

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Thanks, Jesse. Good morning everyone. My name is Anna Lisa. I'm with Cal Ford and I'll be your facilitator on this journey. I'd like to call this meeting to order, but before we do that, I'd like to welcome you all. As always, feel free to provide an introduction in the chat, Spanish and English as you can. And I have services to accommodate translation there from our team. We'll move to our second item, which is public comment, an opportunity for non HRTC members to ask questions or give comments as desired. Do I hear any comments or see any hands raised.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Dennis? And. Not yet, but let's give it about 20, 30 seconds. Okay, seeing none, I think we can move on.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Thanks, Jesse. We'll move on to the next item number three on your agenda packet, which is comments from the HRTC. So this is your opportunity to give updates on programs or activities specifically as they're related to the principles and values of surf. So this is your chance to bring your work events that you may want to draw to the group's attention to the group. Any updates, folks?

Jesse Ben-Ron

Give it 15 more minutes or 15 more seconds. Sorry. Then if not, I think we can move on. No announcements, no updates.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Everyone's ready for the weekend, Jesse.

Jesse Ben-Ron

That's all right. We'll take the extra time.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Well, thanks folks. We'll keep it moving here and move on to really our first presentation for today. We want to give some concrete examples of examples consideration for HRTC projects. So as you know, we spend a lot of time talking about kind of abstract things as it relates to this, getting really important information as you all diligently work through research and thinking about prioritizing strategies to ultimately set the stage for which projects this group will prioritize for the state to consider for funding. So the challenge has been, as you all know, that the state is still finalizing the requirements for those types of projects they want to see.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

However, they've said on multiple occasions that really the best guide that they can give us right now is a program that has been now awarded, was released in the earlier part of this year that's called the Economic Development Pilot SFP. It was announced in May. There were eight awards given and as Luke would have it, one of them is right here in Orange County. So we're fortunate that project in Santa Ana was selected out of really the entire state that was up for consideration.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

And we're going to hear today from two of those folks, specifically Anna with Prodicion and Luis with survive Santa Ana as they give us a little bit more background on the Walnut Daisy Farm Project and we hope this will be helpful to you all as we start thinking about strategies, help make the purpose of the work here a little more concrete and really understanding not just this project, but what could be transferred and applied as we consider other projects foundation for those projects. So with that, I think and hope that Anna and Luis are here with us. And if you are, please feel free to come off mute and start the presentation. Thank you.

Luis Sarmiento

Hi, everyone. Good morning. My name is Luis Sarmiento and I'm actually here with Nate. We're going to try to share computers here. Anna unfortunately will not be able to join today. She's attending services due to a death in her family. But Nate from Coparacion will be supporting with the presentation today on behalf of Coparacion. So good morning to everyone. I'll go ahead and get the presentation started. I think I introduced myself. My name is Luis Sarmiento. Pronouns are he or they. And I am the program director for our first Community Land Trust here in the city of Santa Ana, thrive Fenna Anna. And we're going to be talking about our project, the walnut and Daisy Urban Farm.

Nate

Hi, everyone, my name is Nate. As Louise said, I've been with Copracion now for a little while and I'm here on Anna's behalf, but also very familiar with the project personally. Also been a member of Thrive for a while and so be presenting here with Luis today. And so to begin, the walnut and Daisy Urban Farm will include space for one, urban farming, two, cooperative development and incubation, as well as space for farmers markets and community events. And all this will be developed. As you can see on the screen here, we've got architects rendering of what the space will look like. All this will be developed via a community land Trust model which centers local ownership and governance.

Nate

This rendering you see on the screen is from 2018, and some of the partners who we've been working with since then are listed on the bottom there you see their logos. This specific rendering was done by City Fabric, which is a nonprofit architectural group, and they're based out of Long beach and have done quite a few projects here in Santa Ana. So in the wanna and Daisy neighborhood, one in four residents have experience in farming, whether here in the US or in their places of origin. And so just a little bit of a background about urban farming. Wanna Daisy is going to have an aspect of it which incorporates urban farming, and that's a strategy for healthier, more sustainably locally owned and produced food systems. Drawing on deep knowledge in our communities.

Nate

As mentioned, a lot of folks already have experience here in Santa Ana, and so this is going to be a really key project for a lot of folks who are living in that particular neighborhood as well as Santa Ana as a whole. Since 2014, cooperative Development has emerged as One strategy in partnership with different organizations in and around Santa Ana to combat the displacement of small businesses. For example, when the carousel in downtown on Forest street, which was a staple cultural attraction for many Latinos who grew up in Santana when it got shut down and a lot of longtime Mexican owned businesses were pushed out, being displaced by arbitrary rent increases and renovations, a study of downtown performed at that time in 2014 of downtown businesses was considered for the City council.

Nate

And at that time, the City council passed a resolution known as the Wellness District Resolution, which named MercAdito and microfarm projects as potential economic development strategies in the city. And as you see here on the slide, community ownership is the second aspect that's going to be incorporated into the project with incubation space for worker owned businesses, also known as cooperatives, as an economic development strategy, and as mentioned already, the Community Land Trust model for resident led development. So I'll pass the mic back to Luis here, who will talk a little bit about some of the facets of the project that are relevant to the statewide surf, or at least here to our folks in Orange County.

Luis Sarmiento

Thank you, Nate. And yeah, so like Jesse had invited us early on to come share in this space with y'all here in Orange county to share some of the aspects of our project that are important to what we're trying to do here in Orange county and some of the reasons why we think that were selected as a pilot project under SURF. And we feel very fortunate to have been selected. And we'll talk a little bit about why we think that is, we believe it has a lot to do with our perspective on development and the way that our project has been able to really build on the participation of residents over many years.

Luis Sarmiento

And so those of us that are leading the project now understand that really we're standing on and building on the work of residents for probably over a decade of community organizing that's been happening here in the city of Santa Ana. So in order to talk a little bit about that for us, it is also important to recognize the context in which our development project happens and also the context of development in our communities. Within surf. We know that we're talking about centering disinvested communities, and what that means is recognizing from the perspective of our communities that development historically has been a process rooted in racism and rooted in the displacement of communities of color. In fact, a lot of the language of development comes from colonialism.

Luis Sarmiento

If you do a little bit of research, you can find that there's this idea of developed countries versus undeveloped countries or underdeveloped countries, which is something that comes out of a time where imperial powers were saying that these poor countries need to be more like these wealthy countries without recognizing the history of colonialism and exploitation that model was built on. And here in our neighborhoods in the United States, we've

seen those types of perspectives perpetuated. Things like redlining, which were huge here in California, just like in other parts of the United States, were the models around which our cities were developed. And we still know some of those practices developed today. I mean, perpetuated today the way that for communities of color, it is systemically more difficult to access financing, more difficult to develop ownership in our communities of color.

Luis Sarmiento

And what we're doing is actively dismantling, actively countering those systems by creating something which is what we call community led development. And I'm going to talk a little bit more about what we call community led development and how we think that's a better path. This graphic was developed by Campagnaira, who made she rest in power. Miriam Lopez was a young activist and leader in our movement, and she helped create this graphic a while back when we were trying to create different communication strategies, pointing out some of the different health issues and different issues that have come about in our neighborhoods, and how our approach to development is looking for a better way. So, again, community driven development. The main aspect is centering the participation, the needs, and the talents of local residents.

