LGC works in five main program areas

2020 Annual Impact Report
The Local Government Commission (LGC) supports local policymakers through nationally recognized events, affordable technical assistance, and policy guidance on climate change, energy, water, and healthy community design.

LGC Maintains a Network of 650+ Innovative Leaders

LGC is a team of

Local Government Staff

33%

23%

42%

Elected Officials

3 Part Time Staff

Full Time Staff

2% Retired

CivicSpark Fellows

37

82

LGC works in five main program areas

CLIMATE CHANGE

COMMUNITY DESIGN

ENERGY

NATIONAL SERVICE

WATER
LGC acted rapidly and decisively to respond to state and county public health and safety guidance. Starting the week of March 9th all staff were given the option to telecommute, the office was completely closed the morning of March 17th and all staff were successfully transitioned to remote work.

Leadership and program teams are conducting video meetings at least once a week and staff have led and engaged a number of wellness activities including a weekly wellness newsletter, video coffee hours, skill share lunch sessions led by different staff and morning meditation.

We've increased organizational efficiency and have taken measures to reduce risk across the organization and all of our projects including shifting our 2020 events and community engagement activities to interactive virtual events, including the Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum planned for June. The biennial California Adaptation Forum that was planned for August will be pushed to 2021.

We have also pursued potential opportunities. From increases in bicycling and walking and telecommuting to decreases in VMT and overall electricity use, there are a number of behavioral changes and economic factors that could impact sustainability initiatives. LGC is assessing these factors to evolve and improve our programs.

We've also produced resilient COVID recovery white papers and newsletter articles and a guide on Best Practices for Virtual Engagement, a summary of key considerations and specific guidance for virtual engagement, with the hope of supporting our members and partners in creating effective virtual engagement during this unique situation – as well as in better times to come.

Finally LGC is identifying key state budget and stimulus priorities that are mutually reinforcing across climate, social equity and economic recovery in the hopes that the massive stimulus investments can improve long-term community resilience.

Overall the key now is to be clear-eyed about the current reality and the long-term impacts, but hopeful about our ability to respond. We remain optimistic about LGC’s ability to support local leaders through this difficult time and to position communities to be more resilient coming out of this crisis.

Difficult situations and disruptions can provide a rare opportunity to gain insights and develop new approaches that can improve our lives long after the pandemic.
LGC is advocating for stimulus investments in projects that address public health, climate and social-equity needs— including infill affordable housing, critical transit projects, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, broadband deployment and sustained telecommuting and telemedicine programs, zero-emission vehicle fleet conversion and infrastructure deployment, urban greening (especially in marginalized communities) and access to healthy, local food.

We can’t boost the economy in a way that would continue to lead us into another health crisis in terms of air pollution and climate change— it’s imperative that we consider opportunities to create more sustainable, resilient jobs and invest in helping industries become more efficient and less polluting.

Given the long-standing economic impacts we are likely to face as a result of the COVID pandemic, we must all be much more strategic and creative with our investments and our core principles, focusing on high-priority projects that achieve multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.

Challenging times are uniquely opportune for assessing what’s most critical— in times of distress priorities are clarified, and barriers are removed.

These times also show us the extent to which people are willing and capable of making significant and dramatic changes in the face of a global threat. People have significantly reduced their carbon footprint – in ways that would have been unimaginable just weeks ago. These reductions (however long they last) have come at a significant cost for businesses and millions of workers. While we work to minimize the immediate hurt (especially for our most vulnerable residents and communities), there are perhaps, simultaneously, lessons we can learn from this difficult period to sustain some of the new habits people are developing without the social and economic burden.

As leaders, our first responsibility is to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our staff and the people and businesses within our communities. Already, many of us are doing that in creative new ways that wouldn’t have been possible before this disruption. Together we will forge through to ensure our communities’ near term recovery and long-term resilience and prosperity.
THE LGC APPROACH

With roots in California and a national reputation, LGC offers inspiration, information, and partnership for local and regional champions dedicated to building thriving communities that integrate civic engagement with environmental, social and economic priorities. We affect change through:

We affect change through:

Implementing Solutions

LGC has an extensive track record partnering with local communities as a technical assistance provider to design projects, engage stakeholders, and implement solutions that advance community livability and resiliency. In 2020, the Local Government Commission provided support to 247 local and regional jurisdictions. LGC staff and CivicSpark Fellows provided over 118,895 hours of direct assistance to communities throughout the state. In August 2020, the CivicSpark program’s sixth cohort will graduate bringing CivicSpark’s alumni network to almost 400 members. A seventh cohort will begin its service year in September supporting 75+ California public agencies in implementing community resilience solutions.

Connecting Leaders

LGC is a unique forum for local leaders to share experiences, build their network, and learn new strategies for creating livable communities. LGC offers conferences, training forums, and resources that grow local knowledge for creating livable communities and help build a cadre of leaders throughout the state with a local presence and state and national influence. LGC was able to quickly and creatively shift programming to online, virtual platforms to respond to the COVID pandemic. In 2020, we’ve connected over 4,354 livable community leaders and practitioners through statewide forums, regional symposiums, design workshops, webinars, and networking events.

Advancing Policy

LGC works on behalf of local leaders to advance regulatory and legislative actions that address key community design, climate change, energy, water, and national service imperatives. LGC maintains partnerships with key regional, state and federal agencies and is called upon regularly to provide livable communities expertise. We’ve advanced policy through 12 presentations, panels, and interviews; we’ve engaged the state legislature with a total of 65 comment letters and testimonies, and we’ve held several policy workshops.

