

San Joaquin Regional Climate Collaborative

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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# Introduction

San Joaquin County (SJC) is home to approximately 750,000 residents who live within the cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, and Tracy, as well as unincorporated areas. The county is not only known for its picturesque landscapes, impressive ecosystems, and diverse communities but also for its determination to address the pressing challenges of climate change. Significant climate investment dollars have been awarded to uplift some of the most disadvantaged census tracts located in Stockton. Following this success, the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) established a new regional climate collaborative between the county jurisdiction, local institutions, and community-based organizations (CBOs) for SJC. The collaboration includes the following organizations and entities: San Joaquin Council of Government (SJCOG), Catholic Charities, Public Health Advocates, GRID Alternatives, Stockton Service Corps, and the University of the Pacific. Together, we seek to expand and replicate successful grant pursuits for SJC.

## Project Overview, Goals, and Guiding Principles

### Purpose:

SJC experiences various environmental inequities that affect the quality of life, especially of the disinvested communities. The San Joaquin Regional Climate Collaborative (SJRCC) envisions a region where all communities live in healthy places filled with equity and economic opportunity. This plan aims to set forth a strategy to bring in residents and community stakeholders who live and/or work in Communities of Focus, or census tracts in Tracy, Stockton, and Lodi identified to be most impacted by environmental challenges, and assess their most pressing needs.



The goals of the CEP are to:

1. *Empower the Community* - Use spaces like the Community Advisory Board (CAB), to help people share their thoughts and have a say in important decisions, especially when it comes to creating plans for climate action, sustainable neighborhoods, and other projects.
2. *Engage with the Community* - Gathering information that is important and shows real-life experiences. This information will give a complete view of how climate change impacts the communities that are most affected. *Outreach to the Community* - Share important climate resiliency tools, resources, and other materials, including the key priorities from the Sustainable Neighborhood Plans (SNPs) and project concepts.

Outreach may occur through participation in events hosted by community partners, such as Earth Day events, to leverage existing community infrastructure or by hosting conference-like events, such as a youth-targeted summit, that highlight work accomplished by RCC to build educational capacity and leave a long-lasting impression that will support future endeavors (both for RCC and beyond).

3. *Network within the Community* - Cultivate trust and cooperation among residents, businesses, community organizations, and civic entities. By leveraging the previous three goals, we will lay down a strong foundation that enables RCC partners to build up and build out participation in, awareness of, and investment in climate resiliency projects. This also aids in identifying future partnerships to pursue additional grant funding opportunities to build on.

## Community Engagement Guiding Principles

<b>Inclusivity</b>	<b>Collaboration</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Flexibility</b>	<b>Empowerment</b>
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## Community Advisory Board

**Formation:** The CAB will consist of approximately 3-5 members from each community of focus and an appointed official, who will serve as community guides in implementing RCC objectives. CAB members are to convene bi-monthly (every 2 months) within their respective communities of focus and bi-yearly with all the CAB members and RCC partners. Each member will be compensated for their time with a stipend of \$80 per meeting. The meetings will be in a virtual format that will run approximately for two hours with the expectation that the members will have reviewed the material, when applicable, beforehand to ensure a productive meeting.



**Eligibility:** To serve on the CAB, eligibility will be open to both residents and community members. Residents will be defined as those individuals whose primary living addresses are located within the city limits of the cities in which the census tract that defines the community of focus is located. Community members will be defined as individuals who may or may not be residents of the cities in which the census tracts are located but spend considerable time and whose primary activities are engaged within the city limits. This may include, but is limited to, teachers, business owners, employees, and faith ministers.

**Selection Criteria:** CEP partners will be responsible for identifying, recruiting, and onboarding applicants to serve on the CAB and will conduct an outreach process that will begin in April 2024. CEP partners will select applicants from within their respective community of focus, with advice and approval from other partners and SJCOG by the end of May 2024 with a kickoff in June 2024. Applicants will submit an interest [intake form](#) and may be asked to be interviewed by one person from each of the partners to be selected.

CEP Partners will take into consideration the following metrics when reviewing applications and the scoring will be out of 100.

