

UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy  
& the Environment

# MAPPING CALIFORNIA STATE INVESTMENTS IN *Climate and Communities*

SEPTEMBER 2025  
White Paper

Equitable Climate  
Infrastructure  
Investment



## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) developed this report as a resource for state government officials and community leaders. The authors conducted interviews with state program staff in the spring of 2025 to inform the analyses in this report, which were also shaped by a roundtable conversation with California state agency staff conducted on May 12, 2025. In this brief, the authors have assembled a robust subset of state climate programs that fund community capacity building, economic development, and technical assistance. They have also mapped these programs in two regions of California to show the ways in which state investments have manifested cumulatively in these areas, potentially providing a foundation for stronger community co-creation and meaningful participation in all phases of climate infrastructure projects.

This publication was made possible with support from the Climate Solutions Wellspring Fund and forms part of CLEE's new initiative to support Equitable Climate Infrastructure Investment. CLEE is assessing models of community oversight, governance, and benefits; developing replicable frameworks to achieve climate goals and deliver meaningful benefits to communities; and partnering with stakeholders to ensure that climate infrastructure investments deliver environmental benefits and achieve equity and economic justice goals.

## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR LAW, ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

The Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (CLEE) channels the expertise and creativity of the Berkeley Law community into pragmatic policy solutions to environmental and energy challenges. CLEE works with government, businesses, and the nonprofit sector to help solve urgent problems requiring innovative, interdisciplinary approaches. Drawing on the combined expertise of faculty, staff, and students across the University of California, Berkeley, CLEE strives to translate empirical findings into smart public policy solutions to better environmental and energy governance systems.

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SEPTEMBER 2025

# MAPPING CALIFORNIA STATE INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES

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Mary Smith

# I. INTRODUCTION: THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED UNDERSTANDING OF STATE INVESTMENTS AND SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE

California's climate laws, facilitating a range of clean infrastructure investment efforts that will transform energy, mobility, and industrial systems, have set the state on a path over multiple decades to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Through these climate initiatives, the state has also implemented a number of community-supporting and community-engaged programs.

The abundance of California's local and regional investment programs shows tremendous progress in community- and equity-oriented climate investment and represents a draft blueprint for other states seeking to fill the current void in federal leadership. As California continues to deploy these programs, there is an opportunity to examine how they complement one another in order to better coordinate the state's place-based investments, maximize program impacts in an era of budgetary restraint, and ensure the durability of new energy infrastructure projects. These state programs, in addition to reducing emissions and pollution, also present a much-needed opportunity to enhance equity in clean energy projects by augmenting and strengthening the state's "soft infrastructure," which in turn can bolster project durability and success.

Soft infrastructure includes:

- the civic and local organizations and structures that provide decision-making and operational capacity in communities
- the governance systems that provide community-oriented project management and ownership, enforceable pathways to deliver community benefits, and project oversight, transparency, and accountability, and
- the ownership and business models that provide equitable access to clean technology and deliver economic benefits for the most impacted communities.

This soft infrastructure can ensure that California's investments in decarbonization technologies, nature-based solutions, and other climate strategies catalyze meaningful benefits for communities (including economic development, local investments, wealth-building, and high-quality job opportunities), demonstrating that climate investment works for both the environment and for lives and livelihoods.

Soft infrastructure is also necessary to bolster community benefits that may be negotiated with climate project developers. Recently, community benefits have become a more frequent topic in conversations at the local, regional, and state levels, and several state agencies have pursued different approaches to community benefits implementation. However, simply dropping community benefits tools into localities is unlikely to achieve the success that planners seek. Instead, these tools and measures must be surrounded and supported by soft infrastructure—the civic infrastructure and trusted community-based organizations that can help engender success in launching new initiatives and sustaining them over the long term.

This report summarizes existing soft infrastructure that has been created through select state investments in climate mitigation and equity-driven capacity building and technical assistance. The report then catalogues specific projects funded by these state investments in the North and Central Coasts of California, regions which were selected because of their proximity to California’s offshore wind areas and their potential to be central to [offshore wind Community Benefits Agreements](#) (CBAs) in the future. Lastly, the authors identify questions for future research.