This report outlines progress on our strategic goals to advance decarbonization, improve wildland and watershed management, and increase climate-smart housing.
LGC's decarbonization goals include:

- Supporting and increasing a shift to sustainable mobility including: walking, bicycling, mass transit, and shared mobility options
- Increasing electrification of vehicles and advancing water and energy efficiency programs
- Increasing building electrification

LGC is supporting these goals through a number of programs including: community design workshops, CivicSpark fellow energy and climate projects, state technical assistance and outreach programs, and our statewide energy and climate adaptation coalitions.
COMMUNITY DESIGN

In 2020, the COVID pandemic drastically changed how communities conduct outreach and engagement efforts. LGC’s Community Design Team worked virtually with communities around the state to conduct local visioning, planning and implementation of solutions for shared mobility, active transportation, affordable housing, placemaking, and main street and neighborhood revitalization. Below is a list of communities and planning efforts the team led or supported in 2020.

1. City of Adelanto Safe Routes to School Plan (in progress)
2. City of Artesia Active Transportation Plan (in progress)
3. City of Arvin Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Plan (adopted 2/20)
4. City of Colfax, Main Street Improvements Plan
5. City of Guadalupe Mobility and Revitalization Plan (adopted 2/20)
6. City of Isleton Park Improvement Project (ongoing)
7. City of Lakeport Eleventh Street Corridor Multimodal Engineered Feasibility Study (adopted 6/20)
8. City of Menifee Active Transportation Plan (in progress)
9. City of Paso Robles Niblick Road Complete and Sustainable Streets Design (in progress)
10. City of Vacaville Downtown Specific Plan (in progress)
12. County of Lake Highway 20 Traffic Calming Plan & Engineered Feasibility Study (adopted 6/20)
13. County of Riverside Neighborhood and Regional Mobility Plans for North Shore and Mecca (adopted 2/20)
14. County of Ventura Ojai Valley Highway 33 Multimodal and Community Enhancement Study (adopted 2/20)
CALTRANS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER:

LGC is leading a team that includes Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and Fehr and Peers that assisted eleven disadvantaged communities with capacity building, project scoping, and application development support, which resulted in the submission of 7 Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant applications. LGC is providing additional capacity-building support to the communities that didn't apply for an ATP grant to gear up future funding opportunities. Below is a list of communities and projects the team supported:

- City of El Centro, Imperial Avenue Active Transportation Improvements
- City of King City, San Antonio Drive Bike and Pedestrian Path & Educational Program
- City of San Bruno, Huntington Transit Corridor Bicycle/Pedestrian and Related Improvements Project
- Community of Cedarville (Unincorporated Modoc County) Surprise Valley School Safety & Community Connectivity Project
- Community of Mariposa (Unincorporated Mariposa County) Mariposa Creek Parkway Project
- Community of Northfork (Unincorporated Madera County) North Fork Safe Routes to Schools Project
- County of Lassen Susanville South Connectivity Project
- County of Ventura El Rio Pedestrian Improvement and Safe Routes to Schools Project
- Dry Creek Rancheria Active Transportation Project
- Unincorporated Alameda County San Lorenzo Creekway Project

SGC TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES (TCC) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

LGC the cities of Oakland and Richmond to apply for TCC Implementation Grants as part of the technical assistance team to help community partnerships. The Oakland “Better Neighborhoods, Same Neighbors: An East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative” proposal was awarded $28.2 million to implement a community plan for neighborhood development without displacement. The proposal will build a 55-unit affordable housing community that also includes a new health clinic. The proposal incorporates local art and culture into projects including active transportation, trees to promote healthier surroundings, and a new nursery that will provide organic produce and food-producing plants to the community.

FUNDING NAVIGATION FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES:

LGC’s funding navigation and technical assistance program (www.fundingresource.org) features over 100 of the most prominent funding opportunities for active transportation, affordable housing, drinking water, street repair, parks, public transit and shared mobility, stormwater and wastewater management projects. In 2020 we provided support to 17 communities, helping them to identify, prepare, and apply for funding opportunities. LGC has completed or is in the process of assisting 12 communities with 14 applications for Caltrans Sustainable Communities grants, Caltrans Active Transportation Program grants, Proposition 68 grants, and other grant funding. We have updated fundingresource.org with new Statewide and regionally-available funding opportunities, including the addition of a COVID funding resource page.
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY PROJECT:
LGC is part of the technical assistance team led by Estolano Associates on behalf of the California Air Resources Board that helped communities apply for grants to plan and implement clean transportation projects. The program awarded 11 grants totaling $19.5 million to community-based organizations and local governments across California to help disadvantaged and low-income communities address transportation needs with innovative clean, sustainable transportation solutions. LGC will continue to provide implementation support to awardees and support unsuccessful grant applicants to pursue other resources to advance their efforts.

CLEAN MOBILITY OPTIONS VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM:
LGC is in the second year of implementing the California Air Resources Board’s Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program for under-resourced communities with $27 Million in funding for shared mobility projects (carshare, bike, and scooter-share, ride-on-demand, and innovative transit) and zero-emission vehicles. As part of a team led by CALSTART that includes the Shared Use Mobility Center and GRID Alternatives, LGC supports the program’s outreach and engagement efforts and provides technical assistance to help communities learn about the funding opportunity and develop projects. The first round of applications for the Community Transportation Needs Assessment Voucher took place in June 2020, and the Mobility Project Voucher Applications occurred in October 2020. There will be a second funding cycle in 202
CLIMATE CHANGE

MAYORS’ COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:
In 2019, LGC continued administering the Mayors’ Commission on Climate Change, a joint initiative of Sacramento Mayor Steinberg and West Sacramento Mayor Cabaldon to identify strategies to achieve carbon zero in both cities by 2045. To support the Commission’s charge, LGC formed a series of technical advisory committees to develop carbon zero strategies for the built environment, mobility, and community health and resiliency, and to identify financing options to implement these bold strategies. LGC also engaged with community leaders to ensure that the strategies being developed prioritize equitable solutions for marginalized communities. LGC organized five public meetings for the Commission to discuss its recommendations and solicit community input. This initiative will conclude in May of 2020 with a public release of the Commission’s recommendations report to the mayors.

