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC). Both CCI TA and RCC allow communities to build community-driven leadership, collaborative partnerships, knowledge, and skills to access public funding to plan and implement climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency projects.

CACE PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO 280 RECIPIENTS ACROSS SEVEN PROGRAMS IN 2020-2021 INCLUDING:

- » *Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities*
- » *Transformative Climate Communities*
- » **BOOST**
- » *Partners Advancing Climate Equity*
- » *Climate Smart Agriculture*
- » *Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation*
- » *Sustainable Transportation Equity Project Implementation*

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Community Assistance for Climate Equity	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$477,000	\$471,997	\$5,003
Local Assistance (CCI TA) ¹	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$-
Total	\$2,377,000	\$2,371,997	\$5,003

1 The Council allocated funding from AHSC continuous appropriation to support the Climate Change Investment Technical Assistance. Two TA contracts were awarded in FY 2020-2021.

Community Assistance for Climate Equity 2020-2021 Highlights

- » The BOOST pilot program concluded after 18 months of supporting under-resourced cities and towns in building capacity, optimizing existing resources, strengthening community partnerships, and catalyzing climate funding activities. Even during the height of the pandemic, BOOST was able to help the participating jurisdictions advance their climate priorities even as staff were redirected to focus on COVID response. Across all 12 participating jurisdictions, BOOST supported the funding and development of 6 Climate Action Plans, secured approximately \$50 million in funding across 59 different grants, and trained 72 local government staff on community engagement. Due to this success, SGC launched a second round of the program in August 2021.
- » SGC officially launched the Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) pilot program in February 2021, a capacity-building program for 22 community leaders from across California to connect with peers, take their skills to the next level, and catalyze transformative change. The program kicked off with a six-month cohort, in which members completed a series of virtual workshops and activities to rapidly develop skills, build new connections, and create community needs assessments for their neighborhoods. The second phase of the program will commence in Fall 2021, during which PACE members will receive specialized technical assistance to apply their learnings, implement strategies identified in their community needs assessments, and grow as facilitators of ongoing capacity building within their own local ecosystems.

Across all 12 participating jurisdictions, BOOST helped:

- » *Fund and develop six Climate Action Plans*
- » *Secure approximately \$50 million in funding across 59 different grants*
- » *Train 72 local government staff on community engagement*

- » This year, SGC released the Technical Assistance Guidelines for State Agencies (TA Guidelines) to support the development of effective and equitable technical assistance (TA) programs. SGC developed the guidance through a collaborative, interagency work group, comprised of grant program and TA staff from 13 agencies and published this resource as a step-by-step, interactive, web-based toolkit. This guidance offers best practices to help State agencies evaluate options, make key decisions, and avoid pitfalls as they develop effective TA programs.
- » SGC is working with Harder+Company Community Research and Change Lab Solutions to evaluate CACE's CCI TA program and identify effective technical assistance and capacity-building strategies. The findings will inform new and existing technical assistance programs and will be incorporated into the TA Guidelines.
- » In early 2021, SGC released a Request for Information (RFI) to better understand the landscape of capacity building and TA services that State agencies are currently offering and how SGC can best support their efforts. The RFI will help the organization implement the TA Guidelines by advising and partnering with other agencies to provide quality TA to California's under-resourced communities. After the survey closed, staff analyzed the results and hosted follow-up discussions with respondents to learn more about their programs, identify opportunities for potential collaborations, and understand what types of resources that SGC can integrate into the TA Guidelines. The RFI received 25 responses from various divisions and programs at 13 different agencies.

SGC's Technical Assistance Work Group – Comprised of 13 State Agencies – Gathered Input From 40 California Entities to Inform Technical Assistance Guidelines for State Agencies

- » SGC continued to collaborate with other State agencies to deliver quality technical assistance to create a more equitable playing field for under-resourced applicants looking to access the funds to transition to climate-smart communities. Over the last year, SGC collaborated with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to provide assistance for their suite of climate smart agriculture programs, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project, and the California Department of Conservation (DOC) on the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALC) and Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC).
- » SGC has partnered with the CDFA and the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) to support technical assistance for CDFA's [Climate Smart Agriculture incentive programs](#). Recognizing that socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers experience additional barriers to accessing resources, CACE technical assistance supports “groups whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.” In this model, UCANR’s Community Education Specialists work directly with farmers and ranchers to provide assistance for grant applications and project implementation, and offer capacity-building to increase adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. The Community Education Specialists have intimate knowledge of the communities they work in, foster meaningful relationships, and work with translators to provide assistance in Spanish, Mandarin, and Hmong.



