

Abridged Notes 5/26/23

Ismael Herrera:

If you're a member of the HRTC. Please come off mute, raise your hand and this is the time to offer any questions, provide feedback, ideas, suggestions on how to make this process more seamless, more inclusive, and more welcoming, or just questions regarding to where we're at right now.

Melissa Waters:

There's an Orange County sustainability decathlon, October 5 to 15. Maybe we could have a table there. Talk to people.

[\(https://ocsd23.com/\)](https://ocsd23.com/)

Ismael Herrera:

Mayra, OC Community Foundation. The floor is yours.

Mayra Chavez:

I just wanted to take an opportunity to invite folks to a convening that we'll be having on June 22 at 3 pm virtual over zoom. I serve as Donor and Community Engagement officer at the Orange County Community Foundation and one of the programs I work on is the Workforce Development Initiative.

We're really looking forward to seeing how the Workforce Development Initiative granting can align with the CERF efforts that will be coming up. Please feel free to reach out if you're interested in staying connected or learning more.

Luis Sarmiento:

This is Luis from THRIVE Santa Ana. We are pretty excited about this award and it's going to be a lot of work to make our project a reality, and looking forward to making more examples of what community driven development can look like here in Orange County.

Ismael Herrera:

We are bringing this action item to you to expand the length of these meetings from 60 min to 90 min in the hopes that it doesn't feel as expedited.

(Motion Passes to make meetings 90 minutes)

Jesse Ben-Ron:

We have a metric that we put in our planning phase plan to have 65% of the HRTC be of or representing disinvested communities. I fully acknowledge that there are probably many of you who might be on this right-hand column that can make a strong justification to be on the left-hand column. There were no rigid criteria in defining how we determine who should be on the left-hand column, other than looking at the organization and reading its mission, can you reasonably say that it supports disinvested communities? If we do this simple math, we're at 62%, and we're going to add individuals of disinvested communities later on in the agenda and with that approval it'll get us to over 65%.

Kate Klimow:

At least for UCI and perhaps other institutions we have federal designations. We are Hispanic serving institution and designated as a minority thriving institution. We have federal designations that indicate that we serve the disinvested communities that you have listed. That would be part of my argument for why. At least UCI I'm sure other institutions too should be on the left side.

Jesse Ben-Ron:

This actually is not a list that has to go to the state but this was the metric that we are going to have 65% disinvested communities.

Linda DiMario:

I think the definition is probably what has to be the line in the sand for us, because when I look at the work that Octane is doing advancing disadvantaged women founded businesses, and we work with over 40 nonprofits to help them build sustainability and capacity. I think we have you have to share that definition again.

Jesse Ben-Ron:

The definitions will just consist of serving residents in those community tracks where the median household income for a family of 4 is about \$100,000. There's also the census tracts from the CalEPA definition.

Anna Charco:

One of the things that is often helping to define community driven or community led, worker led initiatives and spaces is whether people have a voice or decision making or position of power within those organizations. So often you can look to the boards or the structures that they have that in fact allow for people that are disinvested to have a say in the direction of the organization and the services of the organization.

Andrew Fahmy:

I do think that there's some necessity here to hold ourselves accountable by having a little bit more of a definition or really understanding what we mean by representatives of disinvested communities.

I think if we work with Anna's suggestion of thinking through the power dynamic or who is the representative of these organizations. How are they representing these communities? Are we doing anything to distinguish which agencies are representative of that group? And the reason why I think it's important is because it holds us accountable. If we saw that this number was really low on the left column, we could make an argument for why we need to add more community members to this panel.

Jesse Ben-Ron:

We welcome definitions to then review with the HRTC.

Iosefa Alofaituli:

During the pandemic in the micro lending space a lot of folks wanted to give grants to underserved, BIPOC lead, and so there's only so many metrics you can use. We need to identify 1 or 2, versus like 5 or 6 and one way that I had seen it done is basically the makeup of leadership, either the board or the organizational leadership. There's a lot of holes in it, but I do think that having multiple metrics might make it difficult for us to make it clean.

Alexis Hernandez:

Alexis Hernandez with Climate Action Campaign. For both us and Sunrise OC, we were put into the non-disinvested community representatives. We are both organizations that are focused on climate. However, the majority of our work across the county is specifically in cities and communities where there are environmental justice communities and it's working with them, advocating for them. Depending on how we decided on kind of those designations in the first place, might not be representative of the work they're doing in this county.

Jesse Ben-Ron:

For those who could send any comments in writing, we can try to craft some definition in a future meeting. And for people who felt people on the left should be on the right, right on the left, we could try and see who can meet that definition.

Luis Sarmiento:

Instead of trying to figure out who's representing whom I think that our common goal is working so that residents are directly represented here themselves. That low-income folks, communities of color who have historically been excluded from decision making around economic development.

Sarah Middleton:

I am the CERF outreach and engagement consultant. We received 59 applications for residents to serve on the HRTC!

We are recommending that we vote 8 disinvested community members onto the HRTC this morning. We wanted to onboard 3 members from the Latinx community, 2 members from the API community, 2 members from the Black and African American community, and one member from the MINA, Middle East, North African community. That would be this group's recommendation for the HRTC.

Ismael Herrera:

Is there a motion, on the floor for approval and I will entertain a second as well.

(Motion Passes to accept new members to the HRTC)

Jesse Ben-Ron:

This whole process is to set up 2 things. One is to establish an economic development plan that's equitable, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable for Orange County. There was also projects that could be tied to the plans that were developed. The state has now provided clarity on the implementation projects.