**CAB Recruitment Scoring Metrics**

<b>Relevance of Experience (30 points)</b>	<b>Diversity and Inclusion (20 points)</b>	<b>Commitment and Availability (20 points)</b>	<b>Communication and Collaboration Skills (20 points)</b>	<b>Passion and Vision (10 points)</b>
1. Demonstrated experience or involvement in relevant community issues.  2. Previous participation in advisory roles or community leadership positions.	1. Representation of diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and demographics.  2. Ability to effectively engage with and represent underrepresented groups.	1. Willingness to commit to regular meeting attendance and participation.  2. Availability to contribute time and effort to board activities and initiatives.	1. Ability to communicate effectively and respectfully with diverse stakeholders.  2. Demonstrated capacity for collaboration and teamwork.	1. Clear articulation of passion for community improvement.  2. Vision for how they can contribute to the board's objectives and goals.
<b>Total Points</b>				

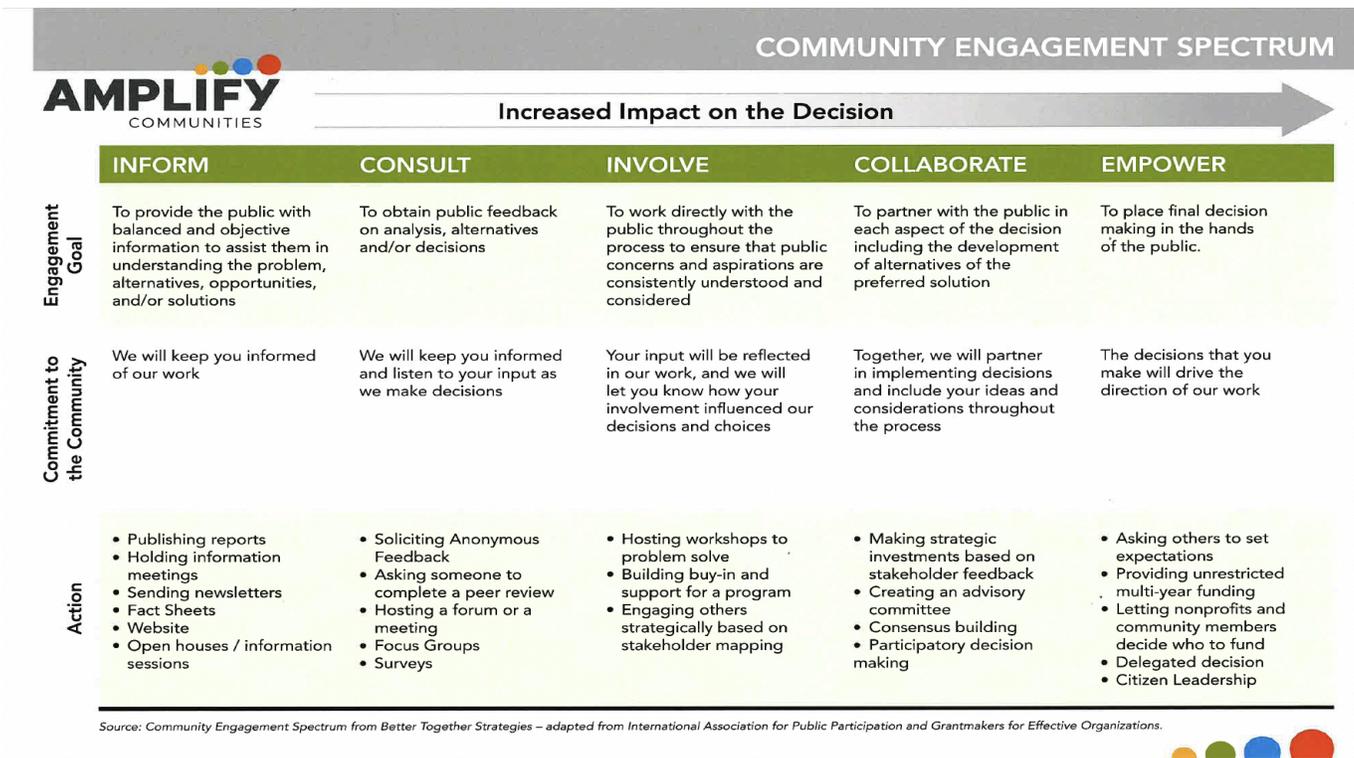
**Compensation and Meeting Structure:** The CAB will meet every two months, with each meeting planned to last approximately two hours. CAB members will convene within their community of focus and meetings will be led by the CEP partner(s) who are the leads for that respective community of focus. During meetings, CAB members and facilitating CEP partner(s) will abide by a set of conduct and expectations, which can be accessed here.

