



California Resilience Challenge

2021 Program



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- Adrian Covert, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Bay Area Council
- Anna Sciaruto, Senior Policy Associate, Bay Area Council

About the 2021 California Resilience Challenge

In 2020, the California Resilience Challenge awarded more than \$2 million to 12 communities across California to support local climate resilience projects. Building off that success, the California Resilience Challenge and its diverse array of partners in the business, utility, and non-profit sectors, is proud to award more than \$2 million to support local climate resilience projects in 13 communities across California as part of its 2021 grant program.

The California Resilience Challenge 2021 grantees represent some of the state's most innovative thinking on how to address climate adaptation across California's extraordinarily diverse geography. Projects include water monitoring initiatives to protect public health against heat-induced algal blooms; feasibility analyses for new climate resilience hubs to ensure reliable services during extreme climate events; vulnerability assessments to predict and mitigate negative public health impacts from extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and other climate stressors; climate resilience needs assessments for California African American communities; planning projects for building climate-resilience housing; capacity-building for California Native American Tribes; forestry and wildfire prevention career training for formerly incarcerated Californians; developing sustainable and affordable insurance models for communities in the wildland-urban interface; hydrologic modeling to boost flood resilience for communities along the lower San Joaquin River; aquifer recharge projects to boost drought resilience in the Central Valley; and operational guides to expedite carbon-sequestration, wildfire resilience, and biodiversity projects in California forests. Many of these projects, when implemented, will provide regional benefits against multiple climate stressors. Lessons learned from these projects can be shared to boost climate resilience in communities elsewhere in California, across the U.S., and around the world.

Winning grantees were selected from a pool of 73 proposals received in response to a [Request-for-Proposals](#) released July, 2021. Proposals were vetted by the California Resilience Challenge 2021 Advisory Committee, which included representatives from under-resourced communities, California Native American Tribes, the Governor's Office of Planning & Research, engineering firms, environmental organizations, and more. Eligible grantees included community-based organizations representing under-resourced communities, California Native American Tribes, and local/regional public entities in partnership with local community-based organizations.

The California Resilience Challenge is an initiative of the Bay Area Council Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, qualified as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Challenge is administered by the Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored public policy advocacy organization for the nine-county Bay Area that was founded in 1945. Learn more at BayAreaCouncil.org. Learn more about the California Resilience Challenge at ResilientCal.org.

Winners

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN): The California Resilience Challenge is helping APEN build a Climate Resilience hub in Richmond California to improve emergency preparedness, connect social services, and provide emergency solar power to the community of Richmond. The project also involves the development of a statewide climate vulnerability mapping platform to advance climate resilience locally and statewide among poor and working class Asian immigrants and refugees in response to extreme heat, sea level rise, drought, and wildfires.

Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians: Clear Lake has supported indigenous peoples for centuries. However, Clear Lake is experiencing significant fish die-offs and toxic algal blooms due to increased water temperatures. By installing data loggers and building online water quality dashboards, the California Resilience Challenge is helping the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians expand water quality monitoring to improve public health and the recreational economy of the Clear Lake region.

Fresno Madera Medical Society Foundation: Climate change is worsening the Central Valley's existing challenges with water and air pollution. Projections from the CalAdapt database for Fresno county show an increase in number of extreme heat days (>94.3 °F) by 22-30 days per year, and an increase of up to 12,000 acres burned by wildfire over the next 30 years. The California Resilience Challenge is helping the Fresno Madera Medical Society Foundation develop a countywide Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment, an online resource archive, and a community education curriculum to predict and mitigate the negative public health impacts of climate change.

CA-HI NAACP: With assistance from the California Resilience Challenge, the California-Hawaii Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (CA-HI NAACP) will conduct the first ever Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Community Needs Assessment targeting California's African American community. The assessment will help determine to what degree communities of color have already been impacted by wildfire, drought, and sea level rise, and will be used to develop community-based plans with selected local branches to assist under-resourced communities prepare for and adapt to wildfires, droughts, and sea level rise.