CACE: THE HUMAN SCALE

Ei Ei Samai

“Our process includes not accepting the status quo. As we go about enacting solutions, we also have to identify and find solutions to the systemic and structural issues along the way.”

—Ei Ei Samai, Urban Permaculture Institute and PACE

Project Partner

Ei Ei Samai is at the frontlines of community-led collective as part of her involvement in the Urban Permaculture Institute and the CACE program’s Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) pilot.

As a key curriculum designer working with PACE in its pilot stages, Samai has worked to create robust structures from scratch to help facilitators and community leaders build a community needs assessment toolkit to form a full picture of a community’s issues while flipping power structures and enabling democratic decision making.

Samai reflects about the intersectional nature of the community needs assessment process: “We couldn’t take on something this big without a collective model. We know that people closest to the problems one are the best people to tell you exactly what the problem is, and the conversation might need to start with democracy and participation, economic justice, housing stability, or educational equity. Then, climate becomes a lens to see those problems in a new light.”

Samai's team worked through building one module at a time and relying heavily on feedback from the community, creating a dynamic learning environment where a variety of community experts could learn from each other. Additionally, Samai's team puts a great deal of significance in rectifying the broken power structures in existing conversations of resilience, curriculum and funding.

"This work can't just be about statistics," said Samai. "It really has to be about democracy and thinking through power: where power exists and doesn't exist, how it is used, and for whom the access to power isn't there."

Going forward, Samai hopes the team will continue fostering even more time for face-to-face community engagement and learning opportunities, while ensuring the community needs assessment reflects the input of everyone.



CACE: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

BOOSTING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo Credit
Institute for Local
Government

All Californians deserve to live in communities where they have access to clean air, water, and transportation; affordable housing; and economic opportunity. Yet many communities and local governments across the state lack the staff capacity and resources to develop projects and secure funding to make this a reality for their residents. To address this challenge, the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and SGC created the BOOST pilot program with a \$1 million appropriation from the State Legislature.

“Salinas has embraced its unique and diverse community and used it as a stepping stone for creating a cohesive and vibrant place in which its residents can work, play and thrive.”

—Megan Hunter, Community Development Director, City of Salinas

BOOST stands for the model's five components – Build, Organize, Optimize, Strengthen, Transform – which represent the program's aim to support under-resourced cities and communities in building capacity, optimizing existing resources, strengthening community partnerships, and transforming their approach to address and fund climate activities.

Over the course of the 18-month pilot program, SGC and ILG provided flexible, tailored technical assistance to the cities of Arcata, Arvin, Bakersfield, East Palo Alto, El Centro, Mammoth Lakes, Paramount, Salinas, San Diego, and Ventura, and regions in the San Joaquin Valley and the Coachella Valley.

With the support of BOOST, San Joaquin Council of Governments was awarded a \$7 million Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) implementation grant. Similarly, BOOST enabled the City of El Centro to design and implement virtual public participation opportunities, which allowed the City to accomplish strategic planning and staff engagement goals.

To continue building on BOOST's success to provide much needed support to local jurisdictions, SGC launched a second round of the program in Fall 2021.

**BOOST TURNED STATE
LEGISLATURE'S \$1 MILLION
INVESTMENT INTO NEARLY
\$50 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING
FOR UNDER-RESOURCED
COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS
CLIMATE CHANGE**

BOOST SUPPORTED
**10 CITIES &
2 REGIONS** 
WITH CUSTOMIZED
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



CACE: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLECTIVE POWER

Launched in February 2021 by the CACE program, Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) is a pilot program focused on increasing the capacity of local leaders from across California to advance community-driven, equitable climate solutions. PACE was created in recognition of the existing leadership, lived experiences, and local expertise within the state’s under-resourced communities and the need to invest in people power as a key strategy to holistically address climate change and build resilience to its impacts.

PACE is a year-long program split into two six-month phases. The first phase – Cultivate and Co-Create – brings local leaders participating in PACE together in a cohort, guided through a curriculum to develop new and strengthen existing skills and form cross-sector partnerships to enhance collective impact. During their participation, cohort participants develop community-informed needs assessments with a focus on tangible strategies to build long-term capacity with partners.