ENERGY

STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY COLLABORATIVE (SEEC):
SEEC is celebrating 11 years of success in bringing energy efficiency to the forefront of local government sustainability solutions. In total, we have assisted 156 cities and counties by providing technical assistance and creating opportunities for best practice sharing and peer-to-peer networking. Due to the CPUC Decisions requiring Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) to outsource 60% of their customer programs (Decision 16-08-0192) to Third Party contractors, and the minimum cost-effectiveness thresholds for IOU program portfolios, the IOUs have undergone a portfolio balancing process that includes reducing budgets and sunsetting programs including the IOUs’ partnership with SEEC. In 2020, the final year of the SEEC program, LGC organized the Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum (virtually), developed an annual climate change and energy legislative update, and produced a series of papers to help local governments advance their sustainability and clean energy goals despite COVID challenges.

Recognizing the value of LGC’s support for local governments in advancing climate and energy action the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, Tri-County Regional Energy Network, and Southern California Regional Energy Network (RENS) reached out to LGC to explore partnership opportunities to continue providing our SEEC programs to local jurisdictions. In 2021, LGC will be launching a new program with REN partners - the California Climate and Energy Collaborative (CCEC) to continue providing forums for learning and networking, as well as technical assistance to local governments throughout California.
11th ANNUAL STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FORUM:
June - November 2020
The annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum reached thousands of local government staff and energy efficiency practitioners in 2020. Due to the pandemic, LGC conducted the forum virtually to continue delivering timely and relevant content to local government staff while aiming to preserve the value of networking opportunities to the greatest extent possible. This year's theme, Promising Solutions for a Clean Energy Future, highlighted concrete strategies, case studies, tools, and resources to support local government agencies in advancing clean energy goals, responding to rapidly evolving trends, and continuing to meet their communities' energy needs. The 2020 SEEC Virtual Forum featured 20 webinars and 6 networking activities from June to November 2020, reaching 1,824 participants throughout the state. Despite the many challenges experienced this year, the 11th Annual SEEC Forum successfully created a community space for local governments and energy professionals to share, learn, and collaborate.

STATEWIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY BEST PRACTICES COORDINATOR (BPC):
The overall goal of the BPC is to support California local governments in implementing cost-effective energy efficiency projects and policies that support the achievement of local and state energy and climate goals, including the State’s Long Term Strategic Plan, and the Public Sector chapters of Investor-owned Utilities 2018-2025 Business Plans.

In 2020, the BPC continued producing the wEEkly Update newsletter, which has become a key resource for local governments and other stakeholders to stay up-to-date on the latest energy efficiency news, resources, job opportunities, and events. The BPC completed 3 Technical Assistance requests related to local natural gas reduction options, California's Self-Generation Incentive Program, and Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) Guidance. The Coordinator also conducted interviews with local government leaders to understand and disseminate best practices related to accelerating energy efficiency. The BPC also conducted a series of surveys to better understand local government needs, which resulted in two new long-standing resources: a directory of no-cost technical assistance programs and opportunities and a filterable database of energy efficiency best practices and case studies to help communities pursue energy and climate initiatives.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COALITION (LGSEC):

LGSEC remains the only entity representing local government interests at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). In 2020, LGSEC filed 9 comments on multiple proceedings at the CPUC relating to Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Microgrids, Energy Efficiency, Transportation Electrification, and Clean Energy Financing. LGSEC kept its members informed about various CPUC proceedings of interest to local governments, including the PG&E bankruptcy and its possible impacts on communities. LGSEC sent a bi-monthly newsletter, Sustainable Energy Scoop, to keep its members informed and connected. LGSEC also organized 2 webinars and 2 member meetings throughout 2020. In 2021, LGSEC will continue to focus on policy efforts that align financial resources with local governments' climate and energy needs.

CLEAN POWER ALLIANCE (CPA) SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INCUBATOR:

In partnership with CPA, LGC successfully transitioned all Sustainable Energy Incubator programs to a virtual space. Quarterly workshops were hosted online to engage CPA member agencies, and community stakeholders in solution-oriented conversations focused on community engagement and regional decarbonization for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Workshops also focused on clean energy resilience and decarbonization in the context of COVID. LGC provided technical assistance to member agencies and worked with CPA to revamp technical assistance offerings to ensure member agencies receive the support needed to achieve their decarbonization goals.

SAN DIEGO CLEAN POWER (SDCP) CLEAN POWER INCUBATOR:

Building off the CPA Sustainable Energy Incubator’s successes, LGC has been working with SDCP, a new CCA for Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, and San Diego, to launch a Clean Power Incubator program. In 2020, LGC engaged with SDCP leadership to understand their priorities to inform the program's design. It is now working to conduct a series of interviews with SDCP member agency staff, elected officials, and regional stakeholders to finalize the program's design. The program will ultimately include learning, networking, and collaboration opportunities for local governments in the San Diego region, an online education center, and a series of technical assistance offerings to help jurisdictions pursue advanced clean energy initiatives. SDCP is expected to launch in March 2021 publicly.

FRESNO COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN:

LGC is partnering with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the City of Fresno, Home Energy Analytics, and Rising Sun Center of Opportunity to develop a holistic community action plan to increase clean energy adoption in disadvantaged communities within the City of Fresno. In 2020, LGC analyzed existing and emerging policy and funding opportunities to assess applicability in disadvantaged communities and to develop a series of recommendations to reach better low-income and marginalized populations, which will be finalized in 2021.
ENERGY Continued...