Luis Sarmiento

And some of our guiding values are that we want to be able to address some of these root causes of inequality, while at the same time addressing some of the immediate needs that we see in. In our neighborhoods, the ongoing and direct participation of local residents. We use models of popular education, meaning we are trying to move away from this very top down approach to education, in which we have experts that have all of the information and a public which is assumed to be completely disinformed. In popular education, we understand that everyone has a lot of information to share, and it's a horizontal learning process in which we learn from each other, which leads me a little bit also to this idea of capacity building.

Luis Sarmiento

A lot of the work that we do with thrive is capacity building for residents to learn the language and the technical aspects of development in order to be part of the conversations around development, but also building capacity among institutional partners who oftentimes don't really know how to work with community. And so there's also a lot of learning that has to happen and has happened with institutional partners, whether that's the city or other agencies who are interested in connecting more with community, but need to also learn the skills to do that and language justice, who we've talked a very little bit about in this space.

Luis Sarmiento

And it doesn't just mean having translation between English and Spanish, but really being intentional about language in our spaces and trying to make sure that the formats, the way that we're communicating, is accessible and understandable for everyone as much as possible in any given moment. I will say that in this space, there have been attempts, but we're still really not there. We don't have ongoing interpretation in our space, in this service space, but we can talk about that another time real quickly. Also, just some of the ways, the methodologies that we implement these guiding values in our approach to development is through a lot of different tools, a lot of different ways that community can get involved in a project, starting from door to door knocking, surveys, inviting folks to participate via surveys. But we don't just stop there.

Luis Sarmiento

We also host a lot of different sizes and types of community meetings. We've implemented community art projects, and we understand that you have to get creative. Different folks will participate in different ways. And we've had to implement a lot of different methodologies in order to get folks in some of our neighborhoods to take ownership of the development process. And here in the service space, we've talked a little bit about participatory action research, which is something along those lines. It's an approach to data and it's approach to research that partners academic skills with community organizing and community building skills. So again, some of the elements that we think distinguished our project for selection was our approach to community engagement, putting workers first, environmental sustainability, which is also an aspect of our project.

Luis Sarmiento

Our project and our partners that are part of our project have been recognized by the City of Santa Ana as a resource. And the fact that we're ready to go. Our project had already completed our city approvals, our permit processes. We had done a lot of our due diligence, and we're basically ready to go on our construction. I'll try to go through this really quickly, and then I'll pass it back to Nate in a little bit to talk also a little bit about cooperatives and wrap up our presentation. But real briefly on community land trusts. So thrive. Santana is a

community land trust, which is a model, a type of nonprofit organization that permanently acquires land and administers that land as an asset for the community.

Luis Sarmiento

CLTs very often build or manage affordable housing, but can also be used for things like open space, agriculture, commercial spaces, or community commercial spaces, and sometimes even just for the preservation of land. We have a really great example of a Native American land trust here in Orange county that is doing some preservation work on behalf of native communities in the Bolseca area and in other parts of the United States and here in California. Anyway, I wanted to talk a little bit more about that, but I feel like I'm going on, so I'll keep going. The history of CLTs is very much connected with social justice. And in particular, the first CLT here in the US came out of the civil rights movement. The first CLT is in the 1960s in Albany, Georgia, new communities.

Luis Sarmiento

It was a group of African American farmers who saw the CLT model as a way to protect their ownership of land. And we know that there was systemically a way of taking land away from black farmers. And part of that included denying federal loans and other strategies in which this land was being taken from black farmers. So they organized a community land trust in order to protect their ownership of that land. Today, we have over 277 CLTs in the United States, 36 here in California, including in Oakland. I think there's now five CLTs in LA or in the La area, in San Francisco, here in the city of Irvine.

Luis Sarmiento

It's seen as a pretty successful model, which, when we started looking at the administration of public land here in the city of Santa Ana, community groups started proposing the CLT model as a way to administer our publicly owned land in partnership with the community. This piece of land is the site of what is now under construction as the Walnut and Daisy Micro Farm. It was a piece of land which used to be the Orange County Rescue Mission many years ago and was vacant for many years. And so we convinced the City of Santa Ana to allow us to do a community driven development project on this site again, started doing door to door surveys. We did a bunch of community events over the course of several years, inviting residents to take ownership and provide guidance for this development project.

Luis Sarmiento

And these slides are just a few pictures of what that looks like, hosting different types of community meetings. We were able to visit the City of Pittsburgh at one point, which has a really strong movement also of community farming and community land trusts working to develop land as community owned farms. But I think we're now in construction again, doing a lot of work with different partners to navigate the approval process, and were able to break ground and are now in construction. We're projected to open up our space early next year and we will be able to invite you all to the opening. I'm going to pass it back to Nate, who will keep it going. Sure.

Nate

Thanks, Luis. So a little bit about cooperation. Santana We're a co op developer, and what that means is we work with folks to provide training and resources and eventually incubation for folks to create their own cooperative business models. And our mission is here on the screen. Cooperation. Santana envisions a strong, locally owned, shared community where products and services are created with dignity and respect for the people who work them and the planet that sustains us. And we'll move to the next slide. So what is a cooperative, you might ask? They're not new to Orange county and Southern California as a whole. In fact, the county's namesake of Orange indicates the industry which utilizes to this day still the cooperative model and mass to ensure that citrus farmers can mitigate the boom and bust cycles of citrus farming and distribution.

Nate

And so a cooperative here, as you see on the screen, is a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. In other words, the economy and business projects are people powered. And so worker co ops. Some popular retail stores, you might not realize are co ops include REI, where you can get outdoor gear and camping goods, as well as ACE hardware. And so worker co ops are owned and governed by the employees of the business. They operate in all sectors of the economy and provide workers with both employment and ownership opportunities. You'll see some other names listed at the bottom of this particular slide, such as the Cooperative Home Care Associates.

Nate

This equal exchange logo here indicates a fairly traded co op owned enterprise as well as, for example, the union Cab of Madison, Wisconsin, which is a worker owned cooperative. And so co ops put workers first because the work tends to be longer term, offers skill training and better wages as compared to similar jobs in conventional companies. Can read the quote at the bottom from the New York Times here. But one of the biggest aspects is that it improves low wage work and it helps build wealth in communities most directly affected by inequality, which helps vulnerable workers build skills and earning potential, as well as household income and assets. One of the biggest important parts of any worker co op is how the governance decisions are made.

Nate

Whereas in traditional business models, the business owner or business owners, the small select group of individuals who own the business make all the decisions, and the employees are subject to the will of those who are making the decisions. In the co op, workers are the business owners. So everybody has shared governance and a stake in how things are run inside the business. In other words, it puts workers first. And so with the Walnut and Daisy project, a portion of the space is going to be dedicated to co op and small business incubation. There's going to be, part of it is going to be a co op farm known as Sauce San Crese. And La Milpa Cafe is going to finally have a physical location. They've been doing business for a while.

Nate

Arte and Lana El Mercado Carousel, which has been around for a long time as well, is going to be able to utilize the space for the Mercadito as well as there's going to be space for community events and office rental to bring in some revenue as well. And a little bit about that partnership with Cresa Urban Farms. So we've got more than 50 families are supported by Crescent's Urban farm agriculture. 500 plus pounds of organic waste are diverted from landfills every month using a pretty robust composting system. And if you all get the chance to visit in Santa Ana, you'll see that it's grown really exponentially over the past six months alone, 0.4 acres of land so far, caring for two different beehives, as well as 35 trees that have been planted with Crescent.

