

Micah Weinberg:

One more proposed addition today addition to the HRTC is Melanie Schlotterbeck from the Banning Ranch Conservancy.

Toni Symonds:

Can we please get a breakdown of how many organizations we have per group, because we did want to make sure that groups that represent disadvantaged communities have a certain percentage, so that we can figure out the 65% of HRTC members representing disinvested communities.

Jesse Ben-Ron:

Yes, we can have that for the next agenda. We have a lot of organizations that support disinvested communities, but we also want actual individuals from disinvested communities, and that's how we have made that distinction in the SFP.

Motion to accept Banning Ranch Conservancy to the HRTC is approved.

Micah Weinberg:

Dr. Walrod is going to provide us some context about, how does that get used in this broader serve process.

Dr. Walrod:

We're sticking to the State guidelines that are outlined in the SFP and also in our proposal in our project plan. The overarching frameworks for CERF are a lens of equity, sustainability, Job quality and access, and economic competitiveness and resilience. So we've started to do some of those presentations so far that all roll up to the regional plan part one, and the components of that for the State guidelines are stakeholder mapping the regional of summary labor market analysis, and industry cluster analysis and then a SWOT analysis. Our approach has been to have the people who are going to be writing the analysis and providing the data do a Powerpoint presentation first, so that you can review, give us feedback ,and then we'll start doing the narrative right up. That will be the draft of the report, and then you'll have multiple opportunities. to review and provide us feedback with several different drafts before we finalize that. We are incorporating all the questions and feedback that we've been getting.

That's our most recent community indicators report that we have done every year since 1999.

https://ocbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FINAL_DIGITAL_CommunityIndicators22-Reduced.pdf

Dr. Kleinhenz:

Orange county is a large prosperous region 3.2 million in population the third largest county in California, also the third largest in terms of household employment. The unemployment rate matches that of the United States at 3.4%. It's typically among the lowest in California. It's per personal income on a per capita basis is an overall gauge of economic well-being is \$81,000. That's the ninth highest in California.

There's some significant regional strengths. It is its ability to grow medical devices, industry, information, technology, business services and financial services, and the well-known hospitality and tourism sector of the economy.

We still have a county with several challenges. The median price in Orange County housing market now is among the highest in California and the nation. That means that affordability is among the lowest in California. It's the lowest here in Southern California. Rents are also among the highest in the California economy as well as nationally. 56% of renters spend at least 30% of income on rent. Poverty 9.9% based on the U.S. Department of Commerce lowest among the counties in California.

The largest of the sectors in the economy, in terms of employment include healthcare and social assistance, and down at the bottom we have administrative support, construction, accommodation and food services which, together with arts and recreation, often makes up what we call leisure and hospitality, and together that would be among the largest of the sectors of the of the local economy.

Gross Regional Product for Orange County is 250-billion-dollar economy in Orange County, among the largest in the nation.

Linda DiMario:

I noticed that there is a bit of a disconnect between healthcare. It doesn't show up on the industry clusters. Is there a rationale for that?

Robert Kleinhenz:

My guess is that it's in terms of its ranking as an industry cluster. It's probably not a lot higher than the typical ranking for the State as a whole and for other counties.

We are a net importer of workers. Workers who reside in Orange County is about 1.55 million individuals and the total non-farm employment is almost 1.7 million people. So the gap has to be filled by people who come into the county from elsewhere.

As the pandemic hit us in 2020, the share of people working from home escalated to not just in Orange County to roughly 20%, but also for all of California.

Now we're going to turn our attention to data from a different set of data that tells us about the workers in orange county. The mix of occupational groups for the county doesn't differ a whole lot from California as a whole.

Here the mean average occupational wage. Orange County is almost \$68,000. We see here that food, preparation, and service-related pays about \$30,000.

To ensure that this vibrant economy we have continues to grow at its potential we're going to have to ensure that it has enough workers, we've already seen that we already import to significant number of workers.

Median Housing price in Orange County, is more than \$1,000,000. That price is about half the California median. Rents are high by any measure. We've got an average rent of \$3,000 for Orange County compared to \$2,000 for the U.S.

This graph shows the total number of housing permitted units for the county. Going back to 2010, never exceeding 12,000 units. Based on SCAG numbers, Orange County has a housing need of 18,000 per year. It's not coming anywhere close to meeting this housing number so that's a huge challenge for the county.

The Median household income for Orange County is about \$100,000. More than 50% of renters spend at least 30% of their income on rent.

There's a distressed community index, and it shows that Orange County fares relatively well compared to some of the other neighboring counties here in Southern California.

Ana Urzua:

As we bring on the disinvested community members, how can our meetings could be more engaging and inclusive? How do we get to know who's in the room? Could the introductions be paired with a check in question? Is there an opportunity for a space to digest these presentations in advance or separate from these meetings?

Can we intentionally request input and participation from disinvested community members? And how do we make it? A space where they feel comfortable to be able to speak up and participate? Would we be able to say, "can we hear from at least one disinvested community member on this topic before we take a vote?"

How do we have them participate in the language that they are most comfortable with?

Austin Lynch:

There's a there's a in the in the cluster analysis. There's no slides on unionization or the relationship between unionization and wages. If we paid more to the to the cleaning, the food service, and the other lower end classification, there would be much less of a gap, for instance, housekeepers in Los Angeles are making \$25 an hour right now. Housekeepers in Orange County are making \$20 or \$18 or less. If housekeepers just have a union, they're making \$10,000 more a year. If we don't include that, then our policy options become limited because we don't recognize the obvious fact, paying more and unionization solves those problems. I think that it's critical that we fix those omissions before using that that cluster analysis or considering it complete.