Empower Procurement:
Empower Procurement is a CEC-funded initiative to simplify the distributed energy resource (DER) procurement process by identifying and addressing both buyers' and sellers' barriers. LGC is part of a large team that will develop a product evaluation hub, product marketplace, services marketplace, and targeted procurement initiatives. LGC is serving as an outreach partner to engage local governments and spread awareness about Empower Procurement initiatives to a wider audience, including a recently launched Benchmarking 101 Course. This year, LGC brought on two pilot partners: the City of San Luis Obispo to test procurement solutions and the City of Cupertino to test procurement services.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Despite the significant disruptions and impacts of COVID, CivicSpark completed the 2019-2020 service term and launched the 2020-2021 term with 18 new Fellows serving remotely on decarbonization projects—supporting leading-edge communities developing carbon neutrality plans, accelerating electric vehicle deployment, and researching next-generation building standards. CivicSpark's decarbonization projects continue to engage 32 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects Fellows support.

In the 2020-21 Cohort:
- Fellow Matthew Renfro at the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is supporting the Clean Cars for All program to promote electric vehicle adoption and accessibility across the Sacramento Valley.
- Fellow Itzel Torres with Ventura County is supporting the 3C-REN Collaborative as they provide education to the tri-county building contractor community on decarbonization and energy efficiency, helping building contractors follow energy code requirements and gain more familiarity with cutting edge decarbonization practices, such as installing heat pump water heaters instead of natural gas-fueled water heaters.
- Fellows Pricila Roldan and Elizabeth Menchaca-Guhl with the California Energy Commission are completing a market study that will support the agency’s larger goals of reducing emissions, improving air quality in disadvantaged communities (DAC), meeting mobility needs, and promoting ZEV jobs in the Coachella Valley.
• Fellow Kaitlin Reese with the San Francisco Department of the Environment is working with the Green Building Division to incorporate building decarbonization and zero waste initiatives into the City of San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan.

• Fellow Jackson Realo and Alumna Meredith Anderson serving with the Sierra Nevada Alliance completed the development of the City of South Lake Tahoe’s Climate Action Plan which was unanimously adopted by the City Council in October.

• Fellow Rebecca Leys with Placer county is supporting the Rural Mainstreets project which utilizes tactical urbanism to make a commercial corridor more accessible to active transportation options. The project temporarily adds sidewalk space and implements pop-up features to engage the community in alternative mobility options.

• Fellow Anne Shalamoff serving with Climate Resolve is working with the newly launched LGC initiative the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3) to build engagement around climate action with Inland Empire communities.

• Fellow Emily Ng with the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Sustainability is conducting an audit of the City’s environmental justice chapter of the City’s Green New Deal plan (2019), which tracks the status of existing environmental justice related initiatives outlined in the plan. Emily is meeting with 12 working groups which each specialize in issues such as parks, water, housing, etc., and evaluating environmental justice and equity initiatives in each. The Fellow is also expanding environmental justice and equity knowledge development in the sustainability team and broader citywide departments. Resources related to current events, such as reports and webinars, are being compiled into an internal database.

In the 2019-2020 Cohort:

• Fellow Vanessa Shin worked to adapt Cupertino’s Climate Action Plan activities to COVID, developing social distancing tips for cyclists and pedestrians, and other resources relevant to the shelter-in-place order. She updated resources and guidance for the Green Business program including promoting COVID resources and webinars and addressing safe cleaning products and certification options.

• Fellow Kiara Ryan served with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority to increase active transportation by developing an equity action plan for community engagement processes in the County’s new bikeshare program.

• Fellow Sondra Abruzzo developed a Municipal Climate Program Newsletter for the San Francisco Department of the Environment that compiled research regarding COVID impacts and intersections with climate change.

• Fellow Justin Szasz with the City of Piedmont drafted Reach Codes and conducted community engagement sessions to identify options that advance building practices while also meeting cost-effectiveness requirements.

• Fellow Trinity Smyth with the City of Sacramento Public Works Department developed an Energy Benchmarking Guide and scorecard for the City’s 25 largest buildings to help the City prioritize energy efficiency projects.

• Fellows Marina Mendes and Shannon Pressler supported San Luis Obispo County’s COVID Recovery projects, drafting a COVID section of the Climate Action Plan to highlight the relationship between climate work, public health, and economic recovery.
LGC's wildland & watershed goals include:

- Creating mechanisms to fund wildland and watershed management (e.g., procuring wood products for biomass, cross-laminated timber).

- Helping communities rebuild smarter after disasters (e.g., property assessed clean energy or Community Choice Energy programs that support fire resilience measures or zero net energy).

- Aligning development and infrastructure investments with fire and water management opportunities.

- Advancing low impact development and green infrastructure stormwater management to build flood resilience and augment water supply.

- Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

- Helping communities prepare simultaneously for drought and flood and to meet new water use efficiency targets.

- Ensuring land use planning and development support water use efficiency and sustainable water management.

LGC supports these goals through several programs, including a Disadvantaged Communities Involvement project, a Great Urban Parks grant, a Community Foundation Water Initiative, regional SGMA implementation support, and CivicSpark Fellow water management projects.
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM:
LGC is working with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) to identify water management strengths and to help meet the needs of overburdened and underrepresented communities in the watershed. This has been especially important during shelter-in-place when elected officials and community members have all had to engage in new and virtual ways.

LGC delivered the final two rounds of the Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Program (lgc.org/sawpa), an intensive 3-part workshop series to equip local policymakers in the Santa Ana River region with practical strategies and accessible tools to implement innovative solutions to their community’s water challenges. Building off of September’s round of training, where attendees learned about the history of local water management, policymakers gathered in January to assess how integrating solutions to address the region’s drought, fire, flood cycle can improve their community resilience. LGC transitioned the final round of workshops in May from in-person to a virtual format in response to COVID, which proved to be particularly useful in elevating virtual engagement tools to reach community members that are underserved by traditional outreach methods. The workshop series was well attended; in total, 126 local leaders have been certified through the Watershed Ambassador program.