This inventory of select state programs can help reveal functional and geographic gaps to address in future planning. A comparative understanding of each program’s services and proximity to community needs can also help ensure that community members leverage programs effectively, without duplicating efforts. In addition, California’s state investments, if synergized, present an opportunity to create stronger community and civic networks (i.e., soft infrastructure) and in doing so, ensure that incoming climate infrastructure projects are developed in a durable, but also an equitable and sustainable, way. Lastly, these state programs, both individually and cumulatively, can provide an entry point for project developers to work directly with communities to ensure that projects align with community goals and deliver meaningful and relevant benefits, which can increase project success and durability and contribute to economic development.

Through this publication, the authors hope to catalyze a wider conversation about the ways in which soft infrastructure can advance and accelerate California’s climate and community goals. Given the current vacuum at the federal level, California must demonstrate how to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation goals while also paving a new path for community-inclusive and equitable climate solutions; the need has never been greater.



**CHARGING  
PORT**

## II. BACKGROUND: CALIFORNIA'S CURRENT CLIMATE PROGRAMS, PLANNING, AND INVESTMENTS

California has set ambitious state goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, procure clean energy, and build resilience to a changing climate. A suite of legislative actions, including the [AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006](#) and the 2022, [AB 1279 Climate Crisis Act](#), has committed the state to achieve net zero GHG emissions no later than 2045, to maintain net zero thereafter, and to ensure that beyond 2045, anthropogenic emissions are at least 85 percent below the 1990 level.

A parallel set of renewable energy procurement standards culminating in [SB 100 \(2018\)](#) require renewable and zero-carbon resources to supply 100 percent of retail electricity by 2045. These and dozens of complementary state policies represent a comprehensive effort to address climate change across all energy and emitting sectors. In addition to furthering the state's climate goals, some of these policies and investments also support communities through technical assistance, capacity building, and other mechanisms. This section provides a general overview of state climate programs, while the next summarizes select community- and equity-centered climate investments.

The state has launched a number of sector-specific strategies to achieve its climate targets and has several planning processes in place. The [California Energy Commission's \(CEC\) 2025 Integrated Energy Policy Report \(IEPR\)](#), which is in development, will consider major issues facing the state's energy system. Groups such as the [Tracking Energy Development \(TED\) Task Force](#) are also working to identify barriers to energy expansion and provide project tracking and development support. In addition, the CEC and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Joint Agency [Reliability Planning Assessments](#) address statewide electric system reporting requirements by providing quarterly reviews of electricity supply and reliability risks. These state planning initiatives, among many others, serve as central points for stakeholder input and sites for crucial decision-making processes that will inform California's energy future.

California has also deployed program initiatives ranging from regulatory standards to cap-and-trade-funded investments that cover nearly every clean energy sector and virtually every type of GHG mitigation measure. Regulatory and planning programs to reduce emissions and air pollution include, for example, [AB 525](#), which required the CEC to evaluate the state's capacity to support offshore wind energy and develop plans for its implementation, and [Advanced Clean Cars II](#), a set of regulations

that address transportation sector emissions by incentivizing the phase-out of new gasoline-powered vehicles. A small, representative subset of statewide cap-and-trade-funded investments includes:<sup>1</sup>

- **CLEAN MOBILITY:** The California Department of Transportation’s Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) received \$81 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024–2025 to support public transportation services and transit facilities.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC), administered by California’s Strategic Growth Council, funds housing and transportation projects near key community destinations. In FY 2024–2025, AHSC received \$326 million in GGRF funds to help shift mobility needs away from single-occupancy vehicles.
- **CLEAN AIR:** The California Air Resources Board (CARB) administers the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) to reduce harmful exposure in the state’s most polluted communities. The program received \$250 million from GGRF funding in FY 2024–2025.

These examples of prominent state investments represent the wide range of technologies and programs that the state is leveraging in its climate mitigation efforts. The following sections will highlight some of the community- and equity-oriented measures that many state programs—including several mentioned above—have employed.



