



Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative Equity in Community Work Group Meeting (EiCWG)




County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability



May 8, 2025

**Wifi:
TBD**



Equity in Community Work Group Agenda

Time	Topic
15 min	CRC Welcome, Introductions and Icebreaker Question
15 min	CBO Spotlight - New Hope for Youth
80 min	Activity: Review EiCWG Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vision of EICWG- Overview of Action Plan items- Action Plan Concepts (10 min feedback discussions)
10 min	Resilience Fund Progress Update, Coastal Quest
20 min	NFWF Flood Vulnerability Workshop Series, CRC & CARAS
10 min	Gratitude, Closing, Next Steps

EiCWG Expectations for CBOs

CBO definition for this space: If you work directly with community members in Santa Clara County for majority of your work week

Step up, step back and make space for CBO partners to connect

EiCWG Group Norms

1. We treat each other with dignity and respect
2. We trust each other and maintain confidentiality
3. We assume positive intent throughout our interactions
4. We will honor our commitments to each other, the Collaborative and the communities we serve
5. We provide positive, constructive feedback to each other and the Collaborative as a whole
6. Others?
7. CBO vs non-CBO participation - step up, step back
8. Embrace the space to speak with emotion
9. Find joy!



Introductions and Icebreaker



Icebreaker

How are you feeling coming into this space today?

Any first time CBOs, please introduce yourself as well!

CBO Spotlight: Phillip Rodriguez & Nancy Vasquez, New Hope for Youth



BIG NEWS! EiCWG Action Plan



EiCWG Objectives

Create a space for nonprofits, CBOs and other cross-jurisdictional partners to connect

Share best practices, successes and challenges in equitable approaches

Adopt the inaugural EiCWG Action Plan by July 1, 2025

SCC Climate Collaborative: Equity in Community Working Group (EiCWG)

EiCWG Action Plan Components for today's review/feedback:

- Meeting logistics and Expectations
- Mission and Cornerstones
- Vision & Goal Statements
- MOU and Compensation Criteria
- Core Strategies for 2025



Thank you to NFWF for funding this work and providing an opportunity to institutionalize what the EiCWG is built to do within SC4

Reflection: EiCWG Community Needs Assessment

Goal: Your feedback is well represented in the Action Plan for EiCWG and continues to add depth and annual priorities of the work group



Components of EiCWG Action Plan: Discussion and Review



Meeting Logistics and Expectations

- **Quarterly meetings (x4 per year)**
 - Always in person, a meal is always provided
 - CBOs are prioritized for feedback and insight, all SC4 members are welcome to join
 - Eligible CBOs are compensated for their time
 - Meeting topics vary per relevance in community
- **Bi-annual Trainings (x2 per year)**
 - Informed by EiCWG expressed needs
 - Upcoming in 2025: Climate Bond grant writing and equitable community engagement budgeting



Mission and Cornerstones

Our Mission: Coordinate with communities and organizations across SCC to accelerate the equitable implementation of strategies and projects that advance solutions to climate change's disproportionate impact on frontline and vulnerable communities

Cornerstones to achieve our mission include:

Advise Collaborative Initiatives with Equity lens

Facilitate Working Partnership between CBOs and Government jurisdictions

Create a network and support system for CBOs interested in climate work

Provide and connect technical assistance in climate/EJ work



Vision & Goal Statements

*Vision: “We envision an **equitable climate future** where Santa Clara County’s **communities most impacted by environmental injustice** lead collaborative solutions.”*

*Goal: “Through intentional **partnership-building**, knowledge-sharing and **community empowerment**, we strive to embed equity in every climate initiative while fostering a **resilient network of community-based organizations and government partners** united in advancing environmental justice.”*



MOU and Compensation Criteria

Logistics:

- MOU must be signed prior to receiving payment
- Invoice template will be shared with all CBOs in MOU agreement and must be returned before CRC can process payments.

Criteria include:

- 501(c)3 Nonprofit Status
- Physical Presence in Target Community - office is in the community served in SCC
- Community Representation - directly serves, represents and has the trust of community
- Leadership and Engagement - currently in a key role to empower community



Core Strategies for 2025:

Informed by member needs assessment, cornerstones of EiCWG, emergent priorities and expressed interests of CBOs. Strategies include:

- 1. Resilience-minded Funding**
- 2. Long-term Community Partnerships**
- 3. EiCWG Network Expansion**

Note: Strategies are meant to be updated annually and informed by the emergent priorities of this work group.