In October, LGC coordinated with the California Department of Water Resources, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, and the Roundtable of Regions to host a three-day virtual statewide Summit on “Ensuring Equitable Involvement in Regional Water Planning.” Keynote speakers included Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot, State Waterboard Member Laurel Firestone, and CalEPA Secretary Yana Garcia. DWR Tribal Advisor Anecita Agustinez emceed the event. The event hosted more than 400 individuals from state, regional, and local public agencies, private sector, non-profit organizations, and community representatives.

GREAT URBAN PARKS:
Through the National Recreation and Park Association’s “Great Urban Parks Campaign,” LGC is partnering with 3 local governments to design stormwater features in local parks. These projects engage the community and manage water from storm events.
In May 2020, the team broke ground on the City of Morro Bay’s new stormwater pocket park, which will provide accessibility and respite for Morro Bay’s senior population. LGC also hosted a virtual engagement event in partnership with the Cosumnes Community Services District to present the current iteration of its stormwater nature park design. By utilizing postcard outreach, a survey, and an accompanying raffle, along with the virtual event, we could expand our engagement beyond a traditional meeting.

Thanks to cost savings on-site design, the project team can reinvest grant funds for the construction of a small stormwater feature in the park (this site was initially planned for design-only). LGC assisted CCSD in applying for and securing additional grant funding to cover the cost of the next phase of park development. LGC is working in the City of Woodland to design and construct a stormwater feature in their community. This year the contract was executed and the design completed. Construction is expected to begin in early 2021.

**SOLANO GSA COLLABORATIVE:**

LGC supports disadvantaged and underrepresented community engagement in the Solano Subbasin to ensure the needs of vulnerable groundwater users are reflected in the Subbasin’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). LGC has been working closely with the Solano Collaborative’s public engagement team to ensure that historically underserved communities, including domestic well users and small farmers, are included in every step.

The spread of COVID impacted all aspects of Groundwater Sustainability Plan development. The public agencies leading the plan dealt with the immediate pandemic response, and the in-person public input sessions scheduled for June 2020 were put on hold. The project team focused on virtual tools and resources to prepare for the next round of engagement. LGC helped develop a beneficial user database to track public input from various stakeholder groups and a groundwater user characterization survey that includes questions on drinking water-related concerns. LGC reviewed and provided comments on the draft first chapter of the GSP and offered guidance on how the project team should approach the GSP review cycle to ensure community input is embedded throughout the planning process.

LGC supported the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee development, creating outreach materials and directly engaging local and regional leaders from marginalized communities to see if they would be willing to serve on the Committee. LGC also helped the GSP development team craft the Basin Description section of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to ensure community needs and interests are adequately represented.
The town hall public input sessions transitioned to a virtual format and were held in July and August 2020. LGC supported planning for these larger events and provided translation services of all materials into Spanish and simultaneous interpretation services for the virtual event.

In December, LGC hosted a special drinking water forum for local community members and interested stakeholders. This event directly responded to questions and concerns raised by the community during the virtual town hall meetings and other indirect engagement methods. The event included educational presentations by local officials, break-out group discussions between participants, and question & answer sessions with local experts. The entire event was provided in both English and Spanish language. It was also recorded in both languages to be posted on the Solano GSA Collaborative website as a long-term resource.

GROUNDWATER COLLABORATIVE:

LGC continues to co-facilitate the Groundwater Collaborative, an ad-hoc network of community groups and policy advocates working on successfully implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. In April, LGC facilitated a two-day Groundwater Collaborative Convening, bringing together state agencies, community advocates, academics, and technical experts to discuss findings from the 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) review and strategize how to better collaborate in addressing the needs of both ecosystems and communities lacking access to safe drinking water. Due to the shelter-in-place mandate, the convening quickly transitioned to a virtual format, which provided a successful example in the early stages of the pandemic on how to shift from in-person events to online events, recognizing the different needs and expectations for each.

Following the Groundwater Collaborative Convening, LGC and Clean Water Action identified several topics that Collaborative members would benefit from further education on and hosted a series of webinars throughout the year to address these priority areas. Topics included: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), small and BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of color) farmers, Bulletin 118 (California’s official statewide groundwater report, which is updated every five years and has regulatory impacts), and environmental flows. LGC also teamed up with Maven’s Notebook and the Groundwater Exchange to co-host some webinars to reach a broader audience. All webinars were well attended.
LGC was invited by the Water Foundation to convene an advisory group to improve the Groundwater Exchange, the industry's leading source of groundwater-related news and resources. LGC is currently developing a work plan to ensure the site's accessibility and user-efficacy.

GROUNDWATER LEADERSHIP FORUM:
This year, LGC was invited to join an elite group of thought-leaders working on California groundwater issues. The Groundwater Leadership Forum, organized by the Water Foundation, has two goals: to advance state policy that will ensure the effective implementation of SGMA; and develop tools and resources for stakeholders to evaluate and comment on Groundwater Sustainability Plans as they are developed. LGC contributed to a groundwater priorities letter submitted to Governor Newsom’s office, which is reflected in the Governor’s Executive Order N-10-19, and developed direct guidance on the Governor’s Water Resilience Portfolio concerning groundwater.

LGC also helped develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) review templates to help streamline the evaluation of and public comment on GSPs. These templates were shared with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and stakeholders across the state to assist in reviewing the 200+ GSPs to be released over the next two years. LGC assisted in reviewing GSPs and signed on to comment letters for 30 high-priority critically-overdrafted groundwater basins.