California's Native Plants

### III. EXISTING STATE COMMUNITY-ORIENTED CLIMATE PROGRAMS & INVESTMENTS

It is helpful to understand the broad ways in which the state has already deployed resources to support the development of soft infrastructure in California communities before mapping existing state climate investments and capacity building programs in specific regions. This section examines a subset of existing state climate equity-driven programs and community-oriented benefits and mechanisms in order to provide an overview of the current landscape.

Within the state's climate programs, California has invested extensively in community- and equity-oriented initiatives, with an increasing focus on the need for community benefits in climate investments. This focus can be seen in both sector-specific GHG reduction programs (such as the [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program](#), mentioned above) and in mitigation investment programs in particular, including many in the cap-and-trade-funded California Climate Investments (CCI) portfolio. Other initiatives include [California Jobs First](#) (formerly the Community Economic Resilience Fund), which fosters high-road economic regional development plans in order to stimulate equitable access to good quality, family-supporting jobs, and also includes climate components. This is a small sample of the state's existing efforts; there are many more, some of which will be explored below.

While there is wide variety in the missions and functions of these state programs, they share a broad focus in seeking to increase accessibility of state funding and strengthen community involvement in the planning and implementation of climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience projects. Many CCI programs include funding for technical assistance and capacity building in communities, which supports project funding, development, and implementation. This community involvement is critical in order to ensure energy infrastructure project durability, effectiveness, and project completion.

#### SELECT CALIFORNIA STATE COMMUNITY-ORIENTED CLIMATE PROGRAMS

California's community-oriented programs operate through both GHG reduction programs (such as [CARB's Community Air Protection Program](#)) and through a spectrum of economic development, technical assistance, and capacity building programs. A subset of capacity building, equity-driven programs is listed below and illustrates the range in scale and geography that these approaches have achieved.<sup>2</sup>

TABLE 1: SELECT STATE PROGRAMS COMPARED<sup>3</sup>

	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	PROGRAM TYPE	GEOGRAPHIC SCALE OF IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS	FUNDING AMOUNT (IN MILLIONS (“M”), UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)	PROGRAM GOALS				
					GHG Emission Reduction	Capacity Building	Workforce	Climate Resilience	Local Environmental Benefits/Public Health
<a href="#">Transformative Climate Communities</a>	SGC	Project planning, project development, and project implementation grants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local air pollution	Neighborhood (< 5 square miles)	\$424M total awarded since 2018 <sup>4</sup>	X	X	X	X	X
<a href="#">AB 617 Community Air Protection Program</a>	CARB	Community air monitoring, community engagement, targeted funding for educational and technical projects, incentives to address stationary and Community Emission Reduction Program-identified pollution sources, and more	Community-level implementation and statewide/ regional strategies	\$250M in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) funds allocated for FY24-FY25 <sup>5</sup>	X	X			X
<a href="#">California Jobs First</a>	GO-Biz	Workforce Development Funds that privilege good-paying jobs in sustainable industries	Regional (13 regions)	The state has invested \$5M for planning and \$14M for project development for each of 13 regions (\$287M total, plus \$245M announced Feb '25) <sup>6</sup>		X	X	X	
<a href="#">Master Plan for Career Education</a>	Governor’s Office	Workforce development policy planning and coordination, which includes pathways to green economy careers	Statewide	No data found			X		
<a href="#">CalEPA EJ Action Grants Program</a>	CalEPA	Focus on environmental justice grants with goals of: supporting emergency preparedness, protecting public health, improving environmental and climate decision-making, and strengthening enforcement	Projects operate at level of Tribe/ Organization	In 2025, CalEPA will allocate a maximum of \$300,000 per project or \$500,000 per applicant per fiscal year, with a grant duration of up to 24 months <sup>7</sup>				X	X