Nate

And so this partnership is that Crese supports new and emerging black, indigenous and people of color, also known as BIPOC urban Farmers and food Stewards to create a just transition to a community owned food system. And Grace is committed to building a local food system through democratic stewardship of land. And so part of that ensures that these life giving workspaces can nourish our mind, bodies and spirit. So I'll pass it back to Luis. I know that was a lot, but we're just about to finish here.

Luis Sarmiento

Yeah. Thank you everyone. I think this is our last slide. But just ending again on what we believe was some of the reasons that our project was selected by the state. Ending on this point that were implementation ready, all of our different community organizations thrive. Coparacion, Santana Cresse were named in the general plan that the city recently updated as community resources. We have at this point, towards the end of last year, completed a lot of our pre development, which is, I know, something that the state is looking for, supporting community projects to navigate and to get through the predevelopment process more efficiently and more quickly. Our project is a prevailing wages project. Our general contractor, all American construction solutions, is paying prevailing wages. Our disposition and development agreement with the city includes a 99 year lease. So we had site control.

Luis Sarmiento

This is, for all intents and purposes, land that is in community hands, and we're able to develop it freely as leaseholders. And, yeah, the development budget, it's a little bit over a million. And fortunately, we'll be able to see a lot of that funding coming from the state to support construction costs. The full grant amount is 3.8 million. And that includes not just funding for construction, but actually funding to make an offer, a purchase offer on the land so that land can become part of the community Land trust under a direct ownership. And also, as you can imagine, a lot of costs, including operating support.

Jesse Ben-Ron

For.

Luis Sarmiento

The micro farm moving forward. Also different types of technical assistance and technical support for the farmers themselves, things like mini grants and other ways that we're using this funding to support the operation of these community owned businesses. But thank you, everyone. Feel free to reach out to us if there are more questions. I know that this was kind of just a brief introduction. I think that there's definitely a lot more to share

about our work and the ideas of community driven development and what's also known as just transition, which is a perspective on development and where we're trying to go with development. But we'll stop there. And I don't know if there's questions I haven't been able to look at the chat. Thank you, everyone, for the hearts and the claps and things.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

A lot of support, a lot of love for this work. Luis, neat. Thank you for your time. We do have a few minutes for questions, so Jesse can help me field these, but maybe two or three questions. I know folks are curious as to how this came about. And again, congratulations. This is really incredible work. Let's see. Linda, I see your hand up.

Linda DiMario

Yes, thank you. This is just a brilliant background and homework that you did and just a really excellent overview. It's an exciting project. A couple of questions that I have is in the plan. Is there a point at which you see this project becoming self sustaining? Because clearly, at this point, it's being largely, if I'm understanding correctly, largely state funded in its development. But at what point do you see it becoming self sustaining?

Luis Sarmiento

Yeah. Thank you. That's a good question. Yes. The answer is yes. Absolutely. We have a pro forma that goes out about five years, and within that time is more or less what we're projecting for the community owned businesses to be able to sustain the site itself. You can imagine operating costs include maintenance, utility payments, and part of our original. So even before we had any of this state funding, were planning to take out a construction loan because the cost of construction was one of the barriers for us. We were able to work with a national cooperative loan network called Seed Comments and so they have been supporting us, and we had a payment plan for this loan that went out about five years and during that time thrive as the land trust.

Luis Sarmiento

We're planning to continue supporting through grant funds some of the operating costs of the site over the next five years or so. We're not going to go anywhere until we see that the businesses are able to maintain the site themselves. But I mentioned the loan because that phasing out was also tied with paying off that construction loan. Basically, once that construction loan is paid.

Linda DiMario

Off.

Luis Sarmiento

The businesses themselves really only have to worry about the maintenance and operating costs of the site, which is, we feel is definitely feasible for some of these small micro businesses to get to that point. And we're able to kind of cost it out little by little how those costs would be transitioned from the land trust to the businesses themselves.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Luis, Linda, let me pause this there. I see a couple more hands. We'll come back to you. Annette, I see your hand up. Go ahead. Morning.

Annette Kelly-Whittle

Great presentation. I just was curious as far as the numbers of jobs that you guys projected for this project as part of the grant application.

Luis Sarmiento

Good question. I wish I knew those numbers off the top of my head. Sometimes it's hard for me as a project manager, project director role. I know that we have the jobs associated with on our side. We're building our staff. For example, my organization up until now has been one full time person, me, and two part time staff. And we're being able to finally move that to three full time staff. The construction side, I don't recall the number of jobs associated, but it's not a huge project. I don't recall the amount of jobs associated with the construction side, but obviously those are also jobs that are being created.

Annette Kelly-Whittle

And maybe you don't have this answer. Just curious. Even just the long term job creation that would come out of this project, what that number would have been.

Luis Sarmiento

Yeah, I can talk a little bit more about some of the economic. I guess what's coming to mind is we have three community owned businesses that are going to be operating at the site. La Milpa Cafe consists, I want to say there's four women who own that cooperative and Cresce urban Farms or salsa food. Their co op. I don't know how many members they.

Nate

Have, but about six or seven, right?

Luis Sarmiento

It's like I was going to say seven or eight, but six or seven members there. And the last business is an artisan. He's from Oaxaca, an artisan elder, his name is. So those are all folks that are going to be business owners and in our project. And then the Mercadito is going to take place, we're hoping at least one weekend a month, which is like a farmers market. That's a group of ten or so micro businesses with each are from one to five owners. So when you ask about jobs, I'm also thinking about our approach to this has also to do with creating business ownership opportunities.

Annette Kelly-Whittle

Yeah.

Luis Sarmiento

Which I could definitely look a little bit more into what data we have on jobs that we're creating, because there's also definitely jobs associated with our project. I just don't have that numbers with me.

Annette Kelly-Whittle

And I think overall economic impact, I think it would be probably an interesting or important piece of information, just overall economic impact, that how you communicate the community led side, I think is very important. But I'm sure in your application, I'm just curious, on the other end of that, what did the state see from the economic impact that it would have, whether that was jobs or whether internally hiring, as well as what jobs would be created over time and so forth, and maybe that economic output. So just in relation to how much money you got, and then what does that look like for the state, so that as people are crafting applications, I think that would be a good number to know. Thank you.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Great question. We have time for one more. Andrew's had his hand up for a while. I put in chat, but Luis, Nate, if you do have time, we have a few more questions in chat. I know your contact info has been shared to answer more, but unfortunately we just have time for one more.

Jesse Ben-Ron

She froze, so go ahead and ask. Go ahead.

Andrew Gonzalez

Yeah, I put in the chat, but I have a couple of questions. I'm just looking at the size of your development of 0.4 acres. I'm wondering how many people are planning to be fed out of this community garden or community farm? What are the wages going to be for the workers there? I'm just trying to grasp sort of what the economic impact for workers and wages and true equitable economic development out of this project is, just given the limited size and scope of the project.