The second phase – Propagate and Activate – will provide technical assistance to cohort members to bring to life the program’s train-the-trainer approach and set in motion an ongoing cycle of capacity building.

Utilizing a train-the-trainer model enables not only the PACE participants but also their communities to successfully access grant funding and more effectively engage in key planning and policy processes. This pilot reflects SGC’s commitment to long-term capacity building for under-resourced communities and advancing health and racial equity.

The PACE program received tremendous interest with over 150 applicants from communities across the State, indicating a clear need for further capacity building support. The PACE program is inspired by SB 1072 (Leyva, 2018) and in part seeks to inform long-term capacity building efforts, including the Regional Climate Collaboratives Grant Program.

PACE COHORT PHASE 1 INCLUDED:

- » **11 two-hour cohort sessions**
- » **10 one-hour learning groups**
- » **9 Peer Exchanges**
- » **6 Supplemental Trainings**
- » **Program and policy staff representing 13 State agencies engaged directly with the cohort**



CACE: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

Underinvestment and systemic discrimination exacerbate the inequities many communities across California face. While the State's social, economic, and environmental, and equity goals seek to address these inequities, many under-resourced communities still lack the necessary staff capacity, partnerships, or resources to build healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all.

Recognizing this fundamental limitation, Senate Bill 1072 (2018, Leyva) was enacted to provide technical assistance (TA) to help communities across California meet the State's goals. Per the legislation, SGC released the Technical Assistance Guidelines for State Agencies (TA Guidelines) in August 2020 to support the development of effective and equitable TA programs. SGC developed the guidance through a collaborative, inter-agency work group, comprised of grant program and TA staff from 13 agencies and published this resource as a step-by-step manual and an interactive, web-based toolkit.

CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES



SOCIAL EQUITY



BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY



COMMUNITY RELEVANCE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



TRUST



CULTURAL AWARENESS



MUTUAL LEARNING

Following the launch of the Technical Assistance Guidelines, Senator Connie M. Leyva shared her excitement for the ways the guidance can lead to meaningful impact for communities: “As the State Senator representing a diverse and growing region within the Inland Empire, I have seen the substantial benefits that result from communities receiving timely and necessary technical assistance for community-based projects. Every community has a different set of problems that requires a different set of solutions and by building local capacity and providing technical assistance, these communities can plan, create and fund projects that directly benefit the people who live, work, study and play there. I appreciate the hard work and commitment by the Strategic Growth Council and community stakeholders in developing and publishing the Technical Assistance Guidelines. As these resources evolve and further help communities across the state, I look forward to seeing the ongoing success of projects driven by and for those communities and their residents.”

SGC is excited to continue serving as a resource to our State agency partners. Earlier this year, CACE released a Request for Information survey (RFI) to better understand the landscape of capacity building and technical assistance services that State agencies are currently offering and how SGC can best support their efforts. This RFI will help SGC add more resources to toolkit as well as implement the TA Guidelines by advising and partnering with other agencies to provide quality support to California’s under-resourced communities.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021-2022

As we enter Fiscal Year 2021-2022 we take a moment to recognize the enormity of the challenges many Californians faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the ongoing hardships felt most acutely by California's most vulnerable communities. As we look toward the post-pandemic opportunities and responsibilities, SGC will work to share and communicate its approach of intersectional investment that starts with community engagement and drives toward healthy, thriving and resilient communities for all.

APPENDIX A: CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL 2020-2021 GRANT AWARDS BY PROGRAM

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021			
Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations ⁱ	\$7,955,000	\$7,903,700	\$51,300
Local Assistance ⁱⁱ	\$798,884,700	\$-	\$798,884,700
Total	\$806,839,700	\$7,903,700	\$798,936,000

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021			
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$590,000	\$590,000	\$-
Local Assistance ⁱⁱⁱ	\$38,104,600	\$52,046,171	\$(13,941,571)
Total	\$38,694,600	\$52,636,171	\$(13,941,571)

ⁱ \$6.7 million was transferred to the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide loan and grant administration services to assist in the State's goal of making strategic investments to that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ⁱⁱ The local assistance will be awarded in January 2022.

ⁱⁱⁱ Additional funds expended in this round were taken from rollover funding from prior rounds.