TABLE 1: SELECT STATE PROGRAMS COMPARED<sup>3</sup>

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY	PROGRAM TYPE	GEOGRAPHIC SCALE OF IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS	FUNDING AMOUNT (IN MILLIONS (“M”), UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)	PROGRAM GOALS					
				GHG Emission Reduction	Capacity Building	Workforce	Climate Resilience	Local Environmental Benefits/Public Health	
<b>Strategic Growth Council Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE) Programs</b>									
<a href="#">BOOST</a>	SGC	Technical assistance and capacity- and relationship-building. Collaboration with the Institute for Local Government	City or County (17 cities/towns in two regions, in first two rounds)	BOOST has connected participants to about 90 grant opportunities and \$73M in new funding since the program’s inception <sup>8</sup>	X	X		X	
<a href="#">Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program</a>	SGC	Capacity-building to secure staff and funds for future climate projects	Projects operate at level of Tribe	In 2024, \$1.45 million was awarded to six grantees, with each receiving up to \$250,000 over a two-year grant term <sup>9</sup>		X			
<a href="#">Regional Climate Collaboratives</a>	SGC	Grants for capacity-building activities intended to increase the community’s ability to apply for climate project grants in the future	Community-level funding for regional priorities	Round 2 (2023) guidelines <sup>10</sup> specify \$500,000 to \$999,999 for small grants and \$1M–\$1.75M for large grants (\$8.5M total available for Round 2)		X		X	
<a href="#">Partners Advancing Climate Equity</a>	SGC	Capacity-building training	Community-level projects	N/A: Cohort training program allowing leaders from frontline communities to attend skills training and peer-to-peer networking sessions		X		X	

Please see [Table of Acronyms](#) for abbreviations.

Summaries of each of the programs included in the table above are outlined below. While the goals of each program are slightly different, each administers investments at the community level around the state.

- [Transformative Climate Communities \(TCC\)](#): Provides funding for community-led development in California's underserved communities with a focus on advancing environmental, public health, and economic benefits.
- [AB 617 Community Air Protection Program \(CAPP\)](#): The objective of the program is to reduce pollution in California's most impacted communities. The program includes air monitoring, community emissions reduction programs, and grants to support resident involvement in the AB 617 process, among other measures.
- [California Jobs First](#): This statewide program supports economic development plans for 13 regions in California to create high quality, accessible and environmentally sustainable jobs throughout each region.
- [Master Plan for Career Education](#): A plan to coordinate and strengthen locally tailored education and workforce development pathways with an aim to ensure high quality, family-sustaining job opportunities for all Californians. The program proposes six primary areas of action, including state planning, regional coordination, and workforce training, among others.
- [CalEPA EJ Action Grants Program](#): CalEPA administers environmental justice grants to a wide range of projects with an aim to restore and protect human and environmental health while promoting economic opportunity. The program targets projects that prioritize disadvantaged communities and advance environmental justice.
- [Community Assistance for Climate Equity \(CACE\)](#): CACE encompasses a suite of state programs supporting underinvested communities that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The programs provide capacity-building and technical assistance services and include the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program, the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, the BOOST Program, and the Partners Advancing Climate Equity Program.
  - [BOOST](#): A Strategic Growth Council and Institute for Local Government-led program that supports under-resourced local agencies' climate and equity goals through flexible, capacity-building technical assistance services.
  - [Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program](#): The program seeks to advance California Native American Tribes' climate-related work by building staff capacity, linking tribal-led climate projects with funding opportunities, and supporting peer learning among tribes.
  - [Regional Climate Collaboratives \(RCC\)](#): RCC provides grant funding for capacity-building efforts in California's under-resourced communities. Funding recipients are community-based and cross-sectoral organizations aiming to develop robust plans, processes, and projects that support climate action in alignment with public and private funding opportunities.

- [Partners Advancing Climate Equity \(PACE\)](#): A highly flexible capacity-building program for community leaders throughout California. The program supports a wide range of functions to identify and advance local priorities, including peer learning, data-driven community needs assessments, and grant application preparation, among others.

## COMMUNITY-ORIENTED BENEFITS AND MECHANISMS IN SELECT CALIFORNIA CLIMATE PROGRAMS

Having outlined select state climate programs that invest in communities, this section will now further explain the community-oriented aspects of these initiatives, as shown through program, funding, and training elements and community governance mechanisms. For the purposes of this analysis, “program, funding, and training” includes provisions such as job training programs, targeted and local hire, and community capacity-building programs and technical assistance. The category of “community governance mechanisms” includes measures such as participatory budgeting,<sup>11</sup> community ownership and worker-owned co-ops,<sup>12</sup> advisory councils, and community-led planning and implementation processes.<sup>13</sup>