Kathy Boyd:

I do want to outline some other movements happening in the education sector specifically a K through 16, which means pre-kindergarten all the way through twelfth grade, and then beyond into our community college, our 4 universities, and beyond.

One of the things that is happening because of the K-16 grant, everyone in education is at the table with anybody within industry whether that be a private or a public partner in the business field, a nonprofit and intermediary, and we're collaborating more specifically around attaching students from all of those education systems to the workforce and build these pipelines together. I am personally taking responsibility for making sure I connect anyone in education with anyone in business through this venue.

Ana Charco:

When we think of disinvested communities, the undocumented community comes to mind. Do the numbers mentioned in this presentation consider that undocumented community, if not, I think it would be cool to add how the undocumented community has contributed to the Orange County economy and how these numbers might not represent that population.

Paul Kagoo:

I wonder if there are ways in which you can keep us engaged and discussing offline? If there's some sort of network where people can ask these questions and answer and debate it at their own leisure.

Cesar Covarrubias:

We need to critically think about how we're going to be on boarding these impacted communities that we want to participate in the process and figure out what are some of the processes that are going to be available to make their participation more effective.

It's clear to me that addressing just one particular issue, such as wages, may not be the best strategy for the work that we are trying to do. There's a lot of intersectionality with issues that are impacting these lower income communities, one that was pointed out in the discussion today was housing. The hourly wages that need to be earned to afford the typical rents in Orange County is over \$46 an hour, so I know that we have to increase wages, but we have to look at other impacts. How do we provide more affordable housing? How do we lower the housing cost?

We also need to think about those individuals who are not hired by traditional methods who do not have traditional jobs that are reported in our housing analysis and our housing data or they have part-time jobs or cash jobs and other jobs that usually are the typical jobs in communities that are impacted are not going to be reflected in this data and how we can capture some of that.

Micah Weinberg:

Let's start with the question of job quality, which isn't just a measure of you know how much a particular job makes, whether that job is unionized, but also is this a sustainable job? Is this a resilient job? And so on.

Robert Kleinhenz:

We have various data sources that help to inform quality of jobs. Sustainability of jobs, we have looked at various data sources to see what we can do to flush out that aspect. Part of that is tied to the industries themselves, and several of the industries that make up the Orange County economy probably do have long term sustainability,

Micah Weinberg:

There is this broader, informal economy, and I have seen some studies of that, but what have you seen that are some best practices, for incorporating those kind of elements of the informal economy into these broader analyses?

Robert Kleinhenz:

To the extent that individuals are picked up, and their information is picked up in surveys that are commonly used. When we pull out data on wages by occupation that would include anybody regardless of their work, relationship, or their work situation, and also with respect to the labor force data. Those data sources already pick up that information in principle. It's just a question of whether these particular groups are participating in that survey.

Michael Graff-Weisner:

Would it be possible to have this research data on wealth and wealth gap in Orange County by race, and how it has changed over time?

Robert Kleinhenz:

It's a lot easier to get information on income as opposed to wealth at the county level. One measure of wealth could be the degree to which people are homeowners or not. We should be able to come up with some type of distribution of both. We certainly have distribution of income already in our data.

Micah Weinberg:

What people are looking for is kind of crosswalking the amount of jobs, the amount of output that these different industries produce, with the contribution to the overall well-being of people in Orange County, the climate sustainability, etc.? What do you believe accounts for Orange County being this net importer of workers right?

Robert Kleinhenz:

When you look at all of Southern California there is a significant flow of workers from one community to another. That's just that's the way it is when you've got this large metropolitan area where people their place of work more frequently than they changed their residence. It's a magnet for workers who come from the Inland Empire. You've got a number of industries that are high profile and successful in Orange County that make for good magnets for workers who are coming from these other areas.

Candace Mays:

We are looking at Covid indicators. In this dashboard there are 2 different maps the first map is COVID-19 totals in cases and in deaths. The darker the color, the higher the cases of COVID-19. When you click on a section you will notice that the numbers to the far left change depending on what zip code you're looking at.

On the right hand side we're looking at what we call covid vital conditions, and these are areas that are at a higher rate of heavy impact for an unexpected disaster, such as COVID-19, it can also be any other sort of disaster that may hit. The categories that we're looking at for these counties of impact are economic, education, and housing, environment, and neighborhood. so in this county they're faring the worst in housing and in education as well as economically. Note that data on deaths and cases is not available by census tract.

Luis Sarmineto:

I wanted to lift up making this space more inclusive. If the CERF initiative doesn't recognize important shifts that are happening in Orange County, especially with regard to addressing historic inequality, racial inequality and other types of inequality that exist in our county then we're not going to be successful in this initiative, and the connection I want to make is also with a lot of unions who have made the point of how worker organizing and unions are the difference between a poorly paying job and a better paying job. The same can be said at the community level, and I think the importance of community organizations and community organizing and the difference that that will make when we're talking about the distribution of public resources. This is an invitation to connect with the community

organizations and the people doing the organizing work that have lifted up the voices and the power of communities of color and low-income communities, here in Orange County. The work to be done in the CERF process does have to do with connecting more with those community organizations and having those voices lead, lead the design of what questions need to be addressed in our research, and what type of strategies we're going to use to address inequality in in our county.