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Transformative Climate Communities			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$671,000	\$670,684	\$316
Local Assistance ^{iv,v}	\$48,915,000	\$48,915,000	\$-
Total	\$49,586,000	\$49,585,684	\$316

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Climate Change Research			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$250,000	\$249,956	\$44
Local Assistance ^{vi}	\$4,750,000	\$4,750,000	\$-
Total	\$5,000,000	\$4,999,956	\$44

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tribal Programs			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$53,813	\$53,813	\$-
Local Assistance ^{vii}	\$2,000,000	\$1,962,638	\$34,560
Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,962,638	\$34,560

iv \$60 million was originally appropriated in 2019-20 Budget Act to Transformative Climate Communities and was reduced to \$51.2 million due to COVID-19 impacts on the cap-and-trade auction proceeds.

v This amount includes \$200,000 remaining fund from Budget Act 2017-18 that was dedicated for Technical Assistance.

vi This funding was appropriated in 2019-20 Budget Act. Six grantee agreements were executed in FY 2020-2021.

vii The Interagency Agreement between SGC and CEC was signed in December 2019. SGC executed eight grant agreements in FY 2020-2021.

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Health and Equity Program			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$515,000	\$507,700	\$7,300
Total	\$515,000	\$507,700	\$7,300

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 High Speed Rail Partnership			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$722,020	\$435,381	\$286,639
Total	\$722,020	\$435,381	\$286,639

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021 California Transportation Program			
	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$349,000	\$344,882	\$4,118
Total	\$349,000	\$344,882	\$4,118

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021			
Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
Local Assistance ^{viii}	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$-
Total	\$720,000	\$720,000	\$-

Program Budget Fiscal Year 2020-2021			
Community Assistance for Climate Equity	Amount Budgeted	Expended	Remaining Balance
State Operations	\$477,000	\$471,997	\$5,003
Local Assistance (CCI TA) ^{ix}	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$-
Total	\$2,377,000	\$2,371,997	\$5,003

viii Funding reappropriated from unused funds appropriated to the DOC that were originally awarded by SGC and DOC through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program. The Council approved these awards on 6/30/2020. Four grant agreements were executed in FY 2020-2021.

ix The Council allocated funding from AHSC continuous appropriation to support the Climate Change Investment Technical Assistance. Two TA contracts were awarded in FY 2020-2021.

APPENDIX B: CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL 2020-2021 GRANT AWARDS BY PROGRAM

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities

2020-2021 Funding

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program originally allocated approximately \$405 million in the sixth round of funding. Later in July 2021, SGC amended the Notice of Funding Availability for AHSC to reflect approximately \$380 million in revenues from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund auctions to reflect the total amount of \$785 million. Awards for the program are expected to be announced at the end of 2021; those financials will be reported in the SGC FY 2021-2022 Annual Report.

Climate Change Research

2020-2021 Funding

The Climate Change Research Program did not receive funding in the 2020-2021 budget and therefore awarded no grants.

Transformative Climate Communities

2020-2021 Funding

The Transformative Climate Communities Program did not receive funding in the 2020-2021 budget and therefore awarded no grants.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

2020-2021 Acquisition Grants

Project Name	Applicant/Co-Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Rocks Ranch	Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	Monterey/San Benito	Fee title acquisition on 2,765 acres of grazing land	\$4,050,000	\$4,050,000
WP Investments	Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority	Santa Clara	Fee title acquisition on 60 acres of grazing land	\$1,815,000	\$1,815,000
Doud Ranch - Row Crop	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 425 acres of irrigated and grazing land	\$2,425,000	\$2,425,000
Quist	California Farmland Trust	Fresno	Agricultural conservation easement on 304 acres of irrigated land	\$3,010,002	\$3,010,002
Amaral Bianco	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 60 acres of irrigated land	\$460,000	\$460,000
Gill	City of Davis/Yolo Land Trust	Yolo	Agricultural conservation easement on 124 acres of irrigated land	\$701,000	\$701,000
Bonner	California Farmland Trust	Merced	Agricultural conservation easement on 474 acres of irrigated land	\$3,960,500	\$3,960,500
Nyland	Trust for Public Land/Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	San Benito	Agricultural conservation easement on 541 acres of grazing land	\$1,860,000	\$1,860,000
Restoration Oaks	Land Trust for Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara	Agricultural conservation easement on 955 acres of irrigated and grazing land	\$2,460,000	\$2,460,000
Owl's Head	Shasta Land Trust	Shasta	Agricultural conservation easement on 190 acres of irrigated and grazing land	\$1,101,330	\$1,101,330
Noel Ranch	Shasta Land Trust	Shasta	Agricultural conservation easement on 310 acres of irrigated land	\$2,224,225	\$2,224,225
Miller Ranch	Shasta Land Trust	Shasta	Agricultural conservation easement on 702 acres of irrigated and grazing land	\$1,239,188	\$1,239,188
Sexton Canyon	Trust for Public Land/California Rangeland Trust	Ventura	Agricultural conservation easement on 752 acres of irrigated and grazing land	\$1,805,500	\$1,805,500
Gore Ranch	Shasta Land Trust	Shasta	Agricultural conservation easement on 1,509 acres of grazing land	\$3,124,875	\$3,124,875

