

# Historias de resiliencia desde las primeras líneas del cambio climático

## Stories of Resilience From the Frontlines of Climate Change



**Opportunity  
Matrix  
for Climate  
Resilience**



## ABOUT THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLES

In recognition of current and future climate impacts, the Community Environmental Council (CEC) has convened a series of roundtables that address climate resilience and adaptation issues in Santa Barbara County.

The roundtables were organized around the identified threats from the Fourth California Climate Change Assessment: sea level rise, heavy precipitation events, temperature increase, increased wildfire, drought, and decreasing snowpack and water supply. Together with community leaders and partners, we have been examining these threats through the lens of public and mental health, social justice, economic impacts, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and natural lands and agriculture.

The first two Climate Resilience Roundtables were in-person meetings, one in November 2019 that focused on wildfire and smoke, and the other in March 2020 on sea level rise and flooding. The third and fourth roundtables, held virtually in August and September 2020, explored the intersection of climate-related disasters, health, and social and economic inequities that disproportionately impact our most vulnerable community members. *Historias de resiliencia desde las primeras líneas del cambio climático / Stories of Resilience From the Frontlines of Climate Change* centered on the lived experiences of frontline, essential worker, and indigenous community members whose stories illustrated the links between climate change, racial justice, and indigenous knowledge. This roundtable – developed with partners from the Central Coast Climate Justice Network – was led in Spanish with English and other language interpretation.

For each roundtable in the series, we have developed a corresponding Resilience Opportunity Matrix from roundtable conversations and participant input. It is our hope that this will serve as an incubator for community-generated climate resilience initiatives and projects, and that each Opportunity Matrix will help elevate the big bold ideas and actions we can take now. By the end of the roundtable series, we will have a powerful set of tools to help us work together toward a more resilient Santa Barbara County.

## ABOUT THE RESILIENCE OPPORTUNITY MATRIX

This Resilience Opportunity Matrix captures the collective output and ideas generated by 120+ participants from the Community Environmental Council's *Climate Resilience Roundtable: Historias de resiliencia desde las primeras líneas del cambio climático / Stories of Resilience From the Frontlines of Climate Change* facilitated by Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino on September 3, 2020. Following the morning webinar session, participants reconvened for a guided afternoon discussion and worked collectively in small breakout groups to discuss their ideas and suggestions for achieving just climate resilience that advances social and economic vitality for all. Participants added notes from their discussions directly into a shared document with assistance from breakout room facilitators. Those ideas were transferred verbatim into this matrix. The four key questions addressed by participants were:

- **What must be done to build just climate resilience** with the communities you work with and represent?
- **What do we have to pay attention to** in order to build climate resilience for vulnerable or underrepresented communities?
- **What are the best ideas for enhancing resilience and addressing vulnerabilities** from the stories you heard in the morning webinar or other ideas you have?
- **What types of investments are needed** to support under-resourced, marginalized, and most impacted communities?

## PARTNERS

The Community Environmental Council (CEC), in collaboration with the Central Coast Climate Justice Network and partners: Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Environmental Office



## THANK YOU SPONSORS



## ROUNDTABLE EXERCISES

A key purpose of this Climate Resilience Roundtable was to raise up the voices of communities and community members at particularly high risk from climate disruption – and to ensure these important voices, concerns, and ideas are heard by those in power and in decision-making roles. We gathered input through the four discussion questions mentioned on page one to source community knowledge, insight, and generate solutions for climate resilience centered in justice and equity.

## MATRIX ORGANIZATION

The first column of the matrix shows the breakout group number. There were five groups in total (numbered 2-6). The second column indicates which of the four questions prompted the ideas and input reflected in the third column – which ranged from needs and values to projects and initiatives. During the exercise, participants could vote up or support ideas they liked by adding ‘+1’ next to those ideas on the shared document. This data is included in the matrix but may not serve as an effective comparison since not every group followed this method. At the close of the exercise, groups were asked to highlight their top idea(s), which are listed in the fifth column of the matrix – and indicated by a ‘1st’ or ‘2nd’ if the group selected a second choice for a given question.

After the roundtable, the organizing team categorized these ideas, working organically from the language participants used and then refining categories into a reasonable number. The last column breaks each idea/project/initiative into the category that best captures its intent. The top 10 ideas selected by the breakout groups are highlighted in gold at the top of the matrix – additional ideas beyond the top 10 are separated by question and category.