LGC participated in multiple meetings with high-ranking agency staff to share our reflections from the GSP review process and urge both the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board to uphold the intent of SGMA in reviewing GSPs for adequacy.

BORREGO SPRINGS - INTEGRATED PLANNING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
LGC has been working for the past two years to help the unincorporated community of Borrego Springs pursue integrated watershed master planning. In January, LGC co-hosted a community workshop with the Borrego Valley Stewardship Council to share progress on the first phase of integrated planning and outline the next steps for local efforts. LGC supported the Stewardship Council with the development and implementation of a regional action plan to help the group advance into the next phase of planning and emerge as the central convening body for the community concerning environmental and community development issues. During the height of the COVID pandemic response, BVSC stepped up to help organize a community task force. LGC simultaneously conducted real-time case study documentation of best practices and lessons learned through the integrated planning process to highlight what other groundwater-constrained communities in California can learn from Borrego.
CIVICSPARK:
CivicSpark has 27 Fellows serving remotely on watershed and wildland projects by facilitating critical wildfire recovery and response efforts, elevating equity and environmental justice in groundwater plans, and connecting rural and tribal stakeholders to vital land-use planning efforts. CivicSpark's wetlands/wildlands projects are engaging 56 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects fellows continue to support. CivicSpark will also launch the California Climate Action Corps cohort in January 2021, alongside California Volunteers and Bay Area Community Resources. 63 Fellows in the Climate Action Corps will focus on direct climate action around wildfire resilience and recovery, food waste recovery, and urban greening.

In the 2020-21 Cohort:

- Fellow Andrew Bake serving with the Mendocino County Water Agency is supporting the development of the County's Groundwater Sustainability Plan, engaging tribes, and drafting the plan.
- Fellow Kory Burt with the Solano County Water Agency is focused on post-fire watershed protection efforts, assessing the potential for flooding and impacts to water quality in Solano County. The Fellow is providing support to staff implementing water quality monitoring and erosion control measures, including coordination of volunteers and other staff to increase agency capacity to implement these measures across greater acreage.
- Fellow Sarah Wickman with the Humboldt County Planning and Building Department is conducting a Regional Sea Level Rise feasibility study to support development of a regulatory framework and regional plan to address sea-level rise around Humboldt Bay.
- Fellow Nicole Cheng serving with Climate Plan supports the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments to develop an implementation plan to more equitably integrate water and land use in the San Francisco Bay Area, supporting agencies in the development of their regional transportation and urban water management plans. This implementation plan will also help regional transportation and land use agencies develop structures to build relationships and create long-lasting coordination on these issues.
NATIONAL SERVICE Continued...

- Fellow Cailin Notch with the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District is serving all of Sonoma County in increasing community resilience in the face of increased wildfire risk by developing and implementing an outreach and coordination plan and incorporating forest management and wildfire preparedness planning into the Gold Ridge RCDs Strategic Plan, identifying community needs and opportunities around forest management and wildfire safety and preparedness.

In the 2019-20 Cohort:

- Fellows Rebecca Berg and Emily Ontiveros supported the planning and development of the Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series in May and June, which provided an overview of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) through an exploration of how tribes have engaged with IRWM, a discussion of successes, challenges, and emerging opportunities, and regional water management intersections with other sectors and programs. The webinars had over 100 attendees and a wide range of speakers that participated across the 3 different sessions.

EVENTS

4TH CALIFORNIA ADAPTATION FORUM (CAF):

Due to COVID, LGC decided to postpone the in-person California Adaptation Forum and instead hosted a virtual webinar series to continue engaging the CAF community. LGC hosted 3 webinars in 2020 on Community Resilience in the Context of Climate Change and COVID, Realities of the Triple Pandemic: Racialized Violence, COVID and Climate Change, and Wildfire Resilience: Returning to Our Roots. These webinars reached a record-breaking number of practitioners with a total of 1,826 participants. With the ongoing pandemic, LGC is exploring creative ways to engage California's adaptation community in 2021 virtually.
ARCCA’s priority theme for 2020 is Assessment to Adaptation to support communities to transition from understanding climate risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities to developing and implementing equitable adaptation measures. ARCCA organized successful virtual member meetings to discuss COVID impacts on climate resilience; effective community engagement, and involvement in building resilience; developing personal resilience, and building strategic partnerships. ARCCA serves as a resource for adaptation practitioners to stay informed on legislative matters through its annual adaptation legislative tracker and legislative fact sheet, and a new Adaptation Policy Working Group to provide members with opportunities to share legislative updates and coordinate policy engagement efforts. ARCCA collaborators also met with regional partners from the California Stewardship Network to integrate adaptation in the economic development field with plans to convene a Climate Adaptation Working Group to inform the 2021 California Economic Summit. This year, ARCCA submitted 6 comment letters, including responses to the Water Resilience Portfolio, the Adaptation Planning Guide 2.0 drafts, and the Fire Hazard Planning Technical Advisory.

EMBEDDING EQUITY IN ADAPTATION:

LGC was awarded a grant from the Climate Resilience Fund to explore and pursue opportunities to further embed equity principles and practices in the adaptation field. This project will launch in 2021 and LGC will be working with ARCCA members and stakeholders to implement three key phases: 1) increasing the understanding of equity among adaptation practitioners through learning sessions and peer learning circles, 2) institutionalizing equity in collaborative governance structures, and 3) accelerating the implementation of equitable adaptation by providing technical assistance.
CAPITAL REGION URBAN HEAT ISLAND MITIGATION PROJECT:
In 2020, LGC analyzed over 1,500 community survey responses to identify community priorities for transportation needs and improvements, heat exposure and mitigation measures, and other concerns based on race and ethnicity, geography, income level, age, homeowner status, and other socioeconomic factors. The resulting Community Priorities Report guides local jurisdictions in the Capital region on multi-benefit solutions that simultaneously address community concerns, heat impacts, and transportation needs. LGC worked with the Sacramento Metropolitan Air District and consultants to finalize the Regional Heat Pollution Reduction Plan, which outlines effective strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect, such as cool pavements and green infrastructure, and further guidance to support local implementation. LGC completed the project with a series of community events to share project findings and resources to support the individual- and neighborhood-level actions to build resilience to extreme heat.