Project Name	Applicant/Co-Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Rosasco	California Rangeland Trust	Madera	Agricultural conservation easement on 2,747 acres of grazing land	\$2,110,250	\$2,110,250
Bivista Ridge	Marin Agricultural Land Trust	Marin	Agricultural conservation easement on 602 acres of grazing land	\$2,543,250	\$2,543,250
Sanford	Bear Yuba Land Trust	Nevada	Agricultural conservation easement on 144 acres of grazing land	\$366,500	\$366,500
Lazy LS	San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy	San Luis Obispo	Agricultural conservation easement on 388 acres of grazing land	\$875,000	\$875,000
Alphabet - A	Trust for Public Land/Rivers and Lands Conservancy	Imperial	Agricultural conservation easement on 1,888 acres of irrigated land	\$4,710,000	\$4,710,000
Alphabet - D	Trust for Public Land/Rivers and Lands Conservancy	Imperial	Agricultural conservation easement on 618 acres of irrigated land	\$3,390,000	\$3,390,000
Van Vleck 2	California Rangeland Trust	Sacramento	Agricultural conservation easement on 591 acres of grazing land	\$2,643,576	\$2,643,576
Felder	Sonoma Land Trust	Sonoma	Agricultural conservation easement on 703 acres of grazing land	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000
Malatesta	Land Trust of Santa Cruz County	Santa Cruz	Agricultural conservation easement on 62 acres of irrigated land	\$245,000.00	\$-
Cooper	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 320 acres of irrigated land	\$2,925,000.00	\$-
Conley	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 164 acres of irrigated land	\$1,525,000.00	\$-
Freeway	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 185 acres of irrigated land	\$1,750,000.00	\$-
Midway East	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 157 acres of irrigated land	\$1,525,000.00	\$-
Midway West	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 219 acres of irrigated land	\$2,025,000.00	\$-
Orcutt	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 189 acres of irrigated land	\$1,625,000.00	\$-
Schultz	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 364 acres of irrigated land	\$3,400,000.00	\$-
Strobel	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 457 acres of irrigated land	\$3,400,000.00	\$-
Twin Bridges	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 79 acres of irrigated land	\$775,000.00	\$-

Project Name	Applicant/Co-Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Weaver	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 239 acres of irrigated land	\$2,275,000.00	\$-
Leonardini Home	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 193 acres of irrigated land	\$1,525,000.00	\$-
Leonardini River	Ag Land Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 155 acres of irrigated land	\$1,375,000.00	\$-
Magnolia	Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust	Yuba	Agricultural conservation easement on 952 acres of irrigated land	\$14,371,950.00	\$-
B & C Farms	Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust	Sutter	Agricultural conservation easement on 155 acres of irrigated land	\$538,848.00	\$-
Chadwick	Feather River Land Trust	Plumas	Agricultural conservation easement on 793 acres of grazing land	\$280,000.00	\$-
Gill & Magoon	Ducks Unlimited, Inc./ Wetlands America Trust	Sutter	Agricultural conservation easement on 1,436 acres of irrigated land	\$2,858,250.00	\$-
Pescadero	Peninsula Open Space Trust	San Mateo	Agricultural conservation easement on 89 acres of irrigated land	\$1,535,000.00	\$-
PC Dolcini	Marin Agricultural Land Trust	Marin	Agricultural conservation easement on 1,179 acres of grazing land	\$3,597,960.00	\$-
Garamendi	Mother Lode Land Trust	Calaveras	Agricultural conservation easement on 657 acres of grazing land	\$650,000.00	\$-
Warren	San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy	San Luis Obispo	Agricultural conservation easement on 712 acres of grazing land	\$1,160,000.00	\$-
Russ	California Rangeland Trust	Shasta/ Tehema	Agricultural conservation easement on 7,728 acres of grazing land	\$1,760,204.00	\$-
Kramer	California Rangeland Trust	Tehema	Agricultural conservation easement on 2,043 acres of grazing land	\$1,081,665.00	\$-
Hawker	Sequoia Riverlands Trust	Kern	Agricultural conservation easement on 5,279 acres of grazing land	\$2,326,625.00	\$-
Circle N	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Madera	Agricultural conservation easement on 2,189 acres of grazing land	\$1,204,194.00	\$-
Home Field	Sierra Foothill Conservancy	Madera	Agricultural conservation easement on 541 acres of grazing land	\$338,878.00	\$-
Alphabet - C	Trust for Public Land/Rivers and Lands Conservancy	Imperial	Agricultural conservation easement on 209 acres of irrigated land	\$1,335,000.00	\$-
Alphabet - F	Trust for Public Land/Rivers and Lands Conservancy	Imperial	Agricultural conservation easement on 4,411 acres of irrigated land	\$7,451,250.00	\$-

Project Name	Applicant/Co-Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Alphabet - I2	Trust for Public Land/Rivers and Lands Conservancy	Imperial	Agricultural conservation easement on 463 acres of irrigated land	\$1,890,000.00	\$-
Atkinson	California Rangeland Trust	Tehema	Agricultural conservation easement on 5,917 acres of grazing land	\$1,907,351.85	\$-
Doud Ranch - Rangeland	California Rangeland Trust	Monterey	Agricultural conservation easement on 1,537 acres of grazing land	\$4,910,000.00	\$-

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

2020-2021 Planning Grants

Project Name	Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Collaborative Stakeholder Planning in Alameda County to Ensure the Preservation of Agricultural/Working Lands, Coordinated Infill Development Inclusive of Urban Gardens and Urban Growth Boundry Planning Modifications to Limit Likelihood of UGB Expansion While Concurrently Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Alameda LAFCO	Alameda	Identify priority and critical areas for preservation proximal to urban growth boundaries, review existing ag conservation policies; identify infill development opportunities focused on healthy and resilient communities; reduce greenhouse emissions by avoiding conversion; develop urban garden and ag education materials	\$250,000	\$250,000
Salinas General Plan Update	City of Salinas	Monterey	Agricultural Framework ingrate into agriculture as a core theme throughout the General Plan, including policies on land use, conservation, economic development and housing; convene agriculture working group; provide outreach to farmworkers; study key agricultural economic factors and analyze recommendations in the content of land use to mitigated conversion.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Healthy Lands, Healthy People: A Carbon Sequestration Feasibility Study	Contra Costa County	Contra Costa	Study the feasibility of carbon sequestration on ag lands and urban gardens, evaluate the feasibility of implementing carbon projects throughout the county. Provide a framework to guide stakeholder education, strategy development and feasibility of project types for different land uses.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Addressing the Future of Agricultural Land Use and Needs through Community Climate Action and Adaption Planning	Monterey County 2	Monterey	Develop agricultural conservation and land use strategies for inclusion of in Community Climate Action and Adaption Plan to reduce GHG emissions by 40% by 2030 by focusing on land use, infill, and transit oriented development to avoid ag land conversion.	\$175,000	\$175,000
Coordinated Rural Opportunity Plan (CROP)	Sacramento COG	El Dorado, Sacramento, Sutter, Placer, Yolo, Yuba	Planning project will create a regional strategy for investing in agricultural economy through development of Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan that will assure agriculture's economic vibrancy and resiliency and conserve the natural resources of the region.	\$250,000	\$250,000

Project Name	Applicant	County	Description	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
San Bernardino County Valley Agricultural Planning and Preservation Program	San Bernardino LAFCO	San Bernardino	Analyze existing agricultural resources and policies, identify and prioritize important farmland for conservation, convene working group to propose uniform policies around annexation and sphere of influence/urban growth boundaries.	\$220,475	\$220,475
Promoting Agriculture in San Diego County: A Planning Vision	San Diego LAFCO	San Diego	“Identify, monitor and assess the ownership of active agricultural lands within the San Diego region, identify the local causes of agricultural land conversion, and determine effective methods to preserve farmland, promote agriculture, and enhance agricultural production. The plan will also develop a suite of actions to assist producers in ensuring the preservation and enhancement of their lands. “	\$250,000	\$250,000
Framework for a Regional Agricultural Plan	Santa Clara County	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano	Develop a regional approach to ag conservation within the southern bay area and develop tools such as fee title purchases, easements, or ecosystem services payments through a joint powers authority; collaborate on Plan Bay Area 2050 implementation actions relating to protection of working lands.	\$225,500	\$225,500
Ventura County Agricultural Conservation Planning	Ventura County	Ventura	Development of agricultural conservation program in the county; economic analysis of County’s agriculture, risk assessment to quantify land at risk of conversion, criteria for identifying and prioritizing ag land and incentive structure to rest, retire, restore or permanently protect land base, and an educational and awareness strategy.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Yolo County Agricultural Conservation Priority Plan	Yolo County	Yolo	Develop ag priority plan for conservation including prioritization of lands at risk of conversion and analysis of parcels best suited for preservation; and a feasibility study and strategic plan for a publicly administered mitigation bank	\$250,000	\$250,000

Tribal Programs: Tribal Planning Grant Program

2020–2021 Tribal Planning Grants

Project Name	Applicant	Location	Description	Amount Requested	Awarded
Planning Study for a Renewable Energy Based Microgrid to Power the Big Valley Rancheria	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	Lakeport, Lake County	The project will analyze and model the current state of energy consumption on Tribal lands, assess available renewable energy resource options, and identify strategies for meeting the Tribe's goals and objectives for energy self-determination through renewable and reliable power.	\$249,997	\$249,997
Áhish Áah (Turn on the Light) Project	Karuk Tribe	Orleans, Humboldt County	The Áhish Áah Project meaning "turn on the light" will identify sustainable pathways for rural California communities to become climate smart and reduce their carbon footprints through mitigating catastrophic wildfire and accelerating clean energy with a particular focus on Indigenous communities.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Tribal Energy Independence and Resiliency Project	Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California	Middletown, Lake County	This project will deliver an analysis of hazards and climate change vulnerabilities of the Tribe's current energy infrastructure and use, as well as detailed planning to develop projects to enhance the Tribe's energy independence and resiliency.	\$215,443	\$215,443
Joint Energy, Climate, and Sustainable Communities Planning Project	Pala Band of Mission Indians, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians	Pala, San Diego County	This intertribal initiative will facilitate intertribal collaboration to assess mutual needs, goals, and opportunities that are shared among the three Tribes; identify priorities for intertribal planning and development; and conduct advanced collaborative planning on mutual strategies selected by the three Tribes' leaders.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Solar & Woody/Agriculture Biomass Feasibility Studies	Pit River Tribe	Burney, Shasta County	The Tribe plans to carry out feasibility studies on both woody/ agriculture biomass and solar within the 100 mile square their ancestors traditionally inhabited. Initially, the Tribe plans to build alternative energy projects and infrastructure on Tribally-owned lands, but also work with the surrounding jurisdictions to cover the 100 mile square.	\$250,000	250,000

Project Name	Applicant	Location	Description	Amount Requested	Awarded
Bioenergy Feasibility Studies in Indian Country	Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Lakeport, Lake County	This project will support energy planning and feasibility studies for bioenergy generation facilities on Tribal Lands by delivering a standardized tool for bioenergy project review across all Indian country.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Energy-Related Planning Activities for Kashia Tribal Facilities	Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewart's Point Rancheria	Santa Rosa, Sonoma County	This project aims to lower energy costs, increase resiliency, and mitigate the Tribe's carbon footprint by planning for on-site solar, wind, hydropower generation, biomass fuel and energy production, and energy efficiency measures, as well as and the creation of a Tribal Energy Utility.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Comprehensive Energy Planning Study	Tule River Tribe of the Tule River Indian Reservation	Porterville, Tulare County	This project will develop a replicable and scalable energy-related plan for the Tule River Tribe with a focus on energy sources, energy use, and renewable energy planning to improve the Tribe's energy development and create critical infrastructure to help the Tribe adapt to climate change.	\$250,000	\$250,000
Bishop Paiute Tribe Community Building Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Feasibility Project	Bishop Paiute Tribe	Bishop, Inyo County	Would develop feasibility and cost/benefit options of bringing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy storage alternatives to tribal community and governmental buildings to mitigate climate change and bring affordable alternative energy options to programs that support tribal community.	\$248,462	\$0
Tuolumne Me-Wuk Challenge Planning Grant	Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	Tuolumne, Tuolumne County	Would focus on renewable energy planning to increase renewable energy development.	\$175,000	\$0
Tribal Sustainability and Resilience Plan for the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe	"Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe"	Lemoore, Kings County	Would develop a community-driven Sustainability and Resilience Plan for Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe. The Sustainability Plan will include a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, climate change vulnerability assessment, gap analysis, and a sustainability strategy that includes actions for both climate mitigation and adaptation.	\$150,000	\$0

Integrated Policy and Planning: Wildfire Resilience and Recovery Planning Grants

2020-2021 Wildfire Resiliency and Recovery Planning Grants

Institution	Project Title	Wildfire Event(s)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning ^x	Los Angeles County Integrated Wildfire Safety Plan	2017 Creek Fire, 2018 Woolsey Fire, 2019 Tick Fire, and 2020 Bobcat Fire	\$250,000	\$175,315
Town of Paradise	Make it Paradise - Planning for a More Resilient Community	Camp Fire, November 2018.	\$221,900	\$198,379
Sonoma County Permit & Resource Management Department	Sonoma County Forest Resource Ordinance to Inform General Plan Update	Sonoma Complex Fire, October 2017	\$187,440	\$167,571
City of Ventura Community Development Department	Comprehensive Planning for a Resilient Ventura	Thomas Fire, December 4, 2017,	\$200,000	\$178,800
County of Nevada	Community Wildfire Protection Plan	N/A	\$168,275	\$0
County of Lake - Community Development Department	Lake County Upper Lake-Nice, Rivas Area Plans and Zoning Ordinance Update	N/A	\$250,000	\$0
Tulare, County of	Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element Update	N/A	\$150,000	\$0
Mechoopda Indian Tribe	Traditional Ecological Knowledge Education and Restoration Program	N/A	\$154,048	\$0
City of Thousand Oaks	Wildfire Resiliency And Recovery Planning Grants	N/A	\$250,000	\$0
Lake Area Planning Council	Lake County Wildfire Evacuation and Preparedness Plan	N/A	\$241,000	\$0
Lake County Water Resources Department	Incorporating Wildfire Resiliency and Climate Adaptation into Lake County Storm Water Management Planning	N/A	\$150,000	\$0

^x Note: LA County was awarded funds that were turned down by an original grantee, thereby decreasing their grant award percentage compared to the requested amount in their grant proposal.

Institution	Project Title	Wildfire Event(s)	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
City of Moorpark ^{xi}	City of Moorpark - Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and General Plan Safety Element Update	N/A	\$196,170	\$0
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Ventura County Insight Center	N/A	\$250,000	\$0
Napa County	Atlas Post-Fire Community Resiliency Planning	N/A	\$250,000	\$0
County of San Diego	County of San Diego General Plan Safety Element update	N/A	\$150,000	\$0
Santa Barbara County	Santa Barbara County Climate Adaptation Plan & Wildfire Mitigation Plan	N/A	\$175,000	\$0
Butte County Dev. Services	Concow and Yankee Hill Resiliency Center	N/A	\$250,000	\$0

^{xi} The Council awarded the City of Moorpark \$175,000; however, the City later withdrew its proposal and funds were redistributed to LA County

Community Assistance for Climate Equity: California Climate Investments Technical Assistance

2020-2021 Technical Assistance Contracts Awarded

Project Name/TA Provider	Sub-contractor(s)	State Agency Partner	Description	Contract Amount
BOOST Program/Institute for Local Government	Climate Resolve; Coalition for Rural Housing; Farallon Strategies	N/A	In Round 2, the BOOST Program will support 5-7 disadvantaged and/or low-income communities to receive capacity building support in the form of trainings, partnership development, community engagement planning and implementation support, grant application assistance, and communications support.	\$500,000
AHSC Rounds 6 & 7/ Enterprise Community Partners	Estolano Advisors; California Coalition for Rural Housing; Climate Resolve; California ReLeaf; Raimi + Associates; Community Development Resource Group; Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability; San Joaquin Council of Governments; California Housing Partnership	N/A	In Round 6 and 7, the contractor will develop and execute a Technical Assistance and capacity building strategy for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program for for these regions: Sacramento, San Diego, Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, Central Coast, North State, and Sierras.	\$1,400,000