

CAF Track 2: **Integrated Planning for Holistic Solutions**
Workshop #2: **Building Lasting Relationships: Inclusive Community
Engagement & Regional Collaboration**

Tuesday, August 17th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

[Main Session Recording](#)

Description

Inclusive community engagement and regional collaboration are both necessary and critical to developing integrated adaptation plans that generate holistic solutions. This workshop first highlighted frameworks and case studies that demonstrate effective engagement and collaboration approaches, techniques, and results. Participants then engaged in a series of interactive discussions to share and explore replicable strategies. Exercises were designed to enable participants to walk away with tangible resources to support their community engagement and interagency coordination efforts.

Track Facilitators

- **Whitney Brennan** | Acting Program Supervisor for Landscape and Forestry, California Tahoe Conservancy
 - **Peggy Nguyen** | Environmental Supervisor, City of Los Angeles
 - **Reema Shakra** | Climate Adaptation Program Manager, Rincon Consultants, Inc.
 - **Nikki Caravelli** | Assistant Planner, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - **Julia Kim** | Climate & Energy Program Director, Local Government Commission
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Welcome

[Presentation](#)

Code of Conduct and Group Norms

[CAF Code of Conduct & Track 2 Group Norms](#)

- All participants were asked to abide by the CAF Code of Conduct and Track 2 Group Norms
- No suggestions for improvement had been proposed since the track's first workshop

Workshop #1 Recap

- In the track's first workshop, barriers to integrated adaptation and replicable strategies were identified for four categories. They were as follows:
 - Insufficient resources
 - Funding and staff capacity are massive barriers to addressing climate needs.
 - Competing Priorities
 - Perhaps we should be looking towards the State to ensure accessible tools are up to date and are able to meet changing demands.
 - Siloed Sectors
 - The structure of our systems has an intrinsic bias towards replacements rather than structural changes. Public input is often limited to providing input on redetermined ideas/ solutions.
 - Ineffective Governance
 - There is a severe lack of coordination across State and regional agencies.

Updated Vision Statement

- Updated vision statement to guide track 2 efforts based on the first workshop's mentimeter poll (changes flagged in bold):
 - Adaptation planning efforts effectively address the cascading and compounding effects of climate change, spanning all areas and levels of government to create holistic and **equitable** adaptation solutions that cultivate **cultural competency**, **generate community engagement**, and address impacts to people and communities, natural systems, working lands, built infrastructure and social and economic systems.
- *Communications examples and resources shared to inform breakout discussions*

Presentation 1: APG 2.0 Community Engagement Steps

Presentation from Nikki Caravelli | Governor's Office of Planning and Research

[Presentation](#) | contact: nikki.caravelli@opr.ca.gov

- Overview of the [Adaptation Planning Guide](#)
 - This guide is broken up into 4 phases
 - Explore, Define, and Initiate
 - Assess Vulnerability
 - Define Adaptation Framework and Strategies
 - Implement Monitor Evaluate and Adjust
 - The focus of this presentation is the Outreach and Engagement aspect of this guide, which should be included throughout all four of these phases.
- Defining Vulnerable Communities

- One key aspect in engaging with vulnerable communities is understanding exactly who they are and where they are. This includes understanding how these communities are situated within your community.
- Phase 1: Outreach
 - What does equitable outreach look like?
 - This phase consists of:
 - Defining your core project team
 - Ensuring a mix of representatives from different organizations
 - Establishing public-private partnerships and utilizing stakeholder mapping to ensure you are involving an equitable outreach process
- Phase 2: Outreach and Engagement
 - The goal of this step is to collaborate with community members to identify neighborhood strengths, assets, climate change effects, and existing adaptive capacity
 - The APG recommends that you accomplish this goal primarily through four activities:
 - Targeted stakeholder interviews or focus groups that will allow you to tap into local knowledge, experience, or expertise
 - Storytelling timelines which will provide a historical hazard inventory through personal narrative
 - Participatory asset mapping which can involve community members and help to further develop an understanding of the meaning behind climate data
 - Community-based participatory research that involve community members as primary researchers
- Phase 3
 - The goal of this phase is to build on the results of the vulnerability assessment to develop solutions.
 - This is the phase in which you develop and prioritize specific adaptation strategies.
 - A lot of work in this phase has been done by others and it is okay to build on that existing work.
- Phase 4
 - The goal of this phase is to ensure that community members are partners if the results of monitoring and evaluation require a change in adaptation strategy.
 - This stakeholder engagement should involve the same groups formed through the outreach and engagement process.
- Notes on the new [Climate Equity Topic Page](#)
 - Through this page you are able to search, filter and explore a database of climate equity related resources

Presentation 2: Community Engagement Framework

Presentation from Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish | Climate Innovation, Movement Strategy Center

Contact: michelle@movementstrategy.org

- The Spectrum of Community Ownership
 - This spectrum can be used by organizations to gauge the participation of a community within that organization.
 - It is important to remember that by involving, collaborating with, and deferring to historically marginalized communities can solve for multiple issues at once
 - An organization likely does not fit entirely into one the categories within the spectrum. It is possible that an organization might have different projects or departments that fall into different categories along the spectrum.
- The 6 phases of this spectrum are as follows:
 - Ignore
 - This is the first step of phase of the spectrum as it is seen as the status quo.
 - In this phase the community is denied access to the decision making process and as a result is marginalized.
 - Inform
 - In this step the community is continuously provided with relevant information but is still kept from having access to any part of the decision making process.
 - This step results in placating instead of cultivating community engagement and ownership.
 - Consult
 - This step consists of gathering input from the community and then hopefully incorporating that into the decision-making process. However, without any lasting form of community engagement this then results in the tokenization of said community.
 - Involve
 - Involving a community consists of ensuring that the needs and assets of this community are integrated into the decision-making process and informs planning.
 - This provides a much needed voice to the community, but still fails to provide them with significant power in the decision-making process.
 - Collaborate
 - This is the first step in which true power is handed over to the community. In the process of collaboration power is delegated to the community to ensure that the community has the capacity to play a leadership role in both the decision-making and the implementation processes.
 - Defer to

- In this final stage on the spectrum of community ownership the community participates in equitable and community-driven democratic decision making. This final stage of community ownership is achieved once a community is deferred to instead of consulted or considered.