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RESILIENT INLAND EMPIRE:
In January 2020, LGC formally launched the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3), a diverse, cross-sectoral network of agencies, organizations, companies, and institutions working together to advance equitable solutions to create a resilient and thriving Inland Southern California in the face of climate change. The collaborative encompasses Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial counties and launched with 17 founding members, then transitioned to a Southern California-based nonprofit for ongoing facilitation. LGC also conducted a series of local climate equity roundtables to engage with community leaders and community-based organizations to understand better their priorities related to climate impacts and adaptation, which led to developing a set of recommendations for public agencies and other stakeholders to advance climate equity objectives. This project concluded in February 2020.
In 2020, LGC launched the SGC-funded Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) pilot program with Climate Resolve, The Greenlining Institute, Movement Strategy Center, and Urban Permaculture Institute. PACE is a new capacity-building program for frontline community leaders from across California to advance community-driven, equitable climate solutions at the pace and scale demanded by climate change and ongoing injustices. The program is structured into two key phases: 1) convening and equipping a cohort of 20 community leaders with the knowledge, strategies, and partnerships necessary to become effective drivers of change and facilitators of ongoing capacity building within their own local ecosystems, rapidly develop skills, build new connections, and create community needs assessments, and 2) providing technical assistance to cohort members to advance priorities identified in their community needs assessments and build long-term capacity to achieve their community's equitable climate resilience vision. LGC is serving as the project manager and adopted a collaborative governance model with the project team. In 2020, LGC worked with partners to refine the program vision, launch the program website, develop participant selection criteria, open the cohort application, and review over 150 applications received. LGC also began developing the Community Needs Assessment Toolkit, Evaluation Strategy, and Peer-to-Peer Networking Strategy and worked with partners to develop the program's Curriculum and Facilitation Strategy.

In 2020, LGC launched Resilient SLO in partnership with the City of San Luis Obispo. This project aims to draft an update to the City's Safety Element to include climate risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies and build local capacity to implement adaptation initiatives. As the lead project manager, LGC worked with the City to conduct an RFP, review proposals, and select a technical consultant to conduct a vulnerability assessment and draft the Safety Element. LGC conducted and completed a local policy audit to understand the extent to which existing City plans and policies include adaptation measures. LGC also conducted a city-wide Community Priorities Survey and analyzed responses from over 300 residents to understand their climate perspectives and adaptation priorities. LGC finalized its Community Outreach Plan and will host its first Community Engagement Activity - “Stories of a Resilient SLO” in late January 2021.
Reducing barriers for transit-oriented and infill development, especially for affordable housing

LGC supports these goals through events, our funding platform, CivicSpark housing projects, and an inclusionary housing initiative.
COMMUNITY DESIGN

LGC provides affordable housing funding and technical assistance resources on fundingresource.org and sends notifications of funding opportunities to our statewide list of local government and community contacts. LGC is working with Manteca and Pico Rivera on planning efforts that include the identification of opportunity sites and implementation strategies for transit-oriented and infill housing. LGC was also selected to become part of a pre-qualified bench of experts to help SACOG’s member jurisdictions plan for and accelerate infill housing within the six-county Sacramento region. Finally, as noted above, LGC provided technical assistance to Oakland (awarded $28.2 million) and Richmond to support the development of Transformative Climate Communities implementation grant applications for multi-benefit projects that included affordable housing developments.

NATIONAL SERVICE

CIVICSPARK:

CivicSpark has 10 Fellows supporting climate-smart housing projects—partnering with state agencies to increase access to funding and technical assistance, integrating equity into housing plans, researching innovative housing models, and compiling strategies to integrate housing and transit planning. CivicSpark’s climate-smart housing projects are engaging 29 public agencies throughout the state. A few highlights below illustrate the range of projects Fellows support.

In the 2020-21 Cohort:

- Fellow Helen Eldred with the Reinvent South Stockton Foundation supports the creation of a Housing Justice Coalition to bring together housing community groups and better understand collective needs to address housing needs in Stockton. Helen hosted and facilitated the first Housing Justice Coalition meeting in October.
- Fellow Lorenzo Siemann with the City of Antioch is updating the City’s Housing Element and analyzing the City’s current housing stock. Lorenzo is compiling a database of institutions and community groups to support more focused community engagement strategies.
- Fellow Lizzie Havey serving with the City of Arvin, is working to create pre-approved templates for Accessory Dwelling Units to streamline the ADU development process for homeowners; is identifying equity-related action items from the Housing Element to create a SB 1000 work plan, and is supporting stakeholder coordination through the Housing Advisory Committee.
- Fellow Erica Copeland with the California Department of Housing and Community Development in partnership with Gateway Cities Council of Governments is focused on building the capacity of the COG and its member agencies to address the housing crisis within the region. She is leading the COG’s partnership with the USC Price School of Public Policy researchers conducting a study on COVID’s impact on the local economy and housing market. This study will bolster the COG’s ongoing efforts to support local cities to provide housing programs and relief to their residents who are at higher risk of both disease transmission and also of displacement or homelessness due to the economic distress that COVID has caused local families and communities.
NATIONAL SERVICE Continued...