Core Strategy 1: Resilience-minded Funding

Funding Stream	Internal or External	<u>EiCWG</u> Role	FY'25-'26 Target
<u>EiCWG</u> Stipends	Internal	CRC and County lead ongoing annual renewal of funding	\$50,000 (including food and venue rental for <u>EiCWG</u> meetings)
SC4 Resilience Fund	Internal	CBO advisement, flanked support in planning for equitable implementation for CBO subawards	2 paid CBOs involved in Resilience Fund Advisory Committee,
Public and Private Grant Writing Trainings	External	SCC Sustainability & Resilience Dept and CRC lead trainings and facilitate initial support for grant applications	At least 2 trainings



Core Strategy 2: Long-term Community Partnerships

FY'25-'26 Target	Internal (within SC4) or External	<u>EiCWG</u> Role
Add all active CBOs within <u>EiCWG</u> to SC4 Stakeholder Map	Internal	County of Santa Clara and CRC co-lead adding CBOs, CBOs learn how to add themselves and others in Augst <u>EiCWG</u> meeting
Key player site visits across Santa Clara County	Internal	County of Santa Clara and CRC co-facilitate the engagement of key players including Valley Water, SFEI, <u>etc</u> that would benefit from meeting CBOs SC4 believes <u>should</u> collaborative to make the data real, relevant and relatable to their communities
CBO 1:1 Mentorship and Training	Internal, resulting in external partnerships	County of Santa Clara and CRC co-design mentorship sessions and prioritize information sharing around similar interest groups and programmatic initiatives **Recommended prioritization AFTER updating SC4 Stakeholder Map



Core Strategy 3: EiCWG Network Expansion

FY'25-'26 Target	Internal (within SC4) or External	<u>EiCWG</u> Role	Type of Community Partnership
Bring a CBO from your personal network to join an <u>EiCWG</u> meeting or SC4 annual meeting	Internal	<u>EiCWG</u> Members	CBOs-CBOs
Create a robust compensation distribution system that defines sustainable membership growth parameters for future expansion	Internal	County of Santa Clara and CRC	Governance-CBOs
Streamlined Outreach and Orientation Process	Internal	County of Santa Clara and CRC	Governance-CBOs
Find and engage CBOs in topic areas that are not represented in the room including housing systems, food systems and supports for the unhoused	Internal	County of Santa Clara and CRC and <u>EiCWG</u> Members?	Governance-CBOs



What's Ahead for EiCWG in 2025?

- Grant writing trainings
- Field trips to org sites and project areas
- Identifying funding for tangible projects and partnerships
- What else?



Wellness Break





Resilience Fund Update



Phase 1 Resilience Fund: Planning Timeline



Collaboration with the EiCWG

- **Project Team to reach out to CBOs** for interviews on the Resilience Fund to generate feedback on potential governance & operational structures, as well as revenue streams.
- **Workshop** to be scheduled late summer/early fall to offer input on DRAFT Plan.



Next Steps

- Resilience Fund Interviews June/July
- Workshop to Comment on Resilience Fund Draft Plan – late summer/early fall

