

May 17, 2024

Desiree Martinez

I work with the California Ocean Protection Council, helping to distribute SB 1 funding for coastal cities to plan for sea level rise. I'm part of a technical assistance group aiding tribes and municipalities, especially those focused on environmental justice and small rural communities. This funding supports these areas in developing plans to address future sea level rise, particularly those lacking financial resources.

John Gutierrez

I am with the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Tomorrow, we are hosting a ribbon-cutting for a new flea market at the corner of Bush and Fourth Street in downtown Santa Ana.

Natalie Nguyen

I am with Charitable Ventures, the fiscal agent for this CERF program and I'm looking forward to working with you all. If you need anything I'm reachable, and I'll drop my email in the chat for you.

Apolonio Cortez

I worry that I am limited in being able to interact with everyone due to my language abilities. I express my excitement and optimism about this initiative but apologize for my limited contributions.

Jesse Ben Ron

We will follow up to figure out how Apolonio can feel more comfortable through this process.

Ish Herrera

On the agenda today are two items we will vote on. I turn it over to Jesse.

Jesse Ben Ron

The state has been cautious about mandating too much, creating a push and pull dynamic. We've narrowed our list based on their feedback. While this focus can exclude certain industries from funding, we've tried to stay inclusive and consider the strength of each project. On the screen, you'll see the current list with items to be removed highlighted in red. The staff-recommended list of ten includes salary ranges for rationale. Previously, you selected five priority sectors: healthcare, social assistance, construction, manufacturing, food services, accommodation, and education services. We're awaiting state confirmation to proceed with the list of ten. You have a list of 13 and can vote for the top 10. We need to decide if we want to honor the original categories or ensure one industry from the original five is included, which may mean removing an industry ranked ninth or tenth.

Austin Lynch

I hope they don't cut further, keeping them both is important.

Linda DiMario

We should support the staff recommendation, they've done the homework on this. I understand the rationale for it.

Toni Symonds

Could you provide the median wage for this category?

Wallace Walrod

\$71,703 annually.

Toni Symonds

I respect the work you guys did. Manufacturing is the only one I'm unsure if there's a way to get at that.

Andrew Gonzalez

I'm gonna second the motion.

Ish Herrera

We have a motion and a second. Any additional comments?

Ana Urzua

I'm wondering if there's anybody in the room that can speak to Tony's question?

Jesse Ben Ron

The state told us the list of 10 is the max range. Do we want to swap that for a different one?

Toni Symonds

I'll offer an amendment to the motion, which would be to swap out Ambulatory Health Services with a commitment that we would be looking at that under the other categories for strategies to make sure that we have a strong safety net, and that we are filling it with both facilities and humans. The state provided new directives in a six-page document, asking for strategies in three sections. One is about target industries, another is sector-neutral strategies, which I interpret as strategies that apply broadly, like general K-12 education. Healthcare fits into sector-neutral strategies because, regardless of prioritized industry sectors, a strong healthcare network is essential.

Teresa Schickling

Could all that manufacturing fit under "miscellaneous manufacturing," "computer and electronic product manufacturing," and "specialty trade contractors"?

Wallace Walrod

We don't include the fabricated metal sector in either of these. Especially trade contractors, that's construction and not in manufacturing. The way the government classifies industries is very specific. Orange County is a big center for medical devices, and medical devices would fall into miscellaneous manufacturing.

Linda DiMario

Fabricated metal manufacturing is highly susceptible to robotics, unlike Ambulatory Health Care Services, which relies on essential human involvement and cannot be fully replaced by robots, although they can be assisted or enhanced.

Wallace Walrod

To give a little context about what's in the Ambulatory Health Care Services, that's offices of physicians, offices of dentists, outpatient care centers, medical and diagnostic labs, and home health care services.

Luis Sarmiento

We are making decisions without a lot of representation from the sectors. I'm glad to see the accommodation and food services. To what extent are we focusing, our efforts on making sure that the equity goal is at the center of our decision making?

Ish Herrera

We had a motion by Linda DiMario and a second from Andrew Gonzalez. We are now moving into voting. The motion carries approval. We will turn to the fifth item in our agenda, which also requires action and that is the consideration of the investment sector coordinator Request for Qualifications RFQ.

Jesse Ben Ron

A draft form was shared at the previous meeting. We had office hours, for those who were interested and we incorporated recommended changes. For catalyst we have funding to hire these people and to support the work. We are releasing the RFQ and Charitable Ventures will need to start contracting with them. This is only the release, we are not hiring today.

Jasmine Pachanda

I am fine with the document. Do we envision that this is a person who takes this role or organization?

Jesse Ben Ron

The answer is both. That's why I think RFQ sub RFP so an individual or a firm.

Luis Sarmiento

I must have missed the email. I do have a comment if it's possible to include it now. I would like to see some language on the coordinator's experience working with disinvested communities.

Jesse Ben Ron

There's a criteria in there. Each topic gets 20 points, so we can just keep it an easy 100. But that is one of the five things that we are going to be grading these applications on.

Andrew Gonzalez

I'll make the motion.

Linda DiMario

A quick clarification. How many of these positions are we hiring for?

Jesse Ben Ron

No more than five.