TABLE 2: “PROGRAM, FUNDING, & TRAINING” AND “COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS” IN SELECT STATE PROGRAMS				
AGENCY	PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM, FUNDING, & TRAINING COMPONENTS	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS
GO-Biz	<a href="#">California Jobs First</a>	General Fund (GF) (Formerly funded through federal monies) <sup>14</sup>	In the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase of the Central Coast’s initiative, funding was awarded to efforts in workforce development, aerospace, education and job training, childcare and community development, climate resilience, and sustainable agriculture.	Depends on the project. For example, <a href="#">Project Milpa</a> , co-organized by CAUSE and others, was awarded funding in the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase of the Central Coast’s initiative; the project seeks to establish a farmworker cooperative and land trust to promote worker-owned regenerative agriculture in Ventura County.
CARB	<a href="#">AB 617 Community Air Protection Program</a>	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), Air Pollution Control Fund (APCF), and GF <sup>15</sup>	Air monitoring, community emissions reduction programs, and grants to support resident involvement and feedback to inform local emissions and exposure reduction actions.	As part of AB 617’s required consultation with EJ communities, CARB formed the Community Air Protection Consultation Group (Group) in January of 2018. The Group is an advisory body that includes environmental justice organizations.  Many air districts have adopted “Community Steering Committees” as the chosen platform <sup>16</sup> for required AB 617 consultation. <sup>17</sup>

**TABLE 2: “PROGRAM, FUNDING, & TRAINING” AND “COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS” IN SELECT STATE PROGRAMS**

AGENCY	PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM, FUNDING, & TRAINING COMPONENTS	COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS
SGC	<a href="#">BOOST</a>	General Fund and GGRF dollars <sup>18</sup> (No allocations in FY24-25) <sup>19</sup>	Technical support, training, and capacity building for local municipalities.	None found and not applicable to this analysis, as the program involves public agencies and municipalities rather than community members.
SGC	<a href="#">Transformative Climate Communities</a>	General Fund and GGRF dollars <sup>20</sup> (No allocations in FY24-25) <sup>21</sup>	Provides funding for community-led development in California’s underserved communities with a focus on advancing environmental and public health and economic benefits.	Requires a collaborative stakeholder structure whose design varies by project location. For example, the East Oakland TCC project included a “Collaborative Governance Ecosystem.” Part of this Ecosystem was a Stakeholder Committee, which functioned as a governing body charged with managing the grant progress. The Committee had 21 members (nine of whom were either grantees or co-applicants and 12 of whom represented the communities near the project). <sup>22</sup> The project also launched a nonprofit to serve as a community anchor for TCC implementation and provide infrastructure for future projects. <sup>23</sup>
SGC	<a href="#">Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program</a>	GGRF <sup>24</sup> (No allocations in FY24-25) <sup>25</sup>	Training, technical assistance, funding, capacity building, peer-to-peer learning.	Depends on the project. Part of the Esselen Tribe’s proposal includes creating a Tribal Climate Resilience task force to increase the tribe’s capacity to respond to habitat loss in historic territories. <sup>26</sup>
SGC	<a href="#">Regional Climate Collaboratives</a>	GGRF <sup>27</sup> (No allocations in FY24-25) <sup>28</sup>	Capacity building and technical assistance. Includes funding for relationship building; priority identification, plan, and project development; and peer learning.	RCC applications must include a “ <a href="#">Collaborative Partnership Structure</a> ” that employs a shared governance model.
SGC	<a href="#">Partners Advancing Climate Equity</a>	GGRFs <sup>29</sup> (No allocations in FY24-25) <sup>30</sup>	Capacity building, peer learning, data-driven community needs assessments, and grant application training.	None found.

The table above shows that selected state programs include varying degrees of funding and training and that different projects and programs have diverse community

governance mechanisms, ranging from bodies that give non-binding advice (such as the Community Air Protection Program Consultation Group), to worker-owned cooperatives (for example, Project Milpa, funded by California Jobs First Catalyst Funds), to grant oversight and governing stakeholder committees (such as East Oakland's TCC project), depending on the program and the type of funding at issue. All of these funding, training, and community governance mechanisms can contribute to the soft infrastructure that enhances project success and durability by giving communities decision-making power and the capacity to participate effectively. In the next section, this report will put some of these programs in context by looking at how select state programs operate in two specific regions: Central and Northern California.