Resilience Fund Discussion and Q&A

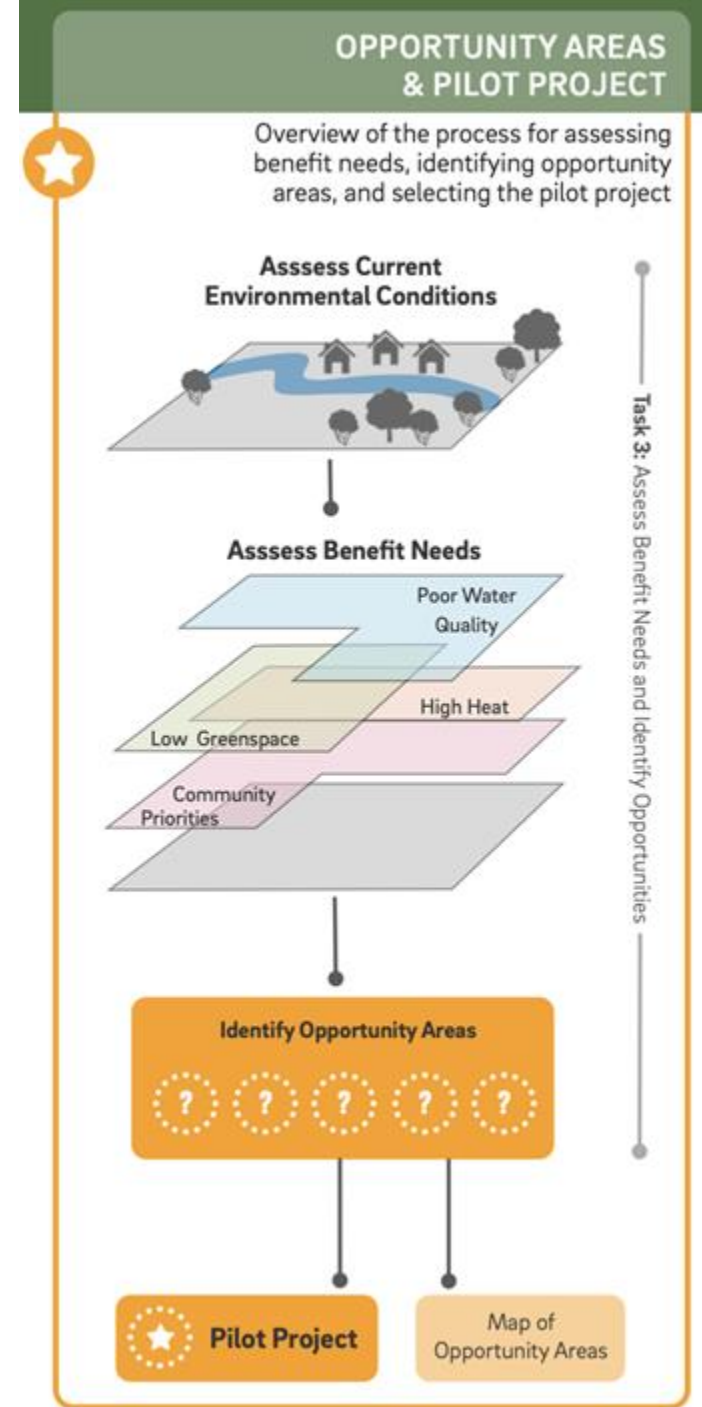


Gilroy Pilot for Social Vulnerability and Exposure to Climate Hazards



Project Overview: Phase II

- Map connectivity of bay, streams, and greenspaces
- Develop framework to identify high value Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to address flooding and climate resilience
- Identify two Socially Vulnerable Communities to pilot framework
- Work with pilot communities to develop implementation plan and strategies
- Update the Climate Resilience Webtool





Project Objectives

- Reconnect Santa Clara County Watersheds
 - Improving habitat, water quality, biodiversity
 - Creating an actionable framework for jurisdictions
 - Empowering local communities
- Increase Resilience
 - Reducing flood risk
 - Reducing extreme heat risk
 - Improving community livability

Bringing Data to Frontline Communities





Key Learnings & Challenges

- CBO-to-CBO partnerships are essential to flanked support in communities
 - Meeting in person and in multiple parts adds to robust community feedback
 - Storytelling models yield robust community engagement and feedback for lived experience
 - Visuals are essential to address language and literacy barriers
- Community engagement without clear next steps is challenging
 - Thinking critically about the goals of each workshop allowed for flexibility and ultimate success in each meeting
 - Stakeholder relationship building deserves its own time and flexibility

Next Steps

Continued partnership with CARAS & CRC to pitch next steps for engagement

New vulnerabilities tool for Santa Clara County to be updated on SC4 website by Blue Point Planning and SCC OOSR

Continued advocacy for climate adaptation projects on the ground and co-designed in Gilroy



Gratitude for EiCWG Members



Next Steps and Conclusion



Member Announcements



Upcoming EiCWG Meetings in 2025

EiCWG Meeting Schedule:

- Always in person, lunch provided at 12pm
 - Locations TBD but will be firmed up well in advance and shared via email
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- August 14, 2025, 1-3:30pm
 - December 11, 2025, 1-3:30pm

EiCWG Exit Ticket

Please complete the EiCWG February 2025 Exit Ticket before leaving today.

Closing, Next Steps

- **FOLLOW UP:** Kamille Lang will send you an email with key takeaways and the draft EiCWG Action Plan for review in May
- **INVITE:** We are looking for more CBOs like yours to join the EiCWG and the SCC Climate Collaborative. Please recommend!
- **MORE:** Network expansion, trainings, field trip to potential partner sites and Resilience Fund this summer, oh my!





Equity in Community Work Group (EiCWG) February 2025 Meeting

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