<https://www.cecsb.org/crr>

## CATEGORIZATION & ANALYSIS

We used our best judgment to categorize ideas, but recognize that many could be categorized different ways. The table shows the results of the process. Of the 89 ideas, 24 – or just over ¼ of the ideas – focused on increasing access to and inclusion in critical community and public processes that shape our climate actions. This category encompassed a broad range of issues ranging from language, technology, and information access to strategies for engaging more families, youth, and workers.

If *Access and Inclusion* is combined with related areas of increasing *Community Empowerment*, respecting *Community Knowledge*, and developing *Cultural Competency* in agencies and the broader community, 59 ideas – or ⅔ of all ideas generated – highlight the need and desire for under-resourced and under-represented communities and community members to be part of this critical work. The message is clear: we need to do far more to improve planning process design and implementation, project prioritization, and policies that engage these community members for truly inclusive and empowering processes.

Other insights that jump out of this analysis include the critical importance of equitable access to affordable and adequate housing and strengthening the social safety net – baseline conditions for community resilience and well-being made more clear during the COVID-19 pandemic with its inequitable impact on already vulnerable communities. There was also a recognition of Indigenous rights – specifically around land and food sovereignty and access to cultural and religious sites.

The breadth of conversations and input from roundtable participants was striking. Needs and opportunities stretch across all arenas, highlighting the importance of taking a holistic approach to addressing these challenges. This further emphasizes the intersectional nature of the climate resilience challenge and the need for cross-sector, whole system solutions.

| Category                               | Ideas | Top Group Ideas (highlighted) |
|--|-------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Access and Inclusion</i>            | 24    | 2                             |
| <i>Community Empowerment</i>           | 18    | 4                             |
| <i>Cultural Competency</i>             | 13    | 1                             |
| <i>Education &amp; Outreach</i>        | 8     |                               |
| <i>Shelter &amp; Housing</i>           | 5     | 2                             |
| <i>Social Safety Net</i>               | 4     |                               |
| <i>Community Knowledge</i>             | 4     |                               |
| <i>Funding</i>                         | 4     |                               |
| <i>Policy</i>                          | 3     |                               |
| <i>Root Causes of Vulnerability</i>    | 3     |                               |
| <i>Cross-Sector Collaboration</i>      | 2     | 1                             |
| <i>Intersectionality / Compounding</i> | 1     |                               |

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (CEC)

Recognized as a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year, CEC has worked since 1970 to incubate and innovate real life environmental solutions that directly affect the California Central Coast. Our current work advances rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis – including ambitious zero carbon goals, drawdown of excess carbon, and protection against the impacts of climate change. Our programs lead to clean vehicles, solar energy, resilient food systems and reduction of single-use plastic. Learn more at [CECSB.org/impact](https://www.cecsb.org/impact)



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| Group | Question/Prompt                        | Idea (Need, Project or Initiative)  | Score (+1) | Highlighted | Category                                   |
|-------|--|---|------------|-------------|--|
| 5     | Investments Needed                     | Food security and sovereignty - expand access to healthy food and opportunities to grow your own food (growing food is a learning process and a great resource; a radical act of community self determination; to have food when it's not safe for to work; reclaim the commons). Need more community garden space: set aside a % of community garden plots for those who can't pay; Black food sovereignty garden started in IV (examples) | 2          | 1st         | Community Empowerment (food sovereignty)   |
| 3     | Must be done: build climate resilience | Building representatives on decision making bodies that represent all the community needs; and communities need to be consulted and kept in dialogue so much earlier in these conversations so that their needs/experiences influence things from the beginning   | 3          | 1st         | Community Empowerment (decision making)    |
| 6     | Best Ideas                             | Incorporate better community engagement into planning processes (ie, General Plans, Climate Action Plans, Public Health Plans, Emergency Plans, ect) so that community stories and lives experiences can help inform best practices for individual communities; Community engagement that is culturally competent, accessible; align plans above so that they are consistent with each other  | 3          | 1st         | Community Empowerment / Access & Inclusion |
| 4     | Best Ideas                             | Addressing civil/social intersections to create a cohesive perspective as to what an environmental crisis; make efforts culturally representative/cool and elevate youth voices and youth-led initiatives   | 3          | 1st         | Cross Sector Collaboration                 |
| 3     | Best Ideas                             | Nonprofit-held lands - multi-benefit approach: Lands often held as enviro/habitat protection also serve as natural buffers and it can provide indigenous healing opportunities. Work with land trusts to incorporate a new mindset in what their authority holds (and acknowledge where the \$ came from to hold/control those lands)   | 3          | 1st         | Cultural Competency                        |
| 3     | Investments Needed                     | Invest in mutli-lingual communication capacity within all disaster and public health and social service communications  | 4          | 1st         | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 2     | Must be done: build climate resilience | Poner personas de la comunidad en puestos para hacer decisiones y no solo usarlos por su conocimiento   Put people from the community in decision-making positions and not just use them for their knowledge  |            | 1st         | Community Empowerment (decision making)    |
| 5     | Investments Needed                     | Housing as a human right: housing is too expensive, having a house is a priviledge, rents should be socialized and housing available even if one can't afford it  | 2          | 2nd         | Shelter & Housing                          |
| 3     | Best Ideas                             | All homes have internet access for schooling and for access to information in their native languages  | 3          | 2nd         | Access & Inclusion                         |