## IV. REGIONAL PROJECT PROFILES OF SELECT STATE PROGRAMS

Examining California’s investments at the regional level can help illuminate the ways in which various state investments work together on a smaller scale. This section highlights specific capacity-building, equity-driven state climate programs in two regions: the Central Coast and the North Coast areas, which the authors selected with an eye to possible future Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) associated with California’s offshore wind projects in these locations.

Because State agencies designed the programs profiled in this section to increase community involvement and grow community capacity, these existing programs may assist in providing civic touch points around which communities can organize to respond to new climate infrastructure projects. The programs outlined below have bolstered regional civic infrastructure and can lay the groundwork for community participation in future energy and climate projects.

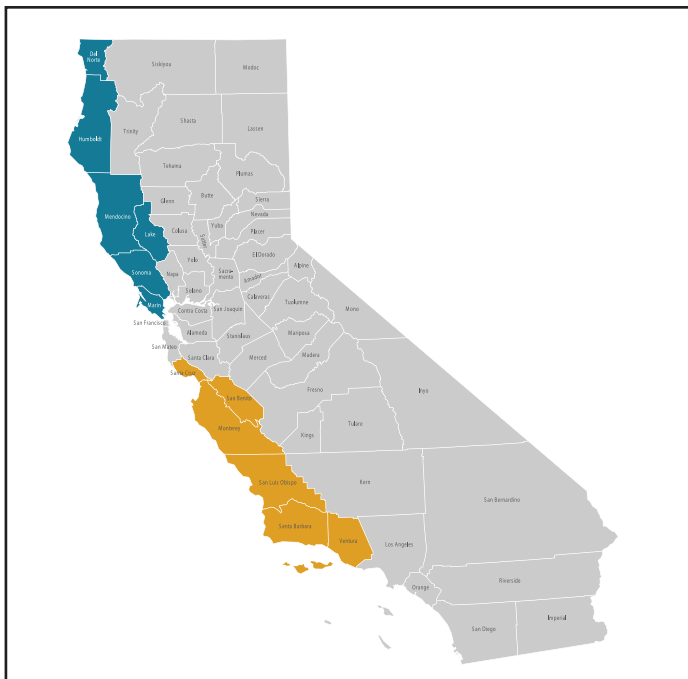


Figure 1: California Map showing select capacity-building, equity-driven state programs in the Central Coast<sup>31</sup>



Figure 2: Select capacity-building, equity-driven state programs in the Central Coast

Note: This figure adheres to the boundaries of the “Central Coast” region as defined in [California Job First’s Playbook](#).













SELECT CENTRAL COAST STATE FUNDED PROJECTS		
PROGRAM	LOCATION	FUNDING AMOUNT/ TIMELINE
 BOOST	City of Ventura, Ventura County	ILG received \$1M total to assist 10 cities and two regions; 2019–2020
	City of Salinas, Monterey County	
 CalEPA	Monterey County	\$148,429. Grant awarded in 2024
	Cuyama Valley, Santa Barbara County	\$293,159. Grant awarded in 2024
 Jobs First	San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties	\$9 million awarded to 36 Central Coast initiatives in the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase; 2025–2026
 PACE	Statewide leadership training program included participants from the City of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County	N/A
 TCB Pilot Program	Monterey County	\$250,000; 2025–2027
	San Luis Obispo County	\$206,917; 2025–2027
 TCC	Cuyama Valley, Santa Barbara County	\$1 million; 2024–2025



Figure 3: Select capacity-building, equity-driven state programs in the North Coast

Note: This figure interprets the “North Coast” region as coextensive with the “Redwood Region” in [California Job First’s Playbook](#).