Presentation 3: City of Santa Cruz Case Study

Presentation from Tiffany Wise-West | City of Santa Cruz

Presentation | **contact:** twise-west@cityofsantacruz.com

- Resilient Coast Santa Cruz
 - This project consists of two parts:
 - West Cliff Drive Adaptation and Management Plan
 - Development of LCP Sea Level Rise Strategies and Policies to Support Beach and Public Access Protection
 - The scope of this project is about 3/4 of the coastline of Santa Cruz.
- Social Vulnerability to Climate Change Assessment
 - A social vulnerability assessment identified the high-risk low-income communities living in Santa Cruz also occupied much of the area that is at the highest risk of flooding and erosion in the coming years.
- Community Engagement
 - Uses and Values
 - In order to foster community engagement the city of Santa Cruz created focus groups and conducted one-on-one Beach Flats interviews in order to better understand the needs of the community members in that area.
 - Goals
 - The goals of this process were drafted in conjunction with the Coastal Commission
 - Strategies to Analyze
 - One on One meetings with under-represented communities were conducted to ensure that they were involved in the decision making process.
 - Adaptation Pathway Prefs
 - This step involved story mapping and community surveys as well as a virtual reality component of both the surveys and workshops.
 - Policies
 - This step involved finalizing the West Cliff Drive Adaptation and Management Plan.
- Centering Equity in Resilient Coast Initiative
 - To ensure that this process of community engagement was successful City of Santa Cruz staff spent the time necessary to build trust with frontline community leaders and designed meetings collaboratively with these individuals.

- A key component of this equity effort was compensating historically underserved groups in the current CAP project as equity advisors. People need to be paid for their time and effort.
- More resources from the City of Santa Cruz can be found [here](#).

Panel Discussion / Q&A

Question 1: What strategies have you used to reach out to fragmented communities?

Wise-West: It takes time and we must build the relationships despite the time required often being different than the time that is build into the grants that fund these programs

Gabrieloff-Parish: We should work to identify the things that we are doing already that are working well. Whether it is building resources or just taking the time to attend events hosted by these fragmented communities, there must be effort put in on our end to engage with these communities.. We also need to acknowledge that all of these issues are connected.

Caravelli: As representatives of the Government or CBOs, we must make the effort to approach communities as community members. Representatives of Government can be seen as being detached from the communities that they are attempting to represent. These efforts must be budgeted for in order to implement these efforts effectively.

Question 2: There are so many community engagement guidelines and documents. Which have been proven to be most effective when implemented?

Wise-West: The City of Santa Cruz has utilized the [Making Equity Real Framework](#) from the Greenlining Institute which is an incredibly effective guide. This guide is geared towards adaptation but can easily be adapted to an emissions mitigation framework as well.

Caravelli: The guidelines put together by OPR for defining vulnerable communities are very valuable. In order to identify and address the root causes of these issues we must first identify and define what vulnerability means within our different communities.

Gabrieloff-Parish: The [Community Driven Resilience Planning Framework](#) is very useful. Communities of color have been shown time and time again to be the communities most passionate and concerned with climate adaptation and mitigation.

Report Out from Breakouts & Postcard Design Exercise

Participants broke into groups to discuss community engagement strategies for four different hypothetical scenarios. Participants then transitioned into an exercise where they created a sample postcard that would raise awareness for the climate related issues within the communities of their respective hypothetical scenarios.

- Breakout discussion and notes were captured by participants in [Jamboard](#).
- The postcard design exercise can be found [here](#).

Group 1: Coastal Community

Mix of political leanings and socioeconomic status: coastal residents are affluent and politically conservative; inland residents are lower-income, progressive; large undocumented population.

- Be honest and genuine from the start: If you are not going to incorporate the input of a community member into project design and implementation, do not ask for it.
- Attend community events! It is important to meet community members at events like BBQs and soccer games.

Group 2: Countywide Rural Area

Large swaths of natural and working lands with a large tourism economy and numerous Tribes and Native communities. Community members have limited data service access/literacy.

- It is important to connect to what people already know and do within their community. This includes learning about the values of that community and speaking the language that they speak.

Group 3: Large Urban Area

Highly diverse urban hub with a large youth population and strong CBO networks. Wide ranges of educational attainment, literacy, and English proficiency levels and socioeconomic status.

- Make the effort to learn the language that community members speak. If this is not possible, engage with a culturally competent organization.
- When engaging with CBOs, involve them in the decision-making process especially in decisions that determine leadership (i.e. hiring a project manager).

Group 4: Suburban Area

An inland suburban area with an aging population and a large disabled community with diverse access needs. There is a limited CBO network and many climate deniers who live in the community.

- If a community does not have shared beliefs when it comes to climate change it can be very effective to instead focus messaging around values such as adaptation planning around wildfires or drought.

Next Steps

Facilitators will be incorporating the feedback of participants as they develop the next workshop, which will be taking place on September 28th, 1:00pm - 3:00pm.