

CAF Track 3: Catalyzing Meaningful Adaptation Action

Workshop #3: Real-World Adaptation Project Challenges & Field Opportunities

Thursday, September 30th • 1:00 - 3:00 PM

[Main Session Recording](#)

Description

While the first two workshops focused on broader challenges and solutions, key concepts, and scenario-based exercises, this third and final workshop will dive into real-world adaptation projects and concrete opportunities to support implementation. Participants will hear brief presentations on adaptation projects to then engage in a “project troubleshooting lab,” which aims to crowdsource ideas for strategies and solutions to overcome each project’s specific implementation challenges. Participants will then engage in small and large group discussions to explore game changers that have catalyzed adaptation efforts for their agencies and organizations, upcoming opportunities that can be leveraged to accelerate project implementation, and ideas to foster ongoing dialogue.

Track Facilitators

- **Ignacio Dayrit** | Director of Programs, Center for Creative Land Recycling
 - **Ben Gettleman** | Senior Facilitator and Vice President, Kearns & West
 - **Melodie Grubbs** | Science, Research, and Policy Specialist, USC Sea Grant Program
 - **Julia Kim** | Climate & Energy Program Director, Local Government Commission
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Welcome

Code of Conduct and Group Norms

CAF Code of Conduct & Track 3 Group Norms

- Find the CAF Code of Conduct and Group Norms for Track 3 [here](#).

Project Troubleshooting Lab Presentations

Presentation slides [here](#)

San Gabriel Valley Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffer Zones | Ronnie Swire Siegel, SoCal ASLA Climate Action Chair

- Wind driven fires in the San Gabriel Valley pose a massive potential risk to the communities in that area.
- Many of the high risk areas of the San Gabriel Valley border the Angeles National Forest as well as other wilderness areas.
- In order to reduce the risk of these oftentimes human-caused wildfires a Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffer Zone could be implemented between the residential areas and the neighboring chaparral.
 - This barrier would be up to 50 miles long and the width of this barrier would need to be determined in intervals by fire scientists after careful study.
- Some communities have already taken great measures to ensure wildfire risk reduction.
- Gains made from Wildfire Risk Reduction Zones
 - Reduce community's fire risk and avert loss of life and property
 - Increase access to recreational amenities such as ball fields and golf courses which can themselves act as a Wildfire Risk Reduction Zone
 - Increased agricultural land, terraced vineyards, and community gardens to increase food security
- Project Status
 - Currently forming Fire Safe Councils and Fire Safe Alliances
 - Developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans
 - Developing outreach programs to educate communities about firewise practices to make homes and landscapes more resistant to wildfires
 - A primary current goal is to discourage building new homes in high fire risk areas.
- Challenges
 - Funding is a massive barrier for this project and other Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffer Zone projects like it.
 - It is difficult to form the necessary private/ public partnerships to develop and maintain these buffer zones.
 - Building homes in high fire risk areas is an easy way to satisfy mandates to provide more housing.

Flooding in Delta Agricultural Lands from SLR and Subsidence | Jennifer Morales, Department of Water Resources

- The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta was dewatered in the 1800s in order to make more land for agriculture. The Delta is now a rich agricultural area with farms and supporting sectors

generating over 23,000 Californian jobs and \$4.6 billion in output (2016), however its unique value is as a source of freshwater for the State.

- Drainage, wind, and agricultural practices cause ongoing subsidence below sea level (between 9-26 ft.) and releases carbon dioxide. Ongoing subsidence seismic movement, and sea level rise from climate change reduce levee stability and threaten to compromise water quality and system function.
- The Delta Problem
 - The Delta crosses into multiple jurisdictions with multiple players and their varying objectives.
 - There are numerous environmental issues that come with the Delta including endangered flora and fauna and invasive species
 - The water quality of the Delta is degrading and the supply is fluctuating from one year to the next.
 - The Delta supplies water for 23 million residents.

[RYSE Center Community Resilience Hub | Shina Robinson, Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)

- Resilience Hubs are different from locations such as cooling centers or evacuation centers (all of which are necessary) because resilience hubs intend to address these systemic issues in a more holistic approach.
- The RYSE Center is currently transforming its existing facilities into a Ryse “commons campus” that is being co-designed by the youth that it serves.
- The RYSE Center has hopes of opening a new community resilience hub as early as Spring of next year. This center began exclusively as a site for Solar or Solar and Storage and since then the plans have expanded into the full-service center that is now being built.
- APEN is currently developing and administering surveys to the families in the greater Richmond area in order to develop a more comprehensive image of what the communities' needs and wants actually are.
 - This has involved a lot of community education on what potential services could be provided by a resilience hub.

Breakout Discussions

[Project Troubleshooting Lab Breakout Discussion Takeaways](#)

- Notes captured in Jamboard [here](#).
- **Group 1: San Gabriel Valley Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffer Zones**
 - A planning grant would likely be the best first step in the development of this project.
 - While the coordination efforts between public and private will likely be quite difficult for this project the potential benefits of this coordination are massive.

- This project can benefit the community as it will likely provide them with more recreational areas and opportunities to increase food security.
- **Group 2: Flooding in Delta Agricultural Lands from SLR and Subsidence**
 - The goal of this project is to align the allocation of resources around the Delta.
 - Should there be a regional entity to govern adaptation?
 - We want to focus on outcomes and benefits and a political icon.
 - It might genuinely be a feasible strategy to enlist the support of some high-profile celebrities
- **Group 3: RYSE Center Community Resilience Hub**
 - What is the relationship between APEN (an NGO) and the city?
 - Does the City of Richmond or the County have any sort of climate action plan? Could these resilience hubs play a part in these plans?
 - This massive budget surplus is a huge opportunity for investment in resilience hubs and RYSE has recently been doing some of that advocacy work.

Game Changers & Upcoming Opportunities

- Notes captured in Jamboard [here](#).

Large Group Discussion

Are there any timely opportunities for statewide collaboration to catalyze meaningful adaptation action?

- There needs to be funding made accessible for planning activities, potentially through tax-increment financing.
 - This financing can be used for a variety of projects and tasks.
- We could be turning our attention to more statewide advocacy efforts that would help build capacity for local governments as they continue to face capacity restraints.
- Perhaps organizations could benefit from a sort of resource clearing house.
- Monitoring and evaluation has been incredibly challenging to obtain funding for, this might be where there is potential for statewide collaboration.
- We must recognize that the impacts of climate change do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries
- The current structure of governance is relatively piecemeal, how do we address or utilize overlapping jurisdictional boundaries?
- It is very hard to get people from different regions in the State to collaborate and determine how they are going to be spending money together.

How can conveners, like LGC and OPR, continue to support your efforts and create space for ongoing dialogue?

- Smaller forum-style discussions such as CAF could be incredibly helpful in cultivating productive discourse around these issues.

- A lively online discussion forum could be incredibly helpful.
- Are we properly utilizing programs such as Slack, Discord, or even Reddit?
- How can we use technology to our advantage while keeping in mind time/ capacity constraints?

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- This was the final workshop in this track! We have tackled some daunting issues throughout these workshops. We have worked to address issues such as struggling to move from planning to actual implementation and collaborating effectively as we work towards our resilience and adaptation goals. Thank you for participating in these workshops with us!
- The Closing Webinar for this track will be on October 21, 9:30 - 11:00am