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| 3 | Investments Needed | <b>Safety and security: invest in real housing solutions for our most vulnerable (given the state of emergencies constantly underway and the state housing crisis forcing state level land use changes - this seems within reach)</b>  | 3 | 2nd | Shelter & Housing                                      |
| 6 | Best Ideas         | Linguistically accessible information is CRUCIAL, should be a place for community members to sign up for notifications   | 1 |     | Access & Inclusion                                     |
| 2 | Best Ideas         | Transportation   Transporte  |   |     | Access & Inclusion                                     |
| 4 | Best Ideas         | Include the youth, elders/aging-adults/whatever other term you accept  |   |     | Access & Inclusion                                     |
| 4 | Best Ideas         | Deep partnerships that share power   | 2 |     | Community Empowerment                                  |
| 3 | Best Ideas         | Develop a code of conduct and principles for any visiting law enforcement  | 2 |     | Community Empowerment (Cultural Competency)            |
| 5 | Best Ideas         | Food sovereignty gardens   | 2 |     | Community Empowerment (food sovereignty)               |
| 6 | Best Ideas         | We must make sure that basic laws/rights are being protected (labor rights, tenant rights etc)   | 1 |     | Community Empowerment (human rights)                   |
| 6 | Best Ideas         | Redistribution of land   |   |     | Community Empowerment (land sovereignty)               |
| 6 | Best Ideas         | Identify frontline voices and lifting up their stories to the full community, not just a select few (frontline stories need to be part of the full picture)  | 1 |     | Community Knowledge                                    |
| 4 | Best Ideas         | Putting resources into encouraging preparedness measures that people can take (items ready in case of evacuation, or ways to deal with wildfire smoke) and incorporating different ideas for different income levels, so that people feel they can prepare regardless of costs   |   |     | Education & Outreach (+funding)                        |
| 5 | Best Ideas         | Create Climate Justice Fellows program for young people as a paid internship; placing them with a wide variety of community based organizations and connecting them as a network of young activists. Training and a community of peers, to become a connective tissue weaving the social justice, environmental justice, and conservation / climate action groups in our county together; sharing ideas, best practices, new learnings |   |     | Education & Outreach (Climate Justice Fellows Program) |
| 5 | Best Ideas         | Get rid of ICE, cops and landlords   |   |     | Policy   |
| 3 | Best Ideas         | Bring these discussions to the decision bodies that develop policies and allocate resources throughout the region. We need to build the nexus between the issues and the individual decision-making body   | 2 |     | Policy / Funding                                       |
| 3 | Best Ideas         | Listen to the challenges and gain a better understanding of the vulnerable aspects   |   |     | Root Causes of Vulnerability                           |
| 3 | Best Ideas         | Create just housing solutions so that all families have safe and nurturing homes   | 1 |     | Shelter & Housing                                      |