Nate

So to begin, Cresa has already been in operation at one site. So that 0.4 acres is that number of the site they're currently working. And so this new space at WAna and Daisy will be increasing their capacity. They've been aching for new land to increase their efforts as well. So at this moment, it's hard to quantify exactly how much more food is going to be produced at the new site. The 0.4 acres, as was stated earlier, supports 50 plus families on a monthly basis. That site's got a lot of compost being processed, so that's becoming a source of revenue as well. And then in terms of wages, because they're a worker co op, I know that they make all their decisions democratically about wages for all their workers, but all their wages are meant to be, what's the phrase? Living wage.

Nate

And then where there's a shortfunding from the revenue of the farming efforts at the moment, there's grants that have, like USDA grants that have provided support where. So in terms of the farm, that's where a lot of the economics stand.

Andrew Gonzalez  
Great. Thanks.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Luis. Thank you for your time. I'm going to keep camera off because I think I'm glitching on you all, but thank you for your time. I know there's a lot of interest in how you all did this. Your models, any information you can pass on to us would be really helpful to this group. So just appreciate your time. Today, I'm going to move us along to our second presentation. Yeah, thanks, guys. Our second presentation today we have Gary with coastkeepers and Melanie with the Banning Ranch Conservancy, two HRTC members leading a presentation on environmental and economic justice. So they want to talk about a little bit about what's happening and what's been successful in the county so far. And this is continuing along the lines I mentioned earlier and helping make this work a little more concrete. What is the state looking for? What are the types of projects that could be funded, given the spaces that they're in, the values they hold, and kind of the boxes they tick. So with that, Gary and Melanie, I will turn it to you.

Gary Brown

Thank you so much. We want to thank Jesse for the opportunity to present today. And this is going to be a co presentation by both myself and Melanie Schlaughterback. And Melanie and I would both like to thank Diana Pina, who's Coastkeepers Associate director of programs, for her support and help in putting this presentation. So, okay.

Gary Brown

As demonstrated in last week's priority vote, our current systems have not cut up enough to make the environmental justice sector to appear to be viable for funding as its own category. We must challenge the narrative by meaningfully incorporating environmental sustainability, resilience, safety, health, and equity into each project to ensure that they meet the state schools for surf so that we present competitive projects that receive funding. Our presentation today is meant to inspire us to think creatively and spark conversations that intersect each of our priorities, as well as an invitation to reach out to us so that we can help each other find opportunities of collaboration. The environment is everywhere. Environmental issues are life issues. A resilient economy and an environment go hand in hand, just as a strong and healthy workforce and a safe and healthy community go hand in hand.

Gary Brown

Our quality of life is dependent on all of these things. We heard you were already incorporating the environment into your workplace at the last meeting, and that's great. Here are some examples. Orange county has many examples of activities and programs that are currently incorporating the environment.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Thanks, Gary. So times have changed. There are not only more people, but also a better understanding of the interconnectedness of our built and natural landscape. So let me share with you the interconnectedness of the environment. The environment, as Gary said, is all around us. It impacts all five of our senses, what we see, what we hear, smell, taste, and touch. And all of this ties into the surf goals. Our objective today with this presentation is to introduce you to our work through the eyes of the environmentalists and environmental justice advocates, the ones who work on these topics every day. The natural world struggles to keep up with the demands we make of it, but its systems continue to operate. So here are a few photos of how our landscapes are impacted by human influence.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Our beaches look different, our homes border oil and gas extraction equipment, not only a hazard to our planet's health, but ours as well. Our waterways are clogged with trash and debris that come from our neighborhoods, forcing us to do trash cleanups and install capture devices. There are a lot of opportunities for collaboration, and we hope to shed some light on these and acknowledge the inclusive nature of the environmental category. We were all recently asked, as Gary noted, to complete the survey to select five industries for catalyst funding and based on the federal government's existing industry list. The work we do as nonprofits only fits into the other category. Or does it? The reality is the work of nonprofits and the environment can be incorporated meaningfully into each and every one of these industries.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Environmental resilience is a core surf priority, and it should be its own industry. But as Gary said, our systems haven't caught up with our priorities. Here is one example of environmental resilience locally, not captured in the survey list. Thrive. You just heard a wonderful presentation about Santa Ana's first community driven project on public land, the Walnut and Daisy Micro Farm, which will be an urban farming and event space incubating local worker owned businesses and providing healthy food and activities in central Santa Ana, Thrive continues to engage and train residents to learn about the development process and take leading roles in the project. The Community Economic Resilience Fund has two core goals. First is to ensure inclusive planning to fund shovel ready projects. The second is to maximize funding and reduce timelines for project implementation.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Every project that gets funded through SURf should have an environmental alignment because of its tie to the carbon neutral goal. So let me provide some context. The nonprofit Friends of Harbor's beaches and parks created the Green Vision map in the late 1990s. It's a living document, updated annually, that shows lands that are protected and those that are in need of protection. This Orange county focused map has over 275 potential properties totaling over 30,000 acres available for conservation. What's the tie to Surf? Well, Governor Newsom recently signed SB three seven into law, which mandates protecting 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030. It's called 30 by 30. Buying land reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves the air quality and water quality, increases carbon storage and improves our quality of life, among many other things.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

The remainder of the slides in this presentation outline environmental and environmental justice projects that could be funded through the surf catalyst. Funding first, we'll start with implementing the Green Vision map. Please know that the slides list examples of projects, but it's not an exhaustive list. So implementing the Green vision map could include conserving land from willing sellers or restoring degraded habitats. It could also be expanding marine protected areas off of our coast. Other conservation mechanisms include conservation easements where the landowner still owns the land but permanently restricts its use. And finally, we've all heard about P 22, the mountain lion that prompted the wildlife bridge to be built over Highway 101. But did you know that Orange county has its own wildlife corridor projects?

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Two examples of shovel ready projects that implement the Green Vision map and thanks Diana, include completion of the West Coyote Hills acquisition by the City of Fullerton and Friends of Coyote Hills. Another example is the collaborative public private effort led by Laguna Greenbelt to create a wildlife corridor between the 22,000 acres protected in Laguna coast to the Santa Ana Mountains at the five freeway. Next, under Governor Newsom, more emphasis is being placed on tribal governments, land return and tribal rights. These include employing additional traditional Let me start that over again. These concepts include employing traditional ecological knowledge like cultural burning and nature based solutions to improve habitat lands. It could also come in the form of better planning with tribal input, the incorporation of cultural access easements across Indigenous homelands or comanagement of the land.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Finally, sacred site protection of known burial grounds and other significant sites is important, too. Two examples of shovel ready projects that could help with Indigenous collaboration include the protection of the Goddell Property, which is about twelve acres near Bolsa Chica wetlands. This site has significant cultural value to the local tribal nations. Another project is the creation of a museum focused on indigenous history in Irvine. Let's show the world this local history instead of keeping it in a dark, musty room.

Gary Brown

Thank you, Melanie. Science is an integral foundation for our advocacy. Best management practices in the workplace are critical to keep people in the environment safe. Low impact development in construction activities has proven to reduce pollutants and urban runoff, along with providing benefits like waterwise landscaping and habitats for wildlife. County stormwater permits manage how much pollution can be discharged into our waterways, harbors, and coastal waters. There are more and more scientific studies coming out showing numerous actions that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A couple of projects ready for funding is the DROPS program. This program enhanced the school landscapes with rain, gardens and diversions that reduce pollution, recharge drinking water supply, and engage students in hands on science education.