During meetings, CAB members will:

<b><i>Share insights</i></b>	<b><i>Review proposals</i></b>	<b><i>Provide feedback</i></b>	<b><i>Brainstorm solutions</i></b>	<b><i>Advocate for the community</i></b>
May offer their unique perspectives, experiences, and ideas when it comes to community issues, projects, and/or initiatives.	May review proposals or plans put forth by community leaders and/or organizations.	Their input helps identify areas of improvement and ensures that the community's needs are being met effectively.	May engage in brainstorming sessions to address challenges and/or find innovative solutions for various community issues	Members may advocate for the concerns, interests, and aspirations of the community members.

## Community Engagement Spectrum

The community engagement goals and guiding principles will guide partners and stakeholders in carrying out meaningful and successful engagement and engagement-related activities within the respective communities of focus using the community engagement spectrum.



Community Engagement Activities				
Engagement Level (from the spectrum, e.g. inform, consult, etc)	Engagement Activity/Method	Stakeholder(s)	Focus/question(s)	Date/Time/ Location
All categories of spectrum	CAB formation	SJRCC Partners, appointed governance body, and 3-5 reps from each community of focus		<b>4/2024</b> - CAB outreach and <b>6/2024</b> - formation
Consult	Initial Needs Assessment survey	SJRCC Partners	The focus will provide a baseline to gauge community priorities and identify issues that the community sees as most pressing. The goal is to collect approximately 100 surveys.	<b>04/01/2024</b> - <b>03/01/2025</b>
	Educational workshop surveys			<b>04/10/2024</b> - <b>05/31/2026</b>
	Final assessment survey			<b>09/01/2025</b> - <b>05/31/2026</b>
Inform, Consult, Involve, Empower	<a href="#">Community Workshops</a>	SJRCC Partners	The workshops are focused on various climate topics ranging from climate literacy to environmental justice and future opportunities	<b>04/10/2024</b> - <b>05/2026</b> In-person/ virtual
All categories of spectrum	CAB	SJRCC Partners and CAB members	This will provide an opportunity for various stakeholders to provide feedback, concerns, and/or questions on community engagement, workshops, etc.	<b>06/2024</b> - Bi-monthly virtual meetings in respective communities of focus (COFs)

## Educational Workshop Series

SJRCC will host educational workshops on various climate-related topics in our communities of focus. We hope to educate residents and community members on the available tools and resources to be better equipped to make a difference and make positive change.

### Upcoming workshops:

#	Workshop Topic	Date/Time	Location	Material(s)
1	Stockton: Climate Literacy	In Person: April 10, 2024 6:00 pm-7:30 pm	555 E, Weber Ave., Stockton	Virtual Recording Slide deck
		Virtual: April 25, 2024 5:30 pm- 7:00 pm	<a href="#">Zoom</a>   Call-in: (699) 900-6833 Mtg ID: 853 9625 1181 Password: 579372	
2	Tracy: TBD	Tentative: November 2024	TBD	-
3	Lodi: TBD	Tentative: February 2025	TBD	-
4	Stockton: TBD	Tentative: May 2025	TBD	-
5	Tracy: TBD	Tentative: August 2025	TBD	-
6	Lodi: TBD	Tentative: November 2025	TBD	-
7	Stockton: Educational Workshop Series Wrap-Up	Tentative: May 2026	TBD	-

## Conclusion

As we embark on the implementation of our community engagement plan, it's essential to recognize that the journey ahead may present unforeseen challenges and opportunities. While this plan provides a roadmap for our efforts, it is designed to be flexible and adaptable in response to changing circumstances. We understand the dynamic nature of community engagement and are committed to remaining open to feedback, new ideas, and innovative approaches that may enhance our impact. This document serves as a guiding framework, but it is not meant to constrain our creativity or limit our ability to pivot as needed. By fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, we can ensure that our community engagement efforts are responsive, inclusive, and effective.