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| 3 | Best Ideas         | Strategies across a wide range of areas related to housing (how do we address the fact that all homes now basically will burn sooner or later and they're toxic?, Does air quality control board have a role in building codes and a shift to natural building?)                         |   |  | Shelter & Housing                               |
| 2 | Best Ideas         | Renters/Worker Protections: Protecciones para inquilinos/trabajadoras(es)  |   |  | Social Safety Net (renter/worker protection)    |
| 6 | Best Ideas         | Need for social safety net, especially for undocumented communities  | 2 |  | Social Safety Net / Basic Needs                 |
| 3 | Investments Needed | Invest in quality digital / internet access / hardware for all families to support ease of access to online learning and online information about disasters, public health issues, and more  | 2 |  | Access & Inclusion                              |
| 3 | Investments Needed | Budget enhanced direct outreach, language access, and community consultation into planning processes; plans can't move forward unless these boxes are checked  | 2 |  | Access & Inclusion                              |
| 2 | Investments Needed | No solo ayuda mutua, inversion, para hacer mas espacios bilingues. El trabajo que se requisita, se necesita que pagar/mas dinero es una realidad   Not just mutual aid, inversion, to make more bilingual spaces. The work that is required needs to be paid for/more money is a reality |   |  | Access & Inclusion                              |
| 4 | Investments Needed | Fully integrated interpreters for gov't agencies for more commonly spoken languages in the region  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                              |
| 5 | Investments Needed | Access to information in emergencies   |   |  | Access & Inclusion                              |
| 3 | Investments Needed | Return of power, ownership, stewardship of land and leadership positions in management in land   | 2 |  | Community Empowerment                           |
| 5 | Investments Needed | Include more diversity on boards   | 2 |  | Community Empowerment                           |
| 6 | Investments Needed | Land and food sovereignty  | 1 |  | Community Empowerment (land & food sovereignty) |
| 6 | Investments Needed | Culturally competent resources for example, google translate does not fulfill language accessibility needs.  |   |  | Cultural Competency                             |
| 3 | Investments Needed | Invest in training and awareness at the decision/board level; make this understandable and important to all elected officials  | 2 |  | Education & Outreach                            |
| 5 | Investments Needed | Monetary support for those who are from vulnerable communities to assist in participation  | 1 |  | Funding   |
| 6 | Investments Needed | Investment in community resources (community centers, youth programs) resource hubs for the community  | 1 |  | Funding   |
| 6 | Investments Needed | Capacity building grants (multi-year) to community organizations   | 2 |  | Funding   |
| 4 | Investments Needed | Technical assistance available to support smaller nonprofits/groups to tap into State/Federal grant opportunities, in particular serving groups who don't have the capacity to pay for a trained grant writer  |   |  | Funding   |
| 3 | Investments Needed | Support for basic needs  |   |  | Social Safety Net / Basic Needs                 |

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| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Ensuring voices of people most impacted have a platform and audience to hear/incorporate  | 1 |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 2 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Que paredes hay para involucrarse más   What barriers/walls are there to get more involved  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Remember to consider the systems/norms (big and small) that we are working in as something we can also work to change/adapt, whether it is a planning process, a meeting space, or the language/words we use. |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 4 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Bring all voices to the table   |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 4 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Provide multilingual spaces   |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 4 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Inclusive spaces in the environment   |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 5 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Continue to be inclusive to all   |   |  | Access & Inclusion                          |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Recognize how feeling safe in a space is critical to ability to exist/thrive  |   |  | Access & Inclusion or community empowerment |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Finding ways to share leadership and share power  |   |  | Community Empowerment                       |
| 4 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Integrating historically marginalized communities, grant them decision making power and seats   |   |  | Community Empowerment                       |
| 5 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Ability to create and mobilize more of our own resources  |   |  | Community Empowerment                       |
| 6 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Establish trust and co-leadership   |   |  | Community Empowerment (trust)               |
| 6 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Listening to, learning from and collaborating with those with local and indigenous knowledge of individual and community and landscape/planetary resilience.  |   |  | Community Knowledge                         |
| 5 | Must be done: build climate resilience | More collaboration, more willingness to learn from each other   | 1 |  | Cross Sector Collaboration                  |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Acknowledge history of resilience in communities as something that has been and is practiced every day, but not necessarily thought of in those terms   |   |  | Cultural Competency                         |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Community healing - deep held pain needs to be acknowledged and healed  | 1 |  | Cultural Competency (community healing)     |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Recognize that visiting police forces/law enforcement/agencies don't know our people or culture - need for a code of conduct or principles when coming in to help in disasters or emergencies                 | 2 |  | Cultural Competency / Policy                |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Provide a forum/process for the air district to hear the needs of the communities   | 2 |  | Education & Outreach                        |
| 2 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Educación y la involucración de la gente para votar   Education and the involvement of the people to vote   |   |  | Education & Outreach                        |