In the 2020-21 Cohort:

- Fellow Carson Barwinkel serving with Ventura County, completed an extensive feasibility analysis of over 400 sites throughout the County to determine their suitability for affordable housing development. That process led to an inventory of “Green Lit” sites that the housing team deemed most appropriate for low-income housing. Additionally, the Fellow developed an Accessory Dwelling Unit survey allowing the County to get more data on these units' price levels.
- Placer County’s Housing Strategy and Development Plan. As part of this effort, she analyzed the Public Housing Trust fund and assisted the County in developing a community survey to assess how the community’s housing needs may have changed due to COVID.
- Fellow Colin Cross, under guidance from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, supported 27 cities in the Gateway Cities COG region to identify their housing needs, goals, mandates, and how those could align with HCD’s Local Early Action Planning grant program as eligible projects. Colin helped these communities assess options through virtual technical assistance, including ADU policies, transit-friendly zoning, and overlay options.

EVENTS

28TH ANNUAL YOSEMITE POLICYMAKERS CONFERENCE

The Great Pivot: California at the Crossroads
March 5 - 8, 2020, Yosemite Valley, CA

The 2020 Yosemite Policymakers Conference had a wide variety of speakers presenting on some of California’s most pressing challenges (prior to the COVID related shelter-in place mandates), including local energy, transportation, grid resilience and reliability, affordable housing and homelessness, the evolution of energy, and funding mobility solutions. The event was attended by over 100 policymakers from across the state.
GROWING WATER SMART:
LGC partnered with The Sonoran Institute to adapt the highly successful “Growing Water Smart” curriculum for a California audience, acknowledging the nuance and complexity of water resource management within this state. Originally developed by Sonoran Institute (SI) and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy for application in Colorado, the program introduces policymakers and public agency staff to a range of communications, public engagement, planning, and policy implementation tools to achieve their watershed health and community resilience goals. The Colorado curriculum has now been adapted for the Arizona and California policy context. LGC facilitated a municipal team at the Arizona Growing Water Smart workshop in Phoenix, guiding the group to create an action plan to update their community’s water efficiency landscape ordinance and improve conservation coordination with neighboring cities.

The final California Growing Water Smart workbook was officially released in August 2020. Now, LGC and SI partner in recruiting interested communities to pilot the newly-revised curriculum in a virtual workshop setting. Once LGC and SI gauge community demand for the program via a Letter of the Interest request process, we will jointly approach funders to provide the necessary match funding to pilot the program.

EQUITABLE INTEGRATION OF WATER AND LAND USE:
As part of the work with the Community Foundation Water Initiative, LGC facilitated a cohort of NGOs including ClimatePlan, Youth United for Community Action, Fresnoland, Nature for All, and the Anza-Borrego Foundation to implement the strategies and recommendations identified in the 2019 “Bringing Water and Land Use Together” report. Each NGO developed their own regional action plans for integrating water and land use within their purview. LGC, the NGOs, and three CivicSpark fellows hosted a highly successful virtual policy briefing titled, “Ensuring Equitable Public Engagement through Coordinated Planning” in July. The event brought together members of the legislature, state agency staff, local governments, and nonprofits to discuss the role that public engagement plays in decision-making for water and land-use management.
We want to celebrate our departing Board of Directors accomplishments and their years of service to LGC and the Cities and Counties they represent.

Jake Mackenzie has held a position on the Rohnert Park City Council since 1996 and served on the LGC Board of Directors for over two decades. Mackenzie is known in the North Bay and beyond as a steward of smart city planning and a voice, many seek when it comes to the local and regional government. Mackenzie has led the way on several environmental issues, including helping found Rohnert Park county’s climate authority, and in addition to his serval appointments serving on or as an alternate board member to Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association of Sonoma County Legislative Committee, Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), Sonoma County Transportation Authority/Regional Climate Protection Authority (SCTA/RCPA), Sonoma Clean Power Authority (SCP), Water Advisory Committee (WAC) to Sonoma Water, Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) Executive Board, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Library Advisory Board. Mackenzie’s career in politics has been long-standing and hard-fought. Mackenzie has been a water policy leader and chaired the North Coast Regional Partnership, a seven-county coalition for distributing state water grants. He has a long record of achievement in transportation, serving and chairing the Sonoma County Transportation Authority.
Jane Parker of Monterey County served on the LGC Board of Directors for the last decade. Parker was first elected to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County in 2008 and served three terms as the Fourth District's Supervisor. “I feel good about what we were able to accomplish,” Parker said. “One of my taglines is ‘changing the way Monterey County works,’ and I think we were able to accomplish that. I believe we’ve seen a shift in county government.”

Miguel Canales joined the LGC Board of Directors in 2014 and was first elected to the City of Artesia City Council in 2011. Canales is an educator and, during his time on City Council, served as the Mayor. Canales served as a member of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials and a member of the League of California Cities. Canales strived to use his position to improve the quality of life for all Artesians by focusing on broad community-wide initiatives that brought positive outcomes to the whole community.

Megan Sahli-Wells was elected to Culver City City Council in 2012 and joined the Local Government Commission Board of Directors in 2019. Known as the "Biking Mayor." A daily bike commuter herself, Sahli-Wells takes part in the Culver City Safe Routes to School Program, which encourages kids to walk or bike to school. The Culver City Walk & Rollers works with all five elementary schools and the middle school - they meet in a designated place and act as a walking school bus, picking up kids on their way. Sahli-Wells is a founding Board Member of Local Progress, a national network of progressive elected officials. Her state leadership includes co-chairing Elected Officials to Protect California and serving on the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force. Regionally, she is a Board Director of Clean Power Alliance, Westside Cities Council of Governments, Regional Council for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.
We are so grateful to you, our board, members, funders, and allies, for your support. We are privileged to be part of such a dynamic and passionate group of change-makers. We look forward to continuing that fulfilling work of advancing community livability with all of you.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS!