



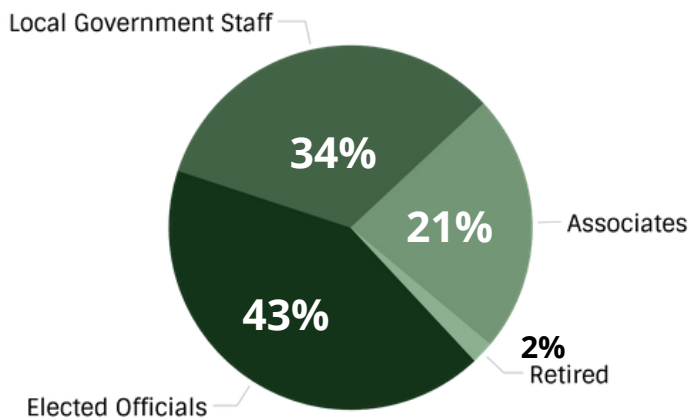
**Local  
Government  
Commission**

*Leaders for Livable Communities*

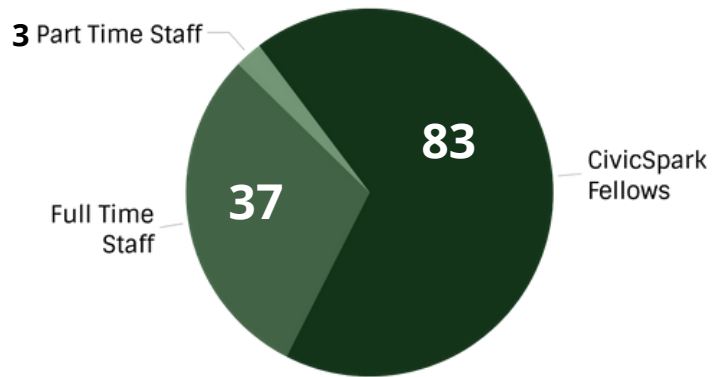
## 2020 Mid-Year Impact Report

The Local Government Commission (LGC) supports local policymakers through nationally recognized events, affordable technical assistance, and policy guidance on climate change, energy, water, and healthy community design.

### LGC Maintains a Network of 650+ Innovative Leaders



### LGC is a team of



### LGC works in five main program areas



CLIMATE  
CHANGE



COMMUNITY  
DESIGN



ENERGY



NATIONAL  
SERVICE



WATER

# Leadership for Livable Communities in the Era of COVID

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LGC acted rapidly and decisively to respond to state and county public health and safety guidance. Starting the week of March 9th all staff were given the option to telecommute, the office was completely closed the morning of March 17th and all staff were successfully transitioned to remote work.

Leadership and program teams are conducting video meetings at least once a week and staff are leading and engaging in a number of wellness activities including a weekly wellness newsletter, video coffee hours on Monday mornings, skill share lunch sessions led by different staff on Wednesdays and morning meditation on Thursdays.

We've increased organizational efficiency and have taken measures to reduce risk across the organization and all of our projects including shifting most of our 2020 events and community engagement activities to interactive virtual events, including the Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum planned for June. The biennial California Adaptation Forum that was planned for August will be pushed to 2021.

We are also looking at potential opportunities. From increases in bicycling and walking and telecommuting to decreases in VMT and overall electricity use, there are a number of behavioral changes and economic factors that could impact sustainability initiatives. LGC is assessing these factors to evolve and improve our programs.



We've also produced Best Practices for Virtual Engagement, a summary of key considerations and specific guidance for virtual engagement, with the hope of supporting our members and partners in creating effective virtual engagement during this unique situation – as well as in better times to come.

Finally, the LGC is identifying key state budget and stimulus priorities that are mutually reinforcing across climate, social equity and economic recovery in the hopes that the massive stimulus investments can improve long-term community resilience.

# Leadership for Livable Communities in the Era of COVID

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Overall the key now is to be clear-eyed about the current reality and the long-term impacts, but hopeful about our ability to respond. We remain optimistic about LGC's ability to support local leaders through this difficult time and to position communities to be more resilient coming out of this crisis. Difficult situations and disruptions can provide a rare opportunity to gain insights and develop new approaches that can improve our lives long after the pandemic.

LGC is advocating for stimulus investments in projects that address public health, climate and social-equity needs— including infill affordable housing, critical transit projects, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, broadband deployment and sustained telecommuting and telemedicine programs, zero-emission vehicle fleet conversion and infrastructure deployment, urban greening (especially in marginalized communities) and access to healthy, local food.

We can't boost the economy in a way that would continue to lead us into another health crisis in terms of air pollution and climate change— it's imperative that we consider opportunities to create more sustainable, resilient jobs and invest in helping industries become more efficient and less polluting.

Given the long-standing economic impacts we are likely to face as a result of the COVID pandemic, we must all be much more strategic and creative with our investments and our core principles, focusing on high-priority projects that achieve multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.

Challenging times are uniquely opportune for assessing what's most critical— in times of distress priorities are clarified, and barriers are removed.

These times also show us the extent to which people are willing and capable of making significant and dramatic changes in the face of a global threat. People have significantly reduced their carbon footprint in ways that would have been unimaginable just weeks ago. These reductions (however long they last) have come at a significant cost for businesses and millions of workers. While we work to minimize the immediate hurt (especially for our most vulnerable residents and communities), there are perhaps, simultaneously, lessons we can learn from this difficult period to sustain some of the new habits people are developing without the social and economic burden.