U.S. Green Building Council, Los Angeles: Surrounded by five freeways, the Boyle Heights community has long served as a port of entry for immigrants to Los Angeles. With support from the California Resilience Challenge, the U.S. Green Building Council-LA will assist the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory and its partners (the City of Los Angeles and The American Red Cross) to create a new resilience hub that, when complete, will be supported by solar power and battery storage, a hospital-grade HVAC system, with HEPA filters, as well as backup water, ensuring that the center can operate under any conditions.

Cooperation Humboldt: The California Resilience Challenge is helping Cooperation Humboldt, in collaboration with Dishgamu Humboldt and the Wiyot Tribe, to develop the “Resilient Housing - Resilient Communities” Strategic Vision and Implementation Plan to help Humboldt County adapt to increased climate-driven housing needs by developing resilient housing that is responsive to wildfire, extreme heat, flooding, seismic and drought events. The plan will identify and prioritize housing production goals and housing resilience strategies based on community input, hazard assessment, and the projected impacts of climate change.

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians: Members of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) suffer from a lack of open space, exposure to toxic hazards, urban heat, poor air quality, localized flooding, and poor water quality. The California Resilience Challenge is helping FTBMI convene Tribal Citizens, neighboring tribes, and the community at large to identify multiple-benefit projects to enable tribal communities to thrive under changing climate conditions.

Forestry & Fire Recruitment: Hotter, drier weather is increasing the frequency and severity of wildfires in the Angeles National Forest surrounding Los Angeles. With support from the California Resilience Challenge, the Forestry and Fire Recruitment Program is strengthening wildfire resilience in the Los Angeles area by recruiting, training, and placing formerly incarcerated fire camp residents into wildfire fighting and prevention careers, and by providing deeply needed fire prevention support to the residents of Northern Los Angeles County.

Town of Paradise: After being nearly destroyed by the Camp Fire in 2018, the Town of Paradise is rebuilding stronger than before. The California Resilience Challenge is supporting these efforts by helping the Town and nearby tribal governments prioritize risk-mitigation projects and develop sustainable and affordable property insurance models in the Wildland-Urban Interface.

Mid Klamath Watershed Council: The Mid-Klamath region of northern California is a culturally and biologically diverse area that is threatened by increasingly severe heat, wildfire, and drought events. With support from the California Resilience Challenge, the MKWC will create an Operational Guide to expedite implementation of multiple-benefit adaptation projects to improve climate adaptation to (and mitigation of) wildfire, extreme heat and drought in the 1.2 million-acre WKRP planning area through the restoration of human responsibilities and appropriate relationships to the natural world.

San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency: Climate change projections predict a drastic increase in flood risk for the Lower San Joaquin River and Delta South Basin in the coming years due to rising sea levels and an increase in flows coming down the San Joaquin River. In partnership with the California Resilience Challenge, the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency is engaging with State, regional, and local stakeholders to develop alternatives for a coordinated basin-wide solution that addresses this increase in flood risk while also looking to achieve multiple other

benefits, including improving habitat through ecosystem restoration, improving groundwater sustainability, and enhancing public recreation.

Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources: The Town of Fairmead is threatened by numerous climate challenges, none more urgent than a shrinking groundwater table. With support from the California Resilience Challenge, Madera County and its nonprofit partners will design and develop a plan for implementing a groundwater resilience project involving groundwater recharge and/or land repurposing efforts in Fairmead in order to buffer this area from the water security impacts of climate-induced drought.

Santa Barbara Regional Climate Collaborative: The frequency and severity of wildfires, drought, and extreme heat events are rising across Santa Barbara County. With support from the California Resilience Challenge, the Santa Barbara Regional Climate Collaborative will design two pilot climate resilience hubs that will provide safe refuge and critical services during climate-driven emergencies, including wildfires, extreme heat events, and coastal and inland flooding, for groups historically excluded from energy and climate planning activities.



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