Jeff Ball

This is Jeff and I second Andrew's motion.

Ish Herrera

Okay, we have a motion from Andrew Gonzalez and the second from Jeff.

Luis Sarmiento

I would like to make a quick amendment, can we remove the words with projects experience serving disinvested communities?

Jesse Ben Ron

Tony you included that as a criteria. So how do you feel?

Toni Symonds

I think it's good. My suggestion is to go to the criteria above because there's two pieces. If people are open to it, modify the second and third criteria to address disinvested communities.

Andrew Gonzalez

I oppose the motion. I prioritize individuals with a track record of delivering tangible results rather than just talking. Demonstrated success and a history of completing projects are crucial.

Jeff Ball

I would affirm what Andrew was saying I feel that the way we have it laid out in lines two and three is adequate to address the concern.

Luis Sarmiento

I am saying to keep the second criteria experience with projects of similar size and scope. We want folks that have experience working directly with disinvested communities.

Cesar Covarrubias

I agree with Luis on the importance of genuine, direct engagement with communities.

Jesse Ben Ron

We choose the term elements but you might want to call their scope of work. Every one of these elements almost has that language in it to coordinate with partners. We try to use language as much as possible to serve historically disinvested communities.

Jeff Ball

Allow me to clarify, I agree with what you're saying. We have adequately covered within the elements so that the language on that summary table is appropriate.

Luis Sarmiento

I feel okay withdrawing the amendment with the understanding that we will address this moving forward. I do appreciate the language throughout the document.

Ish Herrera

After voting, the motion passes, and we have approval to proceed with publicizing this RFQ. We're now discussing the sixth agenda item. Tony will provide insight on behalf of the Native American community.

Toni Symonds

I am with the American Indian Chamber of Commerce in California, and we've shared our thoughts with our American Indian and Alaskan Native partners. Reviewing the Excel sheets, it seemed we were narrowing our focus rather than expanding our thought process. So, we took a different approach and aimed to encapsulate rather than prioritize. Career pathways, apprenticeships, wraparound services, small businesses and entrepreneurship, workforce housing, uplifting community voices, technology and innovation, culturally competent engagement, and sustainable environment were all important to the group. By reshuffling and looking at high-ranking votes in these categories, we developed strategy statements reflecting key themes. Instead of editing down items in the third category, we identified the core messages, resulting in the revised sub-strategy list.

Jesse Ben Ron

We'll decide whether to proceed with the current structure or make changes based on the collaborative's preference. The focus will be on prioritizing industry sectors while also considering sector-neutral, mobility, and regional community development strategies. We aim to have this finalized by the next meeting, allowing the research team to address all state requirements. From an initial list of 105, we've narrowed it down to about 17 or 18 key strategies, as Tony mentioned.

Jasmine Pachanda

Clarifying question because they are both structured differently. If we were to go with the structure that Tony suggested, which is amazing, and thank you, Tony, for doing that work, it doesn't align to those three categories, or does it and I may have just missed that?

Jesse Ben Ron

I think it easily can. We would take these nine and then put them into two categories.

Toni Symonds

My suggestion would be to create a workgroup that tries to combine them because we did this trying to honor the group's contributions and encapsulating them.

Teresa Schickling

This has nothing to do with the location of when we finally start implementing.

Jesse Ben Ron

Correct, the location is based on the original census tracts.

Linda DiMario

My overarching question is this: we have 63 members of the HRTC who reviewed the original language and strategies in their truncated form, which was approved. I haven't read every line of your translation,

but I trust your work. Can you confirm that this translation or interpretation from one column to another was clean and accurate? I need to be assured of this, as others might as well.

Toni Symonds

It's our intent that it is, and we would want to share it so that others can look at it. But yeah, it was trying to say, we think we've covered it, but it's a lot.

Jesse Ben Ron

I would confirm that is true. Do people want the language that they advocated for in there? We can have that working group meeting and I'll circle back to see who's interested in trying to reconcile the two documents.

Ana Urzua

Both Thrive Santa Ana and Cooperacion Santa Ana are hosting a third and final community forum. We will have one more opportunity to take back the strategies.

Cesar Covarrubias

I'm assuming that we're taking into consideration the information coming from community meetings and other partners. Am I correct in assuming that?

Jesse Ben Ron

Yes. That is why we presented that outreach and engagement analysis through different dissections. That is what the collaborative looked to as guidance when they selected what could be priorities.

Maria Linares

The next meeting is set for June 7, so the agenda will likely be sent out by May 31. If not, we aim to send it by Tuesday, June 4, ensuring you have ample time for review. If you haven't received the agenda by then, please email me directly so I can ensure you receive it promptly.

Ish Herrera

Before we adjourn, I want to highlight a significant update stemming from the governor's May revised budget. Unfortunately, the California Jobs First program is facing additional reductions, with a proposed \$150 million cut over the next three fiscal years. While concerning, this raises questions about resource availability for implementation and long-term sustainability. We remain committed to working with you to build an equitable economy in your communities. Stay focused on our shared goals and principles of resiliency, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Jeff Ball

Our advocacy team continues to be engaged, watching for updates and emphasizing the importance of this work with our local elected.