Gary Brown

The Fairview park provides habitat for endangered species, diverts runoff to ponds that filter pollutants, and recharge groundwater, and this is a site for a student led conservation research projects. Environmental justice issues Environmental issues are justice issues. I'll say that again. Environmental issues are justice issues. Community engagement is critical in understanding and addressing inequities and injustices that have detrimentally affected people's health and the ability to safely be a part of the workforce. Our transition to a carbon neutral economy must be a just transition for all, including our labor communities, children and youth, and all marginalized people. Accessible pathways with paid opportunities, childcare, nutrition, transportation, safe working environments, and housing are all needed to ensure an equitable and adjust transition to a carbon neutral economy.

Gary Brown

Some examples of projects is Orange County Environmental Justice's Soil led Biomediation project that is a partnership between youth cultivating changes and UCI public Health. Community members took soil samples and determined hotspots for lead in their community. They then developed remediation programs using California native plants. They produced two educational videos that have won awards from the EPA. Water is life, and water is what elevates our county to give us the quality of life we enjoy here in Orange county, everything from our world renowned beaches to our precious and dependable groundwater supply to our neighborhood waterways. They provide economic value in the form of recreation, tourism and resources. Ocean dependent tourism and recreation generates more than \$2 billion to Orange County. Our water quality has improved over the past two decades. However, there's much more work to do.

Gary Brown

The National Clean Water act was adopted in 1972. The goal was to achieve clean water across the nation by 1984. Today in California, 94% of our waterways are polluted with at least one pollutant and most waterways contain multiple pollutants. So there's a lot more to do. Some projects is the Pacific Marine Mammal center in Laguna beach, which rescues, rehabilitates and releases marine mammals, along with conducting research, is currently undergoing renovations that include on site water recycling and treatment, as they currently are the number one water user in Laguna Beach. These ponds for sea animals get changed every day and the water is not recycled, so it's one time use. It's something that they really need to do and they're trying to raise money for.

Gary Brown

To further exemplify how these issues are interconnected, more animals end up at the Pacific Marine Mammal center because of illness caused by harmful algal blooms in our ocean, and this is caused by pollution and urban runoff, which increases demand for water at their pools. And so it's a circle. We must ensure that we are implementing conservation projects wherever possible. Our purple pipe recycled water program started at IRWD and is well established in many areas of the country.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Thanks Gary. There are a lot of planning projects that will help improve management and stewardship goals as well. This helps build climate resilience, create new jobs and mentorship opportunities in science and other technical fields, and improve access for communities needing park space and nature. Two examples include the recently protected Randall Preserve. You could advance the slide so the Randall Preserve, which is formerly banning Ranch, which is undergoing numerous planning efforts, including a resource management plan and coastal resilience plan, among others. This land is immediately adjacent to two disinvested communities. Cities are also working towards reducing carbon outputs with the creation of climate action plans like the one Santa Ana is creating. These can include things like energy audits, solar investments and better policy. Urban greening is yet another opportunity to invest.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Catalyst funds incorporates improved design in previously disinvested locations, and it can come in many forms, like planting trees to adding water fountains at parks, and transit stops to help mitigate the effects of high heat days. Newer to the mix is the concept of community gardens that promotes the farm to table concept, reducing the reliance on big farms and transportation to get produce to the area. Two sample projects include the City of Santa Ana's Urban Greening Project, which incorporates community amenities, streetlights, playgrounds and trees. It improves the health, safety, and lives of local residents. Second is the potential to adopt a countywide native tree preservation policy by the Board of Supervisors. This policy sets standards on how native trees are removed and replaced. It recognizes the intrinsic biological and ecological benefits of trees. My last example includes infrastructure projects.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

This can include installing electric vehicle charging stations to help meet the state's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. Other examples are adding cool roofs or cool streets to combat local heat islands mixed use zoning so that people are near services and making surfaces pervious to help groundwater recharge and reduce urban runoff. The first example is the city of Brea's Lane reduction of Birch street near the Brea Mall, which creates a safer, pedestrian oriented corridor to get people to the brea downtown, which is where they spend money, so it boosts the economy. Finally, one of Orange County's largest park assets includes the Tri County Chino Hills State Park. About a decade ago, rains and poor drainage permanently closed one of the favored east west trails enjoyed by visitors. Funding could be allocated to make the final repairs and reopen this trail.

Gary Brown

Thank you, Melanie. Our recent outreach and engagement surveys findings show that education, training and skills development as a top solution to ensure there are accessible, high quality jobs for most economically disadvantaged individuals and families. Studies have shown that handson learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, the environment, arts and math, paired with stewardship and the solutionbased approach, creates bridges for community members to access these job sectors. These opportunities can come in the form of partnerships with schools volunteer engagement days with churches, companies and other groups community monitoring for air, water, soil and more. There is a large demand in our communities for these opportunities projects.

Gary Brown

Examples include Coast Keepers in the Institute for Conservation Research and Education student led research projects where students visit various sensitive habitats throughout the county regularly during a school year to conduct research that could inform future habitat restoration decision making. There's also a need for additional community monitoring of the health and status of our environment, such as sea and Sage Autobonds, Christmas Bird Count. In conclusion, there's a great opportunity and a need for us to collaborate and to work against the silos created by outdated systems. This is our opportunity to come together and work to ensure that everyone has access to the amazing quality of life we can enjoy and secure in Orange county and for future generations. The photo here is Project Coastkeeper does every year. It's the annual Kids Ocean Day.

Gary Brown

They come to the beach after we've put on assemblies in their schools. And in 2017, when we brought 1300 school students to Huntington Beach State park and they urged us to work together.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Thank you, Gary. Thank you, Melanie, for your time and presentation. We do have time, folks, for two quick questions for Melanie and Gary. So if you can use that reaction button to raise your hand, we can get your questions in right now. Any takers? Yes. Orange County Conservancy. Go for it. And you're on mute.

Catherine Muniz

Sorry, I was muted. Sorry. Good morning, Melanie. I'm Catherine Muniz and I know that the Conservation Corps has worked with Banning Ranch Conservancy. We do have nature based solutions funding and I would love the opportunity to talk to you about some project work.

Melanie Schlaughterbeck

Absolutely. I'll drop my email in the chat.

Catherine Muniz

Thank you.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Great look at the connections in the HRTC. We love to see it. Anyone else? Questions for Gary and Melanie, it was a lot of information on the work they've done, projects that are ready, the importance of this work, et cetera. I see. Melanie, thank you for dropping your contact information in chat. And Kathy, I see your hand raised. We'll go to you. Before moving on to our next item.

Kathy Boyd

I just wanted to add one more opportunity, and I'm going to be in contact with Melanie after this. But we are trying to revive the OC stem ecosystem work that's been happening over the past seven years. Orange county, through all the education systems in the K twelve Arena. And all the things you said in this presentation were

amazing. You've just given us the entire menu of what we can get our different schools involved with in the elementary, middle, and high school space. So just thank you so much for your presentation and we'll be in touch.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Kathy, for your comments. I'm going to turn it to Jesse now to walk us through the catalyst proposal update before a few reminders in our adjournment. So, Jesse, I'll turn to you.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah, thank people can see that we go to presentation mode. It will let me. So just again, a budget breakdown of kind of catalysts. And I think this is an opportunity. And Emily, if you could drop also the survey link in the chat. It's been shared with all of you prior, but since I have your attention, I want to make sure this, a big part of this is ensuring that we have kind of feedback or input in how we kind of write the narrative. So again, there's \$9 million for pre development projects. I think the state knows that we don't know what these projects are. And so again, it's going to be, I guess, very minimally written as to we just are going to say we want \$9 million to do this work. So I want to just start there.