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| 6 | Must be done: build climate resilience | More webinars and organizing like this that elevate and move this discussion along further  |   |  | Education & Outreach                       |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Awareness of the air district and what services they provide as an agency resource for everyone. How can the air district build the trust with all communities?   |   |  | Education & Outreach (trust building)      |
| 2 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Hay algo que se pueda hacer para registrarme al censo?   Is there anything that can be done to register for the census?   |   |  | Policy                                     |
| 3 | Must be done: build climate resilience | Housing is such a critical piece; how do we ensure people have adequate housing and they don't have to trade off safety, health and well being in a downturn or hard patch?                                 | 2 |  | Shelter & Housing                          |
| 3 | Must be done/build climate resilience  | Pandemic and climate crisis together unveil unjust working conditions so many of our most vulnerable community members face (farm workers have no power, lack leverage, recourse to get through a downturn) |   |  | Intersectionality / Compounding            |
| 2 | Pay Attention To                       | Factores linguisticos   Linguistic factors  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 4 | Pay Attention To                       | Be inclusive at all levels  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 5 | Pay Attention To                       | Language justice  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 6 | Pay Attention To                       | Language access/language justice  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 6 | Pay Attention To                       | Transparency  |   |  | Access & Inclusion                         |
| 6 | Pay Attention To                       | Who currently has access to resources & decision making/power; who are we engaging with and who do we need to engage with (leadership w/in community members, hard to reach populations)                    |   |  | Access & Inclusion / Community Empowerment |
| 4 | Pay Attention To                       | Be aware of and work to mitigate barriers to access - transportation; harrassment/localism; child care; financial; longevity & funding that supports them   |   |  | Access & Inclusion / Funding               |
| 4 | Pay Attention To                       | The prevalence of racial and power structures that come into play in a relationship/action/decision   |   |  | Community Empowerment                      |
| 5 | Pay Attention To                       | Human rights  | 1 |  | Community Empowerment (human rights)       |
| 2 | Pay Attention To                       | Las comunidades multigeneracionales pueden alzar la voz de sus mayores   Multigenerational communities can raise the voices of their elders   |   |  | Community Knowledge                        |
| 4 | Pay Attention To                       | Speak from experience   |   |  | Community Knowledge                        |
| 4 | Pay Attention To                       | Treat people and the concerns that they're raising as they come   |   |  | Cultural Competency                        |
| 5 | Pay Attention To                       | Checking bias before engaging, trusting what is being shared from diverse communities (e.g., assumptions about "divisiveness" among Chumash getting in the way - that needs to be checked at the door)      | 1 |  | Cultural Competency                        |
| 3 | Pay Attention To                       | That 'my issue' I'm representing may not be the top need of the community, so how can I assist in finding the solution?   | 2 |  | Cultural Competency                        |
| 5 | Pay Attention To                       | Indigenous voices and resources   | 2 |  | Cultural Competency                        |
| 5 | Pay Attention To                       | Indigenous connection to land and land sovereignty  | 2 |  | Cultural Competency                        |
| 6 | Pay Attention To                       | Addressing/acknowledging biases   |   |  | Cultural Competency                        |



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| 6 | Pay Attention To | Official disaster response especially from outside the community is often racist/discriminatory  |   |  | Cultural Competency                     |
| 3 | Pay Attention To | Community pain is real and needs to be addressed - deep held pain needs to be acknowledged and healed  | 2 |  | Cultural Competency (community healing) |
| 3 | Pay Attention To | This was the best approach to raising up the voices that really matter most - those experiencing the sharp end of all the sticks (let's keep doing this and listening and shaping the agenda from their needs) |   |  | Education & Outreach (roundtable forum) |
| 3 | Pay Attention To | Basic needs, basic rights: the long history of slavery and anti-immigrant action and policy that creates the context for our system today. Time to face the music and address the core issues                  | 2 |  | Root Causes of Vulnerability            |
| 4 | Pay Attention To | Historic context that got us where we are  |   |  | Root Causes of Vulnerability            |
| 4 | Pay Attention To | Provide safety   |   |  | Social Safety Net (safety)              |
|   |                  |  |   |  |   |
|   |                  |  |   |  |   |