As leaders, our first responsibility is to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our staff and the people and businesses within our communities. Already, many of us are doing that in creative new ways that wouldn't have been possible before this disruption. Together we will forge through to ensure our communities' near term recovery and long-term resilience and prosperity.

# THE LGC APPROACH

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With roots in California and a national reputation, LGC offers **inspiration, information, and partnership** for local and regional champions dedicated to building thriving communities that integrate civic engagement with environmental, social and economic priorities.

## We affect change through:



### *Implementing Solutions*

LGC has an extensive track record partnering with local communities as a technical assistance provider to design projects, engage stakeholders and implement solutions that advance community livability and resiliency. In 2020, the Local Government Commission provided support to 118 local and regional jurisdictions. LGC staff and CivicSpark Fellows provided over 119,000 hours of direct assistance to communities throughout the state. In August 2020, the CivicSpark program's sixth cohort will graduate bringing CivicSpark's alumni network to almost 400. A seventh cohort will begin its service year in September supporting 75+ California public agencies in implementing needed community resilience solutions.



### *Connecting Leaders*

LGC is a unique forum for local leaders to share experiences, build their network, and learn new strategies for creating livable communities. LGC offers conferences, training forums and resources that grow local knowledge for creating livable communities and help build a cadre of leaders throughout the state with a local presence and state and national influence. LGC was able to quickly and creatively shift programming to online, virtual platforms to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date in 2020 we've connected over 4,354 livable community leaders and practitioners through statewide forums, regional symposiums, design workshops, webinars, and networking events.



### *Advancing Policy*

LGC works on behalf of local leaders to advance regulatory and legislative actions that address key community design, climate change, energy, water and national service imperatives. LGC maintains partnerships with key regional, state and federal agencies and is called upon regularly to provide livable communities expertise. We've advanced policy through 10 presentations, panels, and interviews; we've engaged the state legislature with a total of 43 comment letters and testimonies; and we've held several policy workshops. This report outlines our progress to date on our strategic goals to advance decarbonization, improve wildland and watershed management and increase climate smart affordable housing.

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# ADVANCING DECARBONIZATION



## LGC's decarbonization goals include:



Supporting and increasing a shift to sustainable mobility including: walking, bicycling, mass transit, and shared mobility options



Increasing electrification of vehicles and advancing water and energy efficiency programs



Increasing building electrification

LGC is supporting these goals through a number of programs including: community design workshops, CivicSpark fellow energy and climate projects, state technical assistance and outreach programs, and our statewide energy and climate adaptation coalitions.

# COMMUNITY DESIGN

In 2020, the Coronavirus Pandemic has drastically changed how communities and LGC conduct outreach and engagement on local and regional planning efforts. LGC's Community Design Team worked virtually with communities around the state to conduct local visioning, planning and the implementation of solutions for shared mobility, active transportation, affordable housing, placemaking and main street and neighborhood revitalization. Below is a list of communities and planning efforts the team led or supported so far this year.



City of Menifee, ATP Charrette

1. **City of Guadalupe** Mobility and Revitalization Plan (adopted 2/20)
2. **County of Riverside** Neighborhood and Regional Mobility Plans for North Shore and Mecca (adopted 2/20)
3. **County of Ventura Ojai Valley** Highway 33 Multimodal and Community Enhancement Study (adopted 2/20)
4. **City of Arvin** Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Plan (adopted 2/20)
5. **City of Visalia** Central Visalia Traffic Safety Action Plan (adopted 2/20)
6. **City of Lakeport** Eleventh Street Corridor Multimodal Engineered Feasibility Study (adopted 6/20)
7. **County of Lake** Highway 20 Traffic Calming Plan & Engineered Feasibility Study (adopted 6/20)
8. **City of Vacaville** Downtown Specific Plan (in progress)
9. **City of Paso Robles** Niblick Road Complete and Sustainable Streets Design (in progress)
10. **City of Menifee** Active Transportation Plan (in progress)
11. **City of Adelanto** Safe Routes to School Plan (in progress)
12. **City of Artesia** Active Transportation Plan (in progress)



# STATEWIDE/REGIONAL/LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

## CALTRANS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR CYCLE 5:

LGC is leading a team that includes Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and Fehr and Peers to assist eleven disadvantaged communities with developing projects and preparing Caltrans Active Transportation Program grant applications, due September 15, 2020. In addition LGC is conducting training webinars with the communities to build local capacity for future grant applications.



## SGC TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES (TCC) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

LGC's funding navigation and technical assistance program ([www.fundingresource.org](http://www.fundingresource.org)) features over 100 of the most prominent funding opportunities for active transportation, affordable housing, drinking water, street repair, parks, public transit and shared mobility, stormwater and wastewater management projects. To-date, we have provided support to 44 communities, helping them to identify, prepare, and apply for funding opportunities. We recently prepared applications with five communities for Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grants. All five grants have been awarded for a combined total of approximately \$842,000. Other notable success stories include an award of a \$2.4 million dollar grant to revitalize the central park and community center in the Community of Planada, and \$50,000 to the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council. We received additional foundation support in May 2020 to continue to: update [fundingresource.org](http://www.fundingresource.org) with new funding opportunities; provide assistance to communities by identifying the most prominent funding opportunities; and highlight steps to support community projects.



## Funding Navigation for California Communities

## FUNDING NAVIGATION FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES:

LGC provided support to Oakland and Richmond as part of the technical assistance team to help community partnerships apply for TCC Implementation Grants in February 2020. The Oakland "Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors: An East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative" proposal was awarded \$28.2 million to implement a community plan for neighborhood development without displacement. The proposal will build a 55-unit affordable housing community that also includes a new health clinic. The proposal incorporates local art and culture into projects including active transportation, trees to promote healthier surroundings, and a new nursery that will provide organic produce and food-producing plants to the community.



# STATEWIDE/REGIONAL/LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE continued...

## SACOG RURAL MAIN STREETS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LGC is working with six communities on behalf of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' Rural Main Street Technical Assistance Program to help identify and develop projects and pursue funding to convert commercial corridors and areas in the region into more livable, walkable and economically viable main street environments. The six communities include the City of Isleton, the City of Loomis, the community of Meadow Vista (County of Placer), the community of Orangevale (County of Sacramento), the City of Placerville, and the City of Yuba City.



## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY PROJECT:

LGC is part of the technical assistance team led by Estolano Associates on behalf of the Air Resources Board to help communities apply for grants to plan and implement clean transportation projects. Up to \$2 million is available for planning and capacity building grants. Up to \$20 million is available for one to three implementation grants to fund integrated clean transportation and supporting projects such as new trails and bikeways, shared mobility services, zero emission buses, transit passes and outreach and education to increase community access and use of transportation without a personal vehicle.



## CLEAN MOBILITY OPTIONS VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM:

LGC was selected by the Air Resources Board as part of a team led by CALSTART that includes the Shared Use Mobility Center and GRID Alternatives to implement a program with \$27 Million available to fund local shared mobility projects (carshare, bike and scooter-share, ride-on-demand, and innovative transit) with zero emission vehicles in disadvantaged communities. LGC supports the program's outreach and engagement efforts, and provides technical assistance to help localities learn about the funding opportunity, understand the application materials, and develop projects to be considered for funding during the next application window coming up in Fall 2020.





# CLIMATE CHANGE

## MAYORS' COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

Sacramento Mayor Steinberg and West Sacramento Mayor Cabaldon launched the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change in November 2018 to identify a set of strategies to achieve carbon zero in both cities by 2045. In 2020, LGC organized the Commission's final 3 (of 9) public meetings and drafted the Commission's final report and a technical report, showcasing a set of recommendations for advancing social equity and reducing carbon emissions in the built environment, mobility, and community health and resilience sectors. The reports were a culmination of the work of five technical advisory committees - on equity, finance and funding, and each of the three sectors, and input from hundreds of community activists, business leaders and technical experts. On June 29th, the Commission unanimously adopted the final report, charting an ambitious path towards an equitable, carbon-free future in Sacramento and West Sacramento.



## CAPITAL REGION URBAN HEAT ISLAND MITIGATION PROJECT:

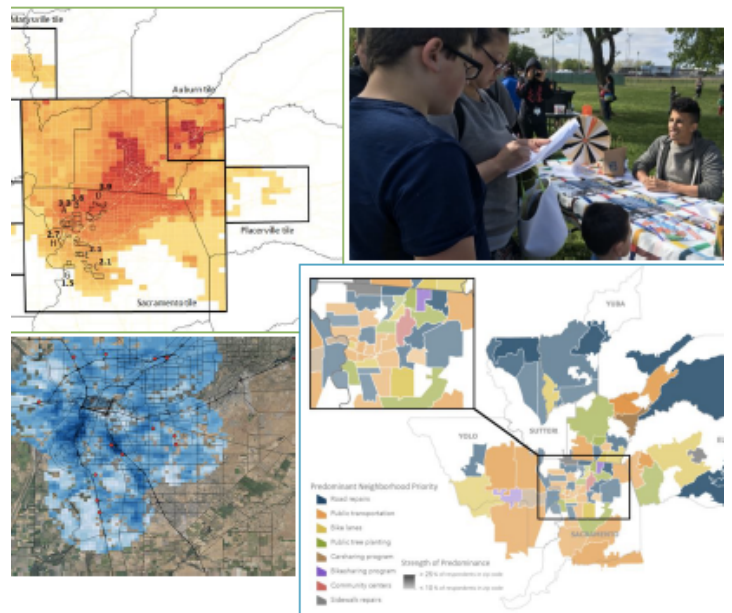
In 2020, LGC analyzed over 1,500 community survey responses to identify community priorities for transportation needs and improvements, heat exposure and mitigation measures, and other concerns based on race and ethnicity, geography, income level, age, homeowner status, and other socioeconomic factors. The resulting Community Priorities Report provides guidance to local jurisdictions in the Capital region on multi-benefit solutions that simultaneously address community concerns, heat impacts, and transportation needs. LGC worked with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air District and consultants to finalize the Regional Heat Pollution Reduction Plan, which outlines effective strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect, such as cool pavements and green infrastructure, and further guidance to support local implementation. LGC completed the project with a series of community events to share project findings and resources to support individual- and neighborhood-level actions to build resilience to extreme heat.



CAPITAL REGION  
CLIMATE READINESS  
COLLABORATIVE

## Summary Report

Capital Region Urban Heat Island Mitigation Project



## RESILIENT INLAND EMPIRE:

In January 2020, LGC formally launched the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3), a diverse, cross-sectoral network of agencies, organizations, companies, and institutions working together to advance equitable solutions to create a resilient and thriving Inland Southern California in the face of climate change. The collaborative encompasses Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial counties and launched with 17 founding members. LGC also conducted a series of local climate equity roundtables to engage with community leaders and community-based organizations to better understand their priorities related to climate impacts and adaptation, which led to the development of a set of recommendations for public agencies and other stakeholders to advance climate equity objectives. This project concluded in February 2020.



## ENERGY

### STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY COLLABORATIVE (SEEC):

SEEC is celebrating 11 years of success in bringing energy efficiency to the forefront of local government sustainability solutions. In total, we have assisted 156 cities and counties by providing technical assistance and creating opportunities for best practice sharing and peer-to-peer networking. Due to the CPUC Decisions requiring Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) to outsource 60% of their customer programs (Decision 16-08-0192) to Third Party contractors, and the minimum cost-effectiveness thresholds for IOU program portfolios, the IOUs have undergone a portfolio balancing process that includes reducing budgets and sunseting programs, which includes the IOUs' partnership with SEEC. While 2020 will be the final official year of SEEC, the LGC is exploring partnership opportunities to continue our SEEC programming to support local governments in building capacity and sustaining progress towards energy efficiency and climate action goals.



**Statewide  
Energy  
Efficiency  
Collaborative**

**11th Annual Statewide Energy  
Efficiency Virtual Forum**

**June - November | 18 Webinars | 6 Networking Events**

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Organized by  **Local  
Government  
Commission**  
Leaders for Livable Communities



### 11th ANNUAL STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FORUM: June - November 2020

The annual Statewide Energy Efficiency (SEEC) Forum has reached thousands of local government staff and energy efficiency practitioners over the past decade as is now in its 11th year. Due to COVID, LGC has decided to conduct the forum virtually. The intent of the Virtual SEEC Forum is to deliver timely and relevant content to local government staff while aiming to preserve the value of networking opportunities to the greatest extent possible. This year's theme, Promising Solutions for a Clean Energy Future, aims to highlight concrete strategies, case studies, tools, and resources to support local government agencies in responding to rapidly evolving trends while continuing to meet their communities' energy needs. The 2020 SEEC Virtual Forum will feature 18 webinars and 6 networking activities from June to November 2020.





**STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY BEST PRACTICES COORDINATOR (BPC):**

The overall goal of the BPC is to support California local governments in implementing cost-effective energy efficiency projects and policies that support the achievement of local and state energy and climate goals, including the State’s Long Term Strategic Plan, and the Public Sector chapters of Investor-owned Utilities 2018-2025 Business Plans. The BPC produces a wEEkly Update newsletter, which has become a key resource for local governments and other stakeholders to stay up-to-date on the latest energy efficiency news, resources, job opportunities, and events. The BPC completed 2 Technical Assistance requests related to local natural gas reduction options and California’s Self-Generation Incentive Program.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COALITION (LGSEC):**

LGSEC remains the only entity that represents local government interests at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In 2020, LGSEC followed and commented on multiple proceedings at the CPUC relating to Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Microgrids, and Wildfires. LGSEC keeps its members informed about a variety of CPUC proceedings of interest to local governments; and issues such as the PG&E bankruptcy and its possible impacts. In 2020, LGSEC started a bi-monthly newsletter, Sustainable Energy Scoop, to keep its members informed and connected; with a goal of supporting our members’ energy and climate goals. Each newsletter issue provides an introductory note from a rotating LGSEC board member, and highlights current challenges and emerging solutions for local governments. LGSEC will continue to focus on policy efforts that align financial resources with the climate and energy needs of local governments.



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INCUBATOR:

To continue providing critical resources for member agencies, LGC worked with the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) to shift the Sustainable Energy Incubator's quarterly workshops to a virtual format. The first virtual workshop took place in June with a focus on decarbonizing California during COVID. Presenters from CPA, CalCCA, and Strata Solar provided participants with information on COVID's impacts on renewable energy within California, along with an example of a successful energy project continuing despite the pandemic; the Ventura Energy Storage Project. Along with workshops, LGC is working with CPA to identify member agencies in need of technical assistance and to determine the best approach to technical assistance in the COVID era. Through our partnership, LGC and CPA will continue to support member agencies in their decarbonization goals.



The poster features the logos for CPA (Clean Power Alliance) and the Local Government Commission. The main title is 'SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INCUBATOR'. It invites participants to a virtual workshop on 'DECARBONIZING CALIFORNIA DURING COVID-19'. The event is on June 25th from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM. A registration link is provided: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/SUSTAINABLE-ENERGY-INCUBATOR](https://bit.ly/sustainable-energy-incubator). The speakers listed are Ben Dawson, Natasha Keefer, Sean Swe, and Will Mitchell. At the bottom, there is an illustration of various energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro.

## FRESNO COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN:

LGC is partnering with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the City of Fresno, Home Energy Analytics, and Rising Sun Center of Opportunity to develop a holistic community action plan that achieves climate benefits and air quality improvements through energy efficiency measures, electrification, and distributed renewable energy. LGC is providing support through data collection on policies, programs, and funding opportunities aimed at increasing clean energy adoption for disadvantaged communities within the City of Fresno.



## EMPOWER PROCUREMENT:

Empower Procurement is a CEC-funded initiative to simplify the distributed energy resource (DER) procurement process by identifying and addressing barriers faced by both buyers and sellers. LGC is part of a large team that will develop a product evaluation hub, product marketplace, services marketplace, and targeted procurement initiatives. LGC is serving as an outreach partner to engage local governments and recently brought the City of San Luis Obispo in as a pilot partner to test procurement solutions.





Despite the significant disruptions and impacts from COVID, CivicSpark still has 29 Fellows “teleserving” on decarbonization projects— supporting leading-edge communities developing carbon neutrality plans, accelerating electric vehicle deployment, and researching next-generation building standards. CivicSpark’s decarbonization projects continue to engage 25 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects fellows continue to support.

**A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects fellows are supporting:**

- Vanessa Shin has been working to adapt Cupertino’s Climate Action Plan activities including shifting to virtual outreach efforts, supporting a virtual Earth Day, collating mutual aid resources and alternative volunteer activities, developing social distancing tips for cyclists and pedestrians, and other resources relevant to the shelter-in-place order. She has also been working to update resources and guidance for the Green Business program including promoting COVID resources and webinars and addressing safe cleaning products and the certification options.
- Kiara Ryan is working with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to increase active transportation by developing an equity action plan for community engagement processes in the County’s new bikeshare program.
- Sondra Abruzzo developed a Municipal Climate Program Newsletter for the San Francisco Department of the Environment that compiled research regarding COVID’s impacts and intersections with Climate Change.
- With the onset of COVID, Sam Ruderman and Meredith Anderson have shifted their support for the South Lake Tahoe Climate Action Plan and are currently gathering input from community members through an online survey in English and Spanish of possible climate strategies.
- Justin Szasz in Piedmont has been working on drafting Reach Codes and conducting community engagement sessions to identify options that advance building practices while also meeting cost-effectiveness requirements.
- Trinity Smyth has been helping the City of Sacramento Public works to develop an Energy Benchmarking Guide and scorecard for the City’s 25 largest buildings to help the City prioritize where to invest in energy efficiency projects.
- Marina Mendes and Shannon Pressler have been supporting a range of San Luis Obispo’s Reopening and Recovery projects. Most specifically they have been helping to draft a COVID section for the Climate Action Plan to highlight the relationship between climate work, public health, and economic recovery. They have also gathered employee feedback on reopening, cataloged reopening phases of all businesses in SLO County, and conducted research on how to enable social distancing in downtown SLO as the City reopens (e.g. street closures, parklets, outdoor dining).
- Erin Ronald has been helping move Truckee’s Adaptation Plan and Climate Action Plans. For the CAP she has been organizing content and synthesizing and writing climate action strategies. For the Adaptation plan she has been working on policies and actions including a reworked statement on COVID.



## LGC's wildland & watershed goals include:



Creating mechanisms to fund wildland and watershed management (e.g., procuring wood products for biomass, cross-laminated timber).



Aligning development and infrastructure investments with fire and water management opportunities.



Helping communities rebuild smarter after disasters (e.g. property assessed clean energy or Community Choice Energy programs that support fire resilience measures or zero net energy).



Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).



Helping communities prepare simultaneously for drought and flood, and to meet new water use efficiency targets.



Advancing low impact development and green infrastructure stormwater management to build flood resilience and augment water supply.



Ensuring land use planning and development support water use efficiency and sustainable water management.

LGC is supporting these goals through a number of programs including: a Disadvantaged Communities Involvement project, a Great Urban Parks grant, a Community Foundation Water Initiative, regional SGMA implementation support and CivicSpark Fellow water management projects.

# WATER

## DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM:

LGC is working with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) to identify water management strengths and to help meet the needs of overburdened and underrepresented communities in the watershed. This has been especially important during shelter-in-place; when elected officials and community members have all had to engage in new and virtual ways.

LGC delivered the final two rounds of the Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Program ([lgc.org/sawpa](http://lgc.org/sawpa)), an intensive 3-part workshop series to equip local policymakers in the Santa Ana River region with practical strategies and accessible tools to implement innovative solutions to their community's water challenges. Building September's round of trainings, where attendees learned about the history of local water management, policymakers gathered in January to assess how integrated into the face of the region's drought, fire, flood cycle can improve their community resilience.

# Santa Ana River Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers



LGC transitioned the final round of workshops in May from in-person to a virtual format in response to COVID, which proved to be particularly useful in elevating virtual engagement tools to reach community members that are underserved by traditional outreach methods. The workshop series was well attended; in total, 126 local leaders have been certified through the Watershed Ambassador program.

## GREAT URBAN PARKS:

Through the National Recreation and Park Association's "Great Urban Parks Campaign," LGC is partnering with 3 local governments to design stormwater features in local parks. These projects engage the community and manage water from storm events.

In May 2020, the team broke ground on the City of Morro Bay's new stormwater pocket park, which will provide accessibility and respite for the senior population of Morro Bay. LGC also hosted a virtual engagement event in partnership with the Cosumnes Community Services District in order to present the current iteration of its stormwater nature park design.

By utilizing postcard outreach, a survey and accompanying raffle, along with the virtual event, we were able to expand our engagement beyond a traditional meeting. LGC is also working in the City of Woodland to design a stormwater feature in their community.





## WE WANT YOUR OPINION!

Tell us what you want to see in the Elk Grove Nature Park and check out the concept design at [YourCSD.com/NaturePark](http://YourCSD.com/NaturePark)

CONCEPT PLAN



Located directly behind the Cosumnes Community Services District at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd

**VIRTUAL EVENT**  
**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 28**

To learn more about this event go to:  
[YourCSD.com/NaturePark](http://YourCSD.com/NaturePark)

Take the SURVEY to enter a RAFFLE DRAWING!

#ElkGroveNaturePark

This site near you is receiving grant funding through the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Great Urban Parks Campaign. Utilizing green infrastructure approaches, this future park will manage stormwater runoff, provide wildlife habitat, promote environmental awareness and much more. Learn about [green infrastructure](#) and [this nature park design](#) at [YourCSD.com/NaturePark](http://YourCSD.com/NaturePark).

A JOINT VENTURE BY:



### SOLANO GSA COLLABORATIVE:

LGC is supporting disadvantaged and underrepresented community engagement in the Solano Subbasin to ensure the needs of vulnerable groundwater users are reflected in the Subbasin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). LGC has been working closely with the Solano Collaborative's public engagement team to ensure that historically underserved communities, including domestic well users and small farmers, are included in every step.

The spread of COVID impacted all aspects of Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, as the public agencies leading the plan dealt with the immediate pandemic response, and the in-person public input sessions scheduled for June 2020 were put on hold. The project team focused on virtual tools and resources to prepare for the next round of engagement, and LGC helped to develop a beneficial user database to track public input from various stakeholder groups, as well as a groundwater user characterization survey that includes questions on drinking water-related concerns. LGC also reviewed and provided comments on the draft first chapter of the GSP and offered guidance on how the project team should approach the GSP review cycle to ensure community input is embedded throughout the planning process.

LGC supported the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee development, helping to create outreach materials and directly engage local and regional leaders from marginalized communities to see if they would be willing to serve on the Committee.

The town hall public input sessions are transitioning to a virtual format and have been rescheduled for July and August 2020. LGC intends to support planning for these larger events, as well as conducting smaller targeted virtual sessions later this year with specific groundwater users (e.g. domestic well owners and users; small community water systems; local small farmers).







### **GROUNDWATER COLLABORATIVE:**

LGC continues to co-facilitate the Groundwater Collaborative, an ad-hoc network of community groups and policy advocates working on successful implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In April, LGC facilitated a two-day Groundwater Collaborative Convening, bringing together state agencies, community advocates, academics, and technical experts to discuss findings from the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) review, and strategize how to better collaborate in addressing the needs of both ecosystems and communities lacking access to safe drinking water. Due to the shelter-in-place mandate, the convening quickly transitioned to a virtual format which provided a successful example in the early stages of the pandemic on how to shift from in-person events to online events, recognizing the different needs and expectations for each.

Following the Groundwater Collaborative Convening, LGC and Clean Water Action identified a number of topics that Collaborative members would benefit from further education on, and are planning a series of webinars later this year to address these priority areas.



### **GROUNDWATER LEADERSHIP FORUM:**

This year, LGC was invited to join an elite group of thought-leaders working on California groundwater issues. The Groundwater Leadership Forum, organized by the Water Foundation, has two goals: to advance state policy that will ensure the effective implementation of SGMA; and to develop tools and resources for stakeholders to evaluate and comment on Groundwater Sustainability Plans as they are developed. LGC contributed to a groundwater priorities letter submitted to Governor Newsom's office, which is reflected in the Governor's Executive Order N-10-19, and developed direct guidance on the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio with regard to groundwater.

LGC also helped develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) review templates to help streamline the evaluation and public comment on GSPs. These templates were shared with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and stakeholders across the state to assist in reviewing the 200+ GSPs to be released over the next two years.

LGC assisted in reviewing GSPs, and signed on to comment letters, for 15 high-priority critically-overdrafted groundwater basins. LGC participated in two meetings with high-ranking agency staff, to share our reflections from the GSP review process, and urge both the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to uphold the intent of SGMA in reviewing GSPs for adequacy.





## **BORREGO SPRINGS - INTEGRATED PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

LGC is helping the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs pursue integrated watershed master planning. Following an integrated planning workshop we co-hosted in April, LGC launched a work-group of more than twenty community stakeholders, meeting monthly, to scope the integrated plan. The goal of the plan is to align the Community Plan, Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and Geotourism Charter, and to identify economic development opportunities to sustain the community into the future. LGC also identified and shared potential funding opportunities to begin development of the integrated plan.



## **NATIONAL SERVICE**

### **CIVICSPARK:**

CivicSpark has 45 Fellows “teleserving” on watershed and wildland projects by facilitating critical wildfire recovery and response efforts, elevating equity and environmental justice in groundwater plans, and connecting rural and tribal stakeholders to vital land-use planning efforts. CivicSpark’s wetlands/wildlands projects are engaging 45 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects fellows continue to support .





### **Some recent updates from current projects include:**

- Carissa Bradley serving at the Sierra Business Council has recently finished the final versions of three wildfire preparedness and evacuation guides for the City of Portol. Due to COVID, Carissa is having to shift from public engagement around these guides to social and traditional media engagement.
- Ayalet Zamek working with the San Luis Obispo County Public Works department has compiled resources on best practices for virtual engagement for the County's Housing Action Team while also finalizing a regional chapter for the Housing Element update.
- Frank Lyles and Tatiana Garcia have been working to finalize Mt. Shasta's Stormwater Master Plan. On April 30, they helped to host a successful virtual public engagement event to present their project proposals.
- Bailey Lai helped the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority to pivot a planned Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Involvement Summit to a two-day webinar while also working to develop virtual support options for the Community Water Interns during the shelter in place.
- Nicole Chang is supporting the Association of Bay Area Governments as part of the Community Foundation for Water Initiative. In recent months, she has shifted her work towards research into pandemic coordination opportunities and land-use and water decision making with a focus on how to coordinate public engagement so that land-use and water decisions are holistic and reflect the needs of all individuals.
- Shannon Casey working with RecycleMore in Contra Costa County is researching and tracking COVID-related changes to the waste industry as well as upcoming waste law benchmarks.



## **EVENTS**

### **REGIONAL POLICYMAKER DINNER FORUMS - Sacramento, CA:**

LGC is in its 17th year of organizing educational dinner forums for elected officials, city managers and county administrative officials from the six-county capital region. The dinner forums provide the opportunity for local leaders to network with their peers, share ideas, learn and discuss regional issues. No Policy Makers Dinners have been held in 2020 due to COVID-19.



### **4TH CALIFORNIA ADAPTATION FORUM (CAF):**

Due to COVID, the LGC decided to postpone the California Adaptation Forum.

# CLIMATE

## ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL COLLABORATIVES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION (ARCCA):



ARCCA's priority theme for 2020 is Assessment to Adaptation to support communities to transition from understanding climate risks, impacts and vulnerabilities to developing and implementing equitable adaptation measures. ARCCA organized a successful virtual member meeting to discuss COVID impacts on climate resilience policies, investments, and initiatives, as well as effective community engagement and involvement in building resilience. ARCCA also organized a webinar with State leaders to discuss community resilience in the context of climate change. ARCCA launched its 2020 adaptation legislative tracker and a new Adaptation Policy Working Group to provide members with opportunities to share legislative updates and coordinate policy engagement efforts. ARCCA also submitted 3 comments letters in response to the Water Resilience Portfolio and the Adaptation Planning Guide 2.0 drafts. ARCCA is now embarking on an initiative to institutionalize equity principles and practices into its governance procedures, strategic plans, and programmatic priorities.

## CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE (CRC):

In 2020, CRC welcomed two new members - the City of Woodland and Placer County, bringing CRC's membership to 42 public agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and academic institutions. With heat as a key climate impact facing the Capital Region, CRC organized a 3-part webinar series to highlight findings from a new urban heat island model and to discuss heat mitigation strategies for the built environment and transportation sector. CRC also organized a successful member meeting that featured the intersection of climate change and COVID including impacts to public and private sector climate action and State adaptation priorities. CRC is now working to build relationships with environmental justice organizations to identify and implement actions that further integrate equity into its work.



**CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE**

A Coalition of the Local Government Commission

### Meet our speakers



**Yoon Kim**  
Global Director of Client Services

Four Twenty Seven



**Michael McCormick**  
Senior Vice President, Strategic Advisory Services

Harris & Associates



**Kate Gordon**  
Director

Governor's Office of Planning and Research



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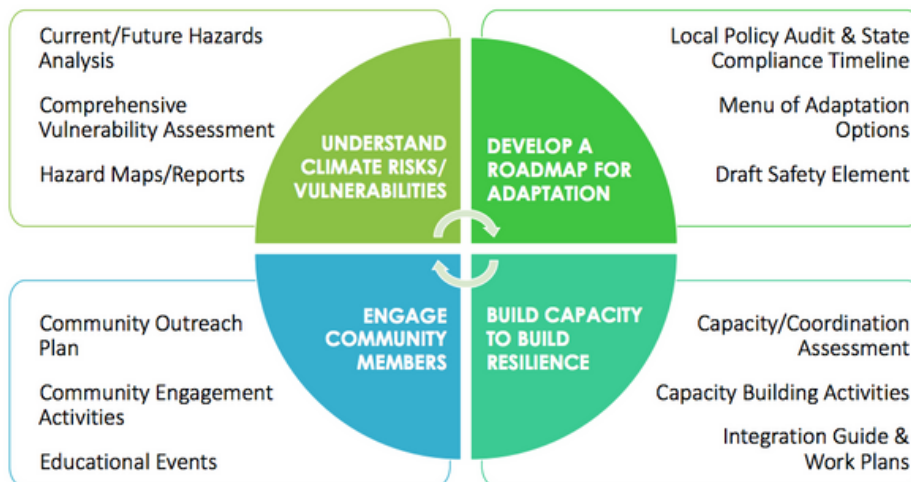
# Resilient SLO Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020

## RESILIENT SAN LUIS OBISPO (RESILIENT SLO)

In 2020, LGC launched Resilient SLO in partnership with the City of San Luis Obispo. This project aims to draft an update to the City’s Safety Element to include climate risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies, and to build local capacity to implement adaptation initiatives. As the lead project manager, LGC worked with the City to conduct an RFP, review proposals, and select a technical consultant to conduct a vulnerability assessment and draft the Safety Element. LGC began conducting a local policy audit to understand the extent to which existing City plans and policies include adaptation measures and is now working to develop a robust community engagement plan.

## Key Deliverables



# CLIMATE SMART AFFORDABLE HOUSING



## LGC's housing goals include:



Aligning land use planning, housing development and infrastructure decisions to minimize housing related climate risks (including fire, drought and flood)



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy use and water use



Reducing barriers for transit-oriented and infill development, especially for affordable housing

LGC is supporting these goals through events, our funding platform ([FundingResource.org](https://www.fundingresource.org)), CivicSpark housing projects and an inclusionary housing initiative.

# COMMUNITY DESIGN

With a grant from the Resources Legacy Fund, LGC funded research by the Western Center for Law and Poverty on inclusionary housing policy and best practices, and disseminated the information through a fact sheet, web page, webinars and sessions at the Yosemite Policymaker's Conference in March and the California Housing Conference in April. The Resources Legacy Fund provided additional support in July to add affordable housing to our funding navigation and technical assistance program ([fundingresource.org](http://fundingresource.org)).



**Funding Navigation**  
for California Communities



**WESTERN CENTER**  
ON LAW & POVERTY



# NATIONAL SERVICE

## CAPITAL REGION CLIMATE READINESS COLLABORATIVE (CRC):

CivicSpark has 12 Fellows “teleserving” on housing projects— partnering with state agencies to increase access to funding and technical assistance, integrating equity into housing plans, researching innovative housing models, and compiling strategies to integrate housing and transit planning. CivicSpark’s climate-smart housing projects are engaging 11 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects fellows continue to support .

### **Some recent updates from current projects include:**

- In order to support remote education and outreach in Walnut Creek, Sam Bowman is designing and finalizing a series of topical community posters including "Affordable Housing Fact Sheet"; "Affordable Housing Myth vs. Fact"; "Displacement and Longer Commutes,"; "Supply and Affordability Crisis," and "What is Affordable Housing?"
- Gabriela Elliott with the Sierra Community College District recently completed a white paper on housing design elements that are related to a sense of community. The white paper examines existing research, surveys of students' desires, and successful programs at other colleges.
- Carson Barwinkel has been helping Ventura County complete an extensive feasibility analysis of over 400 sites throughout the County to determine their suitability for affordable housing development. That process has led to an inventory of "Green Lit" sites that the housing team deemed most appropriate for low-income housing. Many of the sites included in this list could eventually be designated in the Housing Element. Additionally, Carson is working on an Accessory Dwelling Unit survey that will allow the County to get more data on the price levels these units are being rented at.
- Rebecca Pope has been compiling resources for an annual report on Placer County's Housing Strategy and Development Plan. As part of this effort, she has been analyzing the Public Housing Trust fund and assisting the County in the development of a community survey to assess how the community's housing needs may have changed due to COVID.
- Colin Cross, under guidance from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, has been working with 27 cities in the Gateway Cities COG region to identify their housing needs, goals, mandates and how those could align with HCD's Local Early Action Planning grant program as eligible projects. Through virtual technical assistance, Colin has been helping them assess options including ADU policies, transit friendly zoning, and overlay options. To date, four of the Cities have submitted proposals, and another 22 are intending to.



## EVENTS

### 29TH ANNUAL YOSEMITE POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

#### **The Great Pivot: California at the Crossroads** March 5 - 8, 2020, Yosemite Valley, CA

The 2020 Yosemite Policymakers Conference had a wide variety of speakers presenting on some of California's most pressing challenges (prior to the COVID related shelter-in place mandates) including local energy, transportation, grid resilience and reliability, affordable housing and homelessness, the evolution of energy, and funding mobility solutions. The event was attended by over 100 policymakers from across the state.



## WATER

### EQUITABLE INTEGRATION OF WATER AND LAND USE:

As part of the work with the Community Foundation Water Initiative, LGC is facilitating a cohort of NGOs including ClimatePlan, Youth United for Community Action, Fresnoland, Nature for All, and the Anza-Borrego Foundation to implement the strategies and recommendations identified in the 2019 "Bringing Water and Land Use Together" report. Each NGO has developed their own regional action plans for integrating water and land use within their purview. LGC, the NGOs and three CivicSpark fellows will be hosting a virtual policy briefing titled, "Ensuring Equitable Public Engagement through Coordinated Planning" on July 9, 2020. This event will bring together members of the legislature, state agency staff, local governments, and nonprofits to discuss the role that public engagement plays in decision-making for water and land-use management.

### GROWING WATER SMART:

LGC partnered with The Sonoran Institute to adapt the highly successful "Growing Water Smart" curriculum for a California audience, acknowledging the nuance and complexity of water resource management within this state. Originally developed by Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy for application in Colorado, the program introduces policymakers and public agency staff to a range of communications, public engagement, planning, and policy implementation tools to achieve their watershed health and community resilience goals. The Colorado curriculum has now been adapted for the Arizona and California policy context. LGC facilitated a municipal team at the Arizona Growing Water Smart workshop in Phoenix, guiding the group to create an action plan to update their community's water efficiency landscape ordinance and improve conservation coordination with neighboring cities. The draft California Growing Water Smart workbook was officially released in June 2020.





# BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## *Leaders who have dedicated years to serve California's communities...*



**Mayor Blakespear,  
City of Encinitas**

On June 18th, Catherine Blakespear, Mayor of the City of Encinitas, was nominated by San Diego Housing Federation for the Ruby Award in the "outstanding elected official" category. The annual Ruby Awards recognize excellence in affordable housing and community development, and is the country's largest affordable housing industry recognition event honoring the best people, projects, and achievements during the past year.

"I'm honored to be nominated by the San Diego Housing Federation in the 'outstanding elected official' category. What a surprisingly nice acknowledgment of our city's efforts to bring more affordable housing to our community," Mayor Blakespear remarked. Despite living in a traditionally new-housing-averse community, Blakespear has been a courageous leader for both housing and transportation in her role as Mayor and as a Board Member for the regional planning agency San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

# ***THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS!***

We are so grateful to you, our board, members, funders, and allies, for your support. We are privileged to be part of such a dynamic and passionate group of change-makers. In 2020, we look forward to continuing to fulfill the great work of advancing community livability with you all.