Jesse Ben-Ron

It's not as if again, we have to have the projects even submitted to us, let alone selected. That is part of the work. But we will say we absolutely need \$9 million because I can guarantee we will have projects that will expend \$9 million. And then the other one that I would say is TBD, and there's another slide, is the industry sector coordinators. Again, the state recognizes there is almost no way, or there is no way. And I would be shocked if any region knows who these industry sector coordinators are or I guess would have selected the industry sector coordinator. So I will talk again about that role once more.

Jesse Ben-Ron

But I just want to make clear that kind of, when we submit this proposal, just know, like the state is very well aware that \$9 million, there's not really supposed to be a plan on what that will be spent on, nor will the \$1.5 million. But I think what we do know, obviously as regional conveners as best as we can budget, is kind of how OCBC thinks it's best to spend the \$2 million to sustain this per the requirements. And then I don't have something for the fiscal agent, but the fiscal agent gets 1.5 million in order to make sure there's adequate staffing to do the compliance part of this.

Jesse Ben-Ron

So for the 2 million that are designated to the regional convener, in conversations with my CFO and CEO, for the sake of transparency, OCBC will hire a full time manager to have myself in a much more reduced role. I love all of you, but I think this work, now that it's sustained, requires a full project manager. We will have that to still have Dr. Warod be in support of all this work because he's done a lot of economic development plans and planning to have that institutional knowledge, to have our communications on staff. I have a support person to do the calendar, invites, the notes and all the staffing, as well as rent and other operating expenses that for the two years OCBC will designate 1.25 million.

Jesse Ben-Ron

This will, at the end of the day also, I would say, gives us the funds to where if we need to be flexible and deploy funds into things that this group deems important, then we will go ahead and obviously use our funds to do that. The rest of the \$2 million we think it's important to spend on compensating the collaborative. A lot of you couldn't be present in this work if it wasn't for the compensation you were already designated. We want to extend that. And so that's what that budget allocation is to keep you on the HRTC as much as you are willing to. We are supposed to sustain research. We think \$100,000 is fair, primarily because I think our research is pretty exhaustive. However, there can be grants that as a group we may want to pursue that might be requesting specific things.

Jesse Ben-Ron

And then if it's not already in the regional plan, they will have to do some research in order to get that data set in order for us to apply for grant funding. \$180,000 for outreach and engagement. We've done a robust amount of outreach and engagement, but I think the main purpose here is to ensure that we are hearing from community when we start surfacing catalysts and implementation projects, so much like we did in the last meeting with the last presentation, or even previous ones. We asked the community what should be the industries of focus. All of you then utilize that as something to look at when you selected the industries that we will focus on. The other outreach had to do with questions around strategies, which we will address in a later meeting.

Jesse Ben-Ron

But the point was, we heard from the community what they believe the top strategies are for greater economic equity, greater environmental equity, greater public health equity. So the whole point is that you have to hear directly from residents before you as a body make decisions. You guys have your experiences, and I think we have diverse group, but we can't be presumptive in what these projects are. Another thing is also based on location, and we will disaggregate that a little bit more. It wasn't the last presentation, but if there's a greater need from the residents of North Orange county, and we think about projects of value, well, maybe that project shouldn't be in South county, even though that would be in a disinvested community in South County. So these are the things that we have to continue to work on through outreach and engagement.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Other software, we have to utilize Zoom and all the different, and the licensing there. MZ helps a little bit with the research on the labor market side. And then what I would call miscellaneous, we have to have interpretation services. As you know, we try to translate everything, like all notes are done in Spanish and Vietnamese. We've translated the full report in Spanish residents, because we are doing this via Zoom and not in person, that people will need Internet access. So we are paying for certain residents who need them, their hotspots, in order to be able to join virtually and then facilitation because we should have a third party. California, Ford is doing a wonderful job. We should have a third party move us so there's impartiality.

Jesse Ben-Ron

So that is, again, for the sake of transparency, for the 2 million, this is how we currently budget it. We have flexibility. I would say the state is very flexible with all these things between now and May, and then they will have flexibility while we do it. But this is kind of a first draft. It's not a first draft, but I would say this is how we envision kind of the money should be allocated for now as best as we can predict because it's going to be hard to truly predict what's going to be needed from May through September. So that's the breakdown there. And then I'm going to just go through this. I'll stop, pause for questions and then we'll go into the second portion.

Jesse Ben-Ron

As I mentioned again, there's industry sector coordinators that will be, we did pick five sectors, so that means it probably is justified that we have five organizations or individuals doing this work and again, a total of 1.5 million for them to do. The following ways to think about this, of course, is there are people who might know specific industries. Those people could be valuable partners or potential industry sector coordinators. Or you could look at it as are there people who are real experts in some of these specific skill sets. And so to say that someone is going to, let's say healthcare and social assistance, because that was one of the industries selected, healthcare and social assistance, can that person help catalog projects? Know where most of the state federal private grants are? Do they have relationships to liaison with the ecosystem?

Jesse Ben-Ron

And they can provide procurement assistance. Sometimes that might be difficult for one personal organization to be able to do. So another way to think about this, I think, is if you know people, because we will have an RFQ kind of RFP process with this as well. And we'll develop that in preparation of May, however. So I would just start thinking now if you know people who are very good at some of these things, that we could also try to hire people. And then I would say kind of layer their skill sets together in order to kind of meet all these objectives. So that work, we don't know the dollar amount person. We'll have to obviously wait for the kind of the RFQ or the submissions for the RFQ. But just know that this work will be contracted work.

Jesse Ben-Ron

It will not be in house at OCBC. It will not be in house at charitable ventures. So if you know, let them know now, maybe. And in preparation for that. And so before I move on, I will stop, because again, this can kind of be answered via the survey, But I want to make sure that we are answering questions first. Yes, Toni?

Toni Symonds

Yeah, thank you. And I really have appreciated the entire process that you have kept us informed with ability to have input, et cetera. As I was looking at the slides, one of the pieces that I felt that we would advantage ourselves and get closer to our alignment with disadvantaged communities is to make sure that we're including intentionally and specifically language about skill sets and activities that are helping community members where they are today to go forward. So, for instance, on the job description, we kind of have a traditional economic development description of what those facilitators might mean, might be doing. And in my mind, I was thinking

we would want to say things like workforce training, connections, ensuring that we're assisting the highest environmental standards, just transition.

Toni Symonds

I think the presentation earlier where we were talking about community ownership, and so while I think those things could be read as included in the list that you have, we don't necessarily see those words. And I think that would really.

Jesse Ben-Ron

In the proposal narrative and in the budget summary, we will make that clear. Toni, we will add that language. Any other questions or comments? So with. So we move on. Again, this is also in the survey link as know the big thing, knowing that, I think there's a lot of undecided because a lot of it will have to be made kind of collectively as a body. Just there are five fundamental narrative questions that they want us to answer. And so this top line is, I guess I have your attention, I'll take it verbally, is kind of one of the top. One is a question from the narrative. Sorry. And it's kind of get confusing. But as we move on, each kind of bold at the top is what the state has requested that we answer. I just put some high level bullet points here.

Jesse Ben-Ron

I welcome people's feedback and input on how they want to answer these questions. I will note that these answers are not supposed to be more than 500 words. So the state is asking that we are precise. It does not need to be incredibly long form. But I would just say, like I highlighted, I think, how we think we want to answer this question in big buckets or pillars. But I welcome if there's any feedback on any kind of missing bullet points, as you see per question. And so I will give it a couple of minutes. There's five of them. So if there aren't. I will move on to each section, but again, we have until the end of the month. Your feedback sooner would be appreciated. It could also be dropped in that survey.

Jesse Ben-Ron

I know about eight of you or nine of you have already completed that, and I'm weaving in your content into the narrative as well. However, this group is almost 70 and I only got nine responses. So while I have your attention, I would love again the feedback and input.

Yosefa

Hey Jesse, this is Yosefa with CLO. I'm not sure if this is the place for the question. Maybe it was when you previously opened the floor, but as we think about many of the organizations that are rooted in these disinvested communities, oftentimes the data infrastructure is not strong. And I assume that with catalyst programming that data collection, data management, data reporting is going to be critical. And maybe I missed that on the slide, but where does that sort of infrastructure around data systems lie within this work, particularly as we think about, again, those organizations that are really deeply seeded in these neighborhoods that likely don't have that infrastructure.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yes, that would ultimately be housed in, mean with OCBC to try to do that work, of course, in consultation with many members of the HRTC who live that every day, as well as we do have a partnership with ESRI, with some of that mapping and kind of hosting that data hub. So that would be, I would say the two primary partners to execute that work, and Dr. Walrod as well, would be instrumental in making sure that is a useful tool and housed. Does that answer your question, Yosefa?

Yosefa

Yeah, I think so. Do we know what type of Reporting is required for the catalyst program? I guess that's another way of asking.

Jesse Ben-Ron

The question from a compliance standpoint. That's why I'd have to defer to the fiscal agent. But as far as what's required for the actual activities themselves, that has not been 100% clear.

Yosefa

Got it.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Obviously from a basic compliance standpoint, yes, but. Right. I think if you want to talk about monitoring success.

Yosefa

Yeah, exactly.

Jesse Ben-Ron

And stuff like that. No, that has not been made explicitly clear by the state. Okay. Although I'm sure, again, like everything, we can always have our own criteria, so long as it doesn't contradict the state. So that is something we could definitely develop before we start selecting projects.

Yosefa

Thanks, Jesse.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Wow, great question. Yes, Catherine.

Catherine Muniz

Jesse, can you may have already gone over this, the bullet that says contract with five sector investment coordinators. Could you potentially go over that, what those are?

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah, so we did pick our five sectors. So their job is to whether within this, depending on how we assemble this team, they are going out to the community. They're supposed to be maybe our technical eyes and ears on projects within those specific sectors and the feasibility of some of the things being requested, of course, the dollar amount, doing the due diligence. So this HRTC is making, as best they can, apples to apples decisions on yes to this activity, and then, of course, potentially no to like these are the awardees based on this to do the pre development activities. It's in the SFP. It's quite a long list of things, but it's kind of the things that Luis mentioned are there feasibility studies, environmental impact reports.

Jesse Ben-Ron

So these are the things that they're going to have to try to solicit from all these different stakeholders to see if they have projects that could fit this predevelopment, the predevelopment definition. Of course, the second bullet point, they need to constantly be looking at funding. One is even if we choose the fund with Catalyst, setting that project up to receive implementation dollars in another way, or to be honest, if projects don't get selected by this group, could they be eligible for other sources of funding so they're just not left hanging? It's not like no good luck, but can we find funding for the ones that we say no to? And this is probably part of their work. And I would say OCBC is going to be working as well in this space liaison with the ecosystem.

Jesse Ben-Ron

That helps if you kind of know the players to be able to make sure that you're soliciting or making sure that even, that the funds are available because you just don't want an open grant where no one's going to even submit proposals. And to be honest, the provider procure technical assistance is. I think it's just language the state put in. If they can do that's great. I don't think that's an expectation. I think it was just something that, again, it's just kind of state language in order to see if it's possible. That would be helpful as well. Okay, specific questions again. And again, we will obviously have probably a more exhaustive list when we request for qualifications, but this is specifically from the SFP high level, what the expectation is of the people doing these roles. Okay.

Linda DiMario

And the 1.5 million, Jesse would be evenly divided among the five industry sector coordinators?

Jesse Ben-Ron

Well, that's why, because this money is not coming till May. We have time to decide that does not necessarily need to be the case. Okay.

Catherine Muniz

Jesse and those five sectors, again, could you just repeat them.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah. Healthcare and social assistance, education services, manufacturing, accommodation and food services. And, Dr. Do you remember the fifth one? Sorry, construction was the fifth one. Yeah, sorry, I couldn't get off mute in time. Yes, construction was the fifth one. And I will again resend, I said in the email on Tuesday, I will resend the list. As you will see in the shared folder, the full results are there to show you those were the top five, but to give you a sense of how many votes they actually got and whatnot, that's also in that shared folder with you, but those are the five industries.

Catherine Muniz  
Thank you.

Jesse Ben-Ron

No problem. Any other questions? Okay, then back to this. And Annalisa, I'm happy to stay on if anyone else wants to stay on and review this, you have this deck. Again, you could provide the input via the survey, but Annalisa, I probably recommend if you want to adjourn the meeting, but again, we'll keep it recorded. I will stay on if people want to provide input verbally to these sections, but if people want to use the survey model, then I think we should give them the right to jump off as well. So, Anna, Lisa, I'd recommend can we adjourn this meeting and then I will stay on, keep this recorded, and answer any other questions as we go through this slide deck.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

Of course. Sounds good, Jesse. As you saw, Emily, drop the survey link back in chat for your use. I'll close this out with just a few reminders for folks. There's three documents in the appendix of your agenda packet, so you'll see an executive summary there of all of the pilot projects that were awarded in May. You heard from Luis and Nate today, which is the one awarded in Santa Ana. The other seven are there. So if you want to take a look at the type of projects, what the state is looking for, that is there for your reference.

Annalisa Siregar-Wurm

You also see the state criteria on how this collaborative should start thinking about the differences between a ready to go project that we've been talking about, ready for implementation, and other sources of funding beyond the jobs for surf space versus what a last mile project is in an exploratory project. I think that's all for this. Stay on if you want to chat with Jesse specifically on this slide. The next meeting is going to be December eighth, so we'll see everyone after the Thanksgiving holiday. To those who serve and have served, happy Veterans Day to you and yours. And with that, I'll adjourn the meeting and turn it to Jesse for any additional questions that people have. If they want to utilize that in their last four minutes today. Thank you all.

Jesse Ben-Ron

I'm happy to stay on past ten for whomever also has that availability.

Linda DiMario

Jesse, this is Linda. One of the questions I have in seeing the five industries that were selected, I'm curious, how are we going to make certain that the emphasis on those five industries are integrated with the 21st century and 22nd century industries that are the current cornerstone of Orange County's economy now? I mean, health care clearly fits in there, but how can we make sure that there is an integration and that it doesn't appear to be that there's just these one off sort of projects that are popping up, but rather finding ways that we are creating true alignment and synergy with existing industries that are providing the bulk of the jobs in the area and for which our educational institutions are supporting.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah, I don't know if we can't guarantee that's going to be done with all industries. To be candid, I think that this was the decision of the group, and of course, everyone has different perspectives. The perspective you took, Linda, in selecting the top five very strategically, was a different perspective of what others might be thinking. So maybe I would say they weren't thinking in those terms when they selected these. They must have had other rationales. So I would say we're going to do it as best we can. You said some have natural fits, but others, again, I think that you can continue to elevate that as something for your colleagues to consider, but there's no way that we can.

Jesse Ben-Ron

And then with something like the K through 16 collaborative for the ones that overlap, that makes sense, and we can continue to have that synergy there for the ones that don't. I think they may be standalone in how we support that industry or think about ways of what this industry looks like moving forward in the 21st, 22nd century.

Okay, not the best answer, but I would say one thing is, I'm glad you surface this here, is that, again, this money won't be coming in till May. And because I think we're ahead in so many other aspects of this grant, that there are, I think, a lot of things that we can continue to use this opportunity to just discuss more instead of having presentations, but discussions around ways to think about this.

Jesse Ben-Ron

And Luis, I'm not sure if you're on kind of the same answer, if the group wants a subcommittee on this or whether the whole group a process to at least notify people and select. So, I'm sorry, I'm not sure if you're on Luis. I'll email you after. But that's another thing. We just want in the short amount of time to just secure the money. And then I think we have several months to secure the process and how some of this will get doled out.

Toni Symonds

I also think you're going to find in both the stakeholder map stuff, which I haven't looked at that closely, and the SWOT analysis, that there may be other strategies or groups that either have these industries or have identified other industries, because it's not necessarily that this task is the highest and best industries for the region. It's the five industries that the group feels when you talk about centering on disinvested communities that you want to begin to address. So we also need to be sure the narrative around it isn't suggesting that this is just a new list of best industries for Orange county, but that this is a list of kind of narrowing priorities for a particular kind of work. And the stakeholder map is identifying this kind of larger list. So it's not like isolation.

Toni Symonds

We recognize the 21st century industry worked and then this activity is about something else. That's how I was envisioning it.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah, I think always incredibly well said, Toni. It could very much be and thing as well. Right? There are some industries where it fits that better, and then there's others where I think we want to make more resilient, sharp, make more equitable. And that work is important, too, and not just kind of leave them in the dustbin of economic history. Any others?

Dean Forman

And I was just going to add to that this is a dean foreman at the hospitality training AcaDemy, that the state does have things like high road training partnerships and high road construction careers in the labor agency. And those are good ways to look at projects that have climate resiliency and career pathways and things like that build the better Orange County. Thanks, Jesse.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Oh, thank you. Any other questions? Just moving into, again, you can just kind of read these. If there are no comments, we can continue to move forward. But this is just the narrative questions the state has requested that we address.

Sarah Riggs

Hey, Jesse, I wanted to ask a question. Hi. I'm not sure if you went over it, but is there a certain amount of last mile ready to go and exploratory projects that like two of each? Is it just kind of what hits the mark? Is that divided in any way?

Jesse Ben-Ron

Yeah. Great question. So far the answer is no. I think the state is still mulling it over, but they did say they very much still want to see exploratory projects whether they're going to put a hard number on it or whether they kind of leave it to the region that this is not about. And I don't know what the dollar amounts are. It's not about doing 20 last mile projects, getting 9 million out the door as quickly as possible. And this is even their language, like back of the envelope type of just ideas and really digging into the feasibility and moving them forward. They do want to see that. So no hard number, but there needs to be some of one category and definitely some of the other.

Sarah Riggs

Perfect. Thank you.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Oh, great question. Any others? Then I'll move to the next one. Again, if people have any feedback or comments, you could put them in the chat, say it verbally, this is recorded, but I'll take notes on things you believe are important to be added to this narrative.

Sarah Riggs

And I was going to mention one more thing.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Sure.

Sarah Riggs

Just in regards to disinvested communities, I know that there are a lot of ethnicities that fall under the other. So just my concern would be that anything that is passed just wouldn't be only for one community, that it would kind of be inclusive of anyone under that kind of bracket.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Absolutely. And so from a kind of ethnicity or heritage standpoint, and sorry, Toni, if I'm even using those words incorrectly, those of kind of indigenous or Native American descent is the only one explicitly mentioned. Everything else is based on income. We know that there's troublesome overlaps between your ethnicity or race and your income level, but it doesn't say only for one specific ethnic community. It's based on income level and essentially what's called the median household income of where you live. And so that's what, so long as you're in that census track, you are part of that disinvested community. But even more so, of course, if we know your income level is at or below the line the state has set for Orange County. Wonderful. So it should be kind of colorblind in some sense when it comes to wish disinvested communities. Great question, though.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Any others on this? The governance structure, and by current governance structure, it's pretty much, if you are a member of the collaborative, it's one person, one vote. That's the primary thing. There's a process. We first do motion in. The second majority of votes cast is how we proceed with things. Again, if there's anything else on this topic people want to include.

Catherine Muniz

No.

Jesse Ben-Ron

I kind of already touched upon this. We partnered with a lot of community groups. We didn't do outreach engagement through a PR team. And stuff like that. It was, we contacted groups who are working in the community day in, day out in their respective fields. Some were environmentally based, some work with small businesses, some work in either by geography or other distinctions. And so it's going to be, I think, a continuation of that. And as we did, I know I've been repeating myself, but as we did when it came to industries, and as we have done with strategies, a continuation of now that we have a good sense of projects, because they've been proposed, they kind of went through whatever portal we create or whatnot, hearing from the community here are the projects being considered, what is your priority?

Jesse Ben-Ron

And using that as an important data set for this group, this collaborative, to make decisions. And then again, I think that's why we want to fund people to stay on board here, because I think it's really, the composition of this group really centers a diverse set of disinvested communities and of course, the residents themselves who have that direct life experience. I think that will make sure that this is all anchored to the benefit of our region's disinvested communities. Any other comments on this one? I believe this is the last one, or maybe that was it. Okay, here. Sorry, this is the last one. So how do we ensure that these funds get to disinvested communities in procurement? Because, of course, if you don't write a proposal, you're not going to get funded or you don't even have the possibility of being funded.

Jesse Ben-Ron

And of course, the selection. So we have, I think the. I want to hide the third, but we have the maps that tell us exactly where these census tracks are. So of course there has to be some either physical location or some connection to the residents of those census tracts. It's not like we're guessing to where these disinvested communities are. We know exactly where they are, and I think very similar to the previous one. Right. This group is anchored with organizations or individuals who naturally support these communities. So since you have

voting power, it will be naturally kind of pulled towards disinvested communities. Anything on this last topic?  
With that, I will stop share any questions, just in total, about anything that's happened today.

Jesse Ben-Ron

Because if not, then I will end the call and everyone can have, if you have a three day weekend, have a wonderful three day weekend. Thank you. Okay, take care, everybody. Adios.

Catherine Muniz

Thank you.