

Collaborative Resourcing Team Proposal

The Problem

Climate change is destabilizing the core resilience of our communities. As the repercussions of the climate crisis become clearer to residents and community leaders, new collaboratives are forming to address cross-cutting issues with a united front. In Santa Barbara County alone multiple efforts are underway to enable resilience building including the **Regional Priority Planning for Wildfire Resilience (RPP)**, the countywide **Santa Barbara Regional Climate Collaborative (SBRCC)**, the three-county **Central Coast Climate Collaborative (4C)**, the **Climate Resilience Roundtables**, and the **Central Coast Climate Justice Network (CCCJN)**.

All of these collaborative efforts and networks are identifying projects and initiatives we can advance to build resilience. These resilience projects span disciplines and sectors, and require diverse funding streams for management and implementation. They all necessitate pre-funding planning, partnership development and fundraising efforts. State and federal programs are ramping up to fund such initiatives, and requests for proposals are expected in a steady stream. However, we lack the needed capacity in the community to take the key next steps, leaving most projects moored in the concept stage. How will we as a community mobilize to forge the needed partnerships, plan projects, secure state and federal grants, and implement a growing portfolio of resilience initiatives?

The Solution

To meet those needs, **we propose creating a Collaborative Resource Team (CRT) that will catalyze project implementation and maintain three critical open source databases** to enable the resourcing and implementation of collaborative resilience initiatives. An array of partners including LegacyWorks Group (LWG), Santa Barbara Fire Safe Council, Cachuma Resource Conservation District, the Community Environmental Council (CEC) and the Coastal Conservancy are prioritizing this work and discussing how to advance it. If funded, the CRT will provide the framework and fuel for our diverse organizations to continue to engage and our process will be highly collaborative. By working together to implement projects diverse organizations will be able to better leverage resources and achieve synergy, resulting in improved prioritization, project staging, increased efficiency and greater impact.

LegacyWorks Group is prepared to facilitate the formation of the CRT and the partners envision a steering committee and working committees composed of key partner representatives and participants drawn from the RPP, SBRCC, CCCJN and 4C collaboratives. The committees will guide the CRT as it catalyzes partnerships to advance initiatives and stewards these shared resources. The CRT itself will not implement projects, rather, it will play the key missing roles in the system to ensure projects are implemented successfully. Also, because compiling and sharing information is vital to advance this work, the CRT will create and maintain three core

datasets (described below): a project opportunity matrix, a funding database and an interactive partner directory.

Project Opportunity Matrix

Building on the Opportunity Matrices that LWG and CEC created for the RRT and the newly launched www.sbcwildfireresilience.org website, the CRT will maintain open source databases of opportunities spanning a range of impact initiatives including programmatic, policy, education, infrastructure, capacity building, and leadership development. These databases will be kept up to date by engaging community leaders on a regular basis through a variety of public planning processes and events like the Climate Resilience Roundtable Series and planning processes like the RPP, and through the use of tools like [this interactive board](#) LegacyWorks created for CEC's final resilience roundtable.

Interactive Partner Directory

Building on the [beta version of the interactive partner directory and stakeholder mapping tool](#) built by the RPP team, the CRT plans to maintain an expanding network map and dataset of the key players in regional resilience and climate action. This interactive database will be publicly available and actively used by the CRT in its efforts to incubate and resource collaborations, continuously improving, updating and curating data in the system.

Funding Database

The grant opportunity database will be a rapidly evolving dataset of funding opportunities that the CRT and the grants committee will maintain as new grant opportunities arise. The CRT and its supporting committees will identify funding opportunities and match them with priority projects as rapidly as possible, allowing for the formation of collaborative teams to pursue as many funding opportunities as possible. Partners are exploring off the shelf software and custom built options for this grant tracking database.

Critical CRT Roles

With these three key elements in place, the CRT team will ensure that organizations, agencies and funders come together to partner on projects and raise resources to move them forward. Doing so will require the CRT to play a variety of roles in addition to maintaining the databases above:

- Facilitating the formation of project partnerships
- Matching funding opportunities to priority projects that meet their criteria
- Engaging funders to vet potential proposals and improve proposal success rates
- Drafting, iterating and submitting grant proposals with project partners
- Where needed, providing fiscal sponsorship, grant management and reporting support

- Continuing stakeholder engagement to identify and add new resilience projects, partners and funding sources to the databases
- Monitoring project metrics and communicating successes

While an array of partners often step up to play these roles for their own initiatives and for partnerships, there is a serious lack of capacity in each of these arenas. As a community we often miss opportunities to secure funding and advance projects as a result. The CRT will play these key roles in addition to maintaining the three core datasets that will empower its work and resilience initiatives more broadly.

Capacity Building

Building resilience in the face of complex challenges will require expanding our workforce and developing new capabilities to collaborate at unprecedented scales. The CRT can be designed as a capacity engine to build community resilience.

LegacyWorks Group

LegacyWorks Group (LWG) has taken a lead role envisioning and facilitating the formation of the CRT to address the gaps in our local social system that prevent us from advancing the priority projects needed to build resilience. LWG has extensive experience facilitating complex collaborations, designing and implementing innovative solutions to complex challenges, and building and stewarding shared community assets (see the [Santa Barbara Community Data Dashboard](#) by way of example). LegacyWorks Group is prepared to facilitate a collaborative process to design and refine how the CRT works, serve as the homebase for the CRT, serve as fiscal sponsor for collaborative grants (though most grants would likely flow to other partners), and play any other roles needed to ensure its success.

NOT PART OF THE PROPOSAL TO POST

Potential Funding Sources for this Effort

- [CalOES/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding](#) - could we potentially approach this in a way that frames this as critical regional hazard mitigation infrastructure (admittedly soft infrastructure)? The software/data systems and human capacity to manage those systems so the community can continuously and rapidly identify priority resilience/hazard mitigation projects, build PPP/collaborations to pursue them, get them funding ready, match them with funding and implement them, assess their impact, track their metrics, adaptively learn and repeat on an ongoing basis... We might need a catchy name for the system that sounds just right for FEMA and Cal OES... Community Resilience and Hazard Mitigation Infrastructure - CRHMI ...

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