Each region will get \$26.5 million dollars, with a \$100 million dollars still available competitively. We have to get a proposal to the state between September and November in order to pull down the \$26.5 million dollars.

\$1.5 million will go to the regional convenor, conveners and the partners that will have to implement this to sustain the HRTC and other things.

\$25 million dollars is this development of industry collaboratives. The HRTC has to establish 3 industry collaboratives. Of that \$25 million, \$3 million dollars for industry collaborative coordinators, \$1 million engaging with local public agencies to identify specific parcels that could be developed for the identified industries, \$5 million to develop a revolving loan fund specific to supporting businesses within the identified industries, \$15 million Invest pre-development dollars into projects labeled as "exploratory" and "last mile", \$1 million to Identifying anchor institutions (public or private) that may be at risk of financial insolvency or relocation outside of California.

Dr. Wallace Walrod:

Just want to remind you of the research approach presented last time. We always show a slide before the research presentations that there's multiple times that the group will be reviewing starting with PowerPoints, then written narrative, and then we have a data portal. We've had presentations on all the things on the already presented side, you're going to hear 3 presentations today, and then the stakeholder mapping will be presented at the June meeting.

Brian McNamara:

I'm consultant with ESRI. This website is really supplemental to the existing project website. This website is a hub or a home base, for all things data and data storytelling, data dashboards that have been shared previously. This is a living website, so as the project continues, we'll be adding more data sets.

<https://hrtc-oc-cerf.hub.arcgis.com/>

Alex Reed:

This presentation we put together is on unequal pollution. We decided to look mainly at vulnerability, air quality, and pollution sources with regards to air quality and then those health and economic impacts. With this map, you'll be able to see the terrain of Orange County and how that impacts heat and air quality for its residents. Orange County is in a basin and because of that a lot of the pollution tends to cluster in the densely populated areas away from the high mountain ridges.

When we talk about air quality, we wanted to use tree canopy as a foundation for the research. Tree canopy has a lot of impact on temperature, on general air quality, and water as well. The majority of the tree canopy is centered around outside of these less developed areas around the mountains, around the parks. And then as you get to the more populated areas in the center, especially the areas where disinvested communities are clustered, there is little to no tree canopy, this having a lot to do with high rates of impervious surfaces. This lessens the number of green spaces in those areas. It causes flooding and other environmental hazards during rain and events and storm events, and it also contributes to the formation of urban heat islands.

Because of the combination of higher development in the central area and the terrain in Orange County. The particulate matter tends to cluster towards the outer, the upper outer edge of Orange County. The wind, as well as the terrain keeps it all packed up into this tight upper corner. This really leaves those communities at exposure for higher risk of chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cancer, and so on. With regards to pollution sources in Orange County, due to the high traffic volume, in these central area as you can see there are many major highways that go through the Anaheim/Garden Grove area. There is a large diesel volume per day.

The increase in temperatures, the lacking tree canopy, the impervious surfaces that allow for the heat to cluster, all of these things work together with this depletion of the ozone in these high diesel particulate concentrations that really diminish the air quality in Central Orange County. And a lot of these are also tied to Latinx communities and Black communities.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4e43b627492d4841918330a89780a3ae>

Dr. Marlon Boarnet:

The key message here is that your physical access to resources is not a good measure of actual access to resources. If you look by census tracts, the number of jobs, within one mile. What you see is that the highest number of jobs within one mile is the census tract that is basically near John Wayne Airport some of our disinvested communities near Santa Ana, Anaheim, a

little bit of Garden Grove are not that bad off. If you look at jobs within 5 miles, the community of Santa Ana looks pretty good because they are close physically to job centers.

Let me begin to play around with what access would look like by car versus by transit. What I'm showing you are the transit lines in Orange County. And the right side indicates in red those transit lines that have headways. At less than 10 min at 8 am on a weekday so and these are buses the bus would come every 10 min. The Central/North County area is not looking that bad compared to the rest of the county, but let's keep moving forward. If the starting location is in downtown Santa Ana the dark purple are locations you could reach by driving at 8 a.m. under traffic conditions within 30 min.

Let's take a look at what that would look like if you were traveling by bus. I think you're seeing the difference. This is I think one of the key accessibility issues.

Nationwide about 8% of households don't have access to a vehicle. In Orange County, that average is around 4%, in the disinvested communities around 6%. For those individuals who are in households without vehicle access there's this pretty big reliance in your scope of movement from car to transit. They have access to 183,000 jobs within a 30 min. car trip. The number of jobs within a 30 min transit trip comes in at about 3,000 to 18,000.

What we have found in other communities is that just moving people back and forth to bus stops from about at about bicycle speed increases access to jobs by more than almost anything you can do with the transit network.

In some of the disadvantaged communities these gaps are on the order of 10 years of life from low to high. Percentage of low birth weight, births higher in the disinvested communities, asthma instant incidences emergency room asthma visits almost overlap exactly on the disinvested communities. Obesity percentages higher, particulate concentrations higher. If you just total up the number of healthcare facilities. The disinvested communities actually are closer to health care to communities than the non-disinvested communities.

If you look at the percent of uninsured individuals, the disinvested communities, we have an average of 12.76% of persons or uninsured versus 5.5% in the non-disinvested communities.

Dr. Wallace Walrod:

So we started as a basis and this is just the very first draft of the SWOT analysis. We started with the current Orange County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which is still in effect from 2019 to 2023. It is approved by the federal government. We then added in key takeaways from each of the research presentations. You'll see on each of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, we have a slide that says more, and that's where we want to be very inclusive in our SWOT analysis to consider all the HRTC's input.