SELECT NORTH COAST STATE FUNDED PROJECTS		
PROGRAM	LOCATION	FUNDING AMOUNT/ TIMELINE
 <u>BOOST</u>	City of Arcata, Humboldt County	\$1 million for 10 cities and 2 regions; 2019–2020
 <u>CalEPA</u>	Laytonville Rancheria, Mendocino County	\$299,979. Grant awarded in 2024
	Santa Rosa County	\$219,813. Grant awarded in 2024
	Hoopla Valley, Humboldt County	\$198,795. Grant awarded in 2024
	Potter Valley, Mendocino County	\$116,302. Grant awarded in 2024
	Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, Del Norte County	\$86,017. Grant awarded in 2024
	Yurok Reservation, Del Norte, and Humboldt Counties	\$296,435. Grant awarded in 2024
 <u>Jobs First</u>	Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Lake Counties	\$14 million; 2024–2034

SELECT NORTH COAST STATE FUNDED PROJECTS		
PROGRAM	LOCATION	FUNDING AMOUNT/ TIMELINE
 <a href="#">PACE</a>	Staff located in Sonoma County	N/A
 <a href="#">TCB Pilot Program</a>	Trinidad Rancheria, Humboldt County	\$244,500; 2024–2026
 <a href="#">TCC</a>	Karuk Tribe, Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties	\$299,923; 2023–2025
	Wiyot Villages, Humboldt County	\$299,800; 2024–2026
	Hoopla Indian Reservation, Humboldt County	\$300,000; 2023–2025

### PROJECTS IN CENTRAL COAST CALIFORNIA

The Central Coast, as defined by the Jobs First program,<sup>32</sup> encompasses six counties (Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, Monterey County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and Ventura County) and over thirteen thousand miles. The state projects that have been awarded in the Central Coast region vary from capacity-building assistance for local governments, tribes, and community-based organizations to regional economic development plans that can assist the Central Coast with climate adaptation and training for high quality jobs. The amounts awarded vary from a few hundred thousand dollars to \$1 million to \$14 million for California Jobs First.

Some state programs, such as AB 617’s Community Air Protection Program, are designed to award more points to applications that address the most serious greenhouse gas emissions or air pollution, and the Central Coast has neither the concentrated air pollution of places such as the Central Valley and Los Angeles, nor the corresponding potential for GHG reduction. However, according to [a report](#) by [Uplift Central Coast](#), 1.2 million of the 2.4 million residents in the Central Coast live in disinvested communities (areas that are home to disproportionately high levels of people with lower incomes)<sup>33</sup> and 45 percent of people who live in the Central Coast are part of families that lack the income to cover basic necessities.<sup>34</sup> This is a region that could greatly benefit from the potential economic stimulus of climate infrastructure projects—if communities are able to have a meaningful voice in those projects and the benefits they provide.

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/ FINDINGS
Jobs First (Formerly CERF)	<a href="#">Uplift Central Coast</a>	Regional planning completed in 2024. Implementation started in 2025.	\$14 million allocated to each regional collaborative in 2024 for predevelopment activities	San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties	<p>Uplift Central Coast is convened by the <a href="#">Economic Development Collaborative, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, and REACH</a>.</p> <p>The Uplift <a href="#">Regional Plan Report</a> (September 2024) identified four main areas for action: Quality Job Creation, Economic Mobility Strategies, Climate Resilience through Economic and Workforce Strategies, and Community Development Strategies.</p> <p>In February 2025, Uplift Central Coast awarded nine million dollars to <a href="#">36 Central Coast Initiatives</a> as part of the Catalyst Predevelopment Phase.</p>
Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)	<a href="#">Resilient Cuyama Valley Project</a>	2024-2025	\$1 million	Cuyama Valley, Santa Barbara County	Resilient Cuyama Valley included funding for a Home Retrofit Pilot, Microgrid Electrical Upgrade, Drinking Water Assessment, Greywater Installation Pilot, Backyard Composting Pilot, Garden Demonstration Project, Food Hub Feasibility Assessment, and All Weather Safe Route to School.

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/ FINDINGS
BOOST	<a href="#">City of Ventura Project</a>	2019–2020	ILG received \$1 million for 10 cities and 2 regions	Ventura County	This project included technical assistance for engagement around city planning efforts; grant application assistance for the city’s water, housing, and climate resilience projects; and research on air quality issues, best practices, and ways to confront disparities.
	<a href="#">City of Salinas Project</a>	2019–2020	ILG received \$1 million for 10 cities and 2 regions	Monterey County	This project identified funding sources and launched grant applications; launched a baseline greenhouse gas inventory for the city; and promoted collaboration with partners to assess strategies and metrics for greenhouse gas reductions; and provided training on community engagement.
Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC)	No successful applications found	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE)	Central Coast participants included staff from <a href="#">Watsonville Wetlands Watch</a> and <a href="#">Regeneración Pájaro Valley Climate Action</a> <sup>35</sup>	2021–2022	N/A	Statewide leadership training program	The program provides training for frontline leaders, including workshops, experiential & peer-to-peer learning, community needs assessments toolkits, and technical assistance, to further “ <a href="#">community-driven, equitable climate solutions</a> .” <sup>36</sup>

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS
Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program	Esselen Tribe of Monterey County <a href="#">Project</a>	2025–2027	\$250,000	Monterey County	Project will develop an action plan to identify Tribe’s strengths and weaknesses, prioritize areas for capacity building, and create a sustainable funding model. The project will create a taskforce that would enable the Tribe to increase its capacity to undertake additional climate-resilience projects. The project will expand learning and networking opportunities with respect to cultural fire practices.
	Yak tityu tityu yak tithini Northern Chumash Tribe (YTT tribe) <a href="#">Project</a>	2025–2027	\$206,917	San Luis Obispo County	Project will secure funding to hire staff and advance projects including aquaculture and local shellfish restoration, watershed restoration, land-back efforts, and education programs at local schools.
CalEPA EJ Action Grants	<a href="#">Center for Community Advocacy’s (CCA) housing program Viviendas</a>	Grant awarded in March 2024	\$148,429	Monterey County	Public Health
	<a href="#">Quail Springs (True Nature Society) Building the Cuyama Valley Coalition of Water Stewards</a>	Grant awarded in March 2024	\$293,159	Santa Barbara County	Environmental and Climate Decision-Making
AB 617 CAP Program	No projects found	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**PROJECTS IN NORTH COAST CALIFORNIA**

California’s North Coast region, which this report interprets as coterminous with California Jobs First’s “Redwood Region,”<sup>37</sup> includes six counties (Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity, and Siskiyou) and spans about 10,000 square miles of largely rural territory with varied climates and terrain. State programs have allocated funds throughout the region to support cities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations in their

public engagement, climate-related grant acquisition efforts, land use and housing initiatives, civic infrastructure development, and climate and economic resiliency planning. Funding awards vary from about \$90,000 to \$14 million over differing grant periods.

State investments in the North Coast reflect the region’s demographics and sparse industrial composition. The region’s large number of tribal funding recipients through both TCC and CalEPA highlights the relative prominence of tribal communities in the North Coast.

The lack of an AB 617 program in the North Coast reflects the region’s absence of large urban centers and heavy industry; because it is more rural and hosts less industry, the North Coast has lower levels of air pollution than other California regions. However, while the North Coast exhibits lower emissions and therefore lower GHG mitigation potential than other California regions, many tribes are significantly under-resourced and lack capacity to implement climate adaptation plans and other tribal priorities, making inclusive state program climate investments especially critical.

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE NORTH COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS
California Jobs First (Formerly CERF)	<a href="#">Redwood Region Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Economy (RISE)</a>	Began 2023, with 10-year implementation from 2024-2034	\$14 million allocated to each regional collaborative in 2024 for pre-development activities	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties	Recipient is implementing a 10-year regional plan to build sustainable and quality job opportunities in the region while advancing environmental health and social equity.  Jobs First offers technical assistance, such as grant writing mentors and experts in finance and other sectors.
Transformative Climate Communities (TCC)	<a href="#">Panámnik, sákriiv nukyâavish!</a> (Orleans, we are making it strong!) (Karuk Tribe)	2023-2025	\$299,923	Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties	Planning grant funds support the identification of community needs and infrastructure investment plans related to affordable housing, air quality, food security, and other local priorities.
	<a href="#">McKinleyville Regenerative and Transformative Community Plan</a> (Wiyot Tribe)	2024-2026	\$299,800	Humboldt County	Project will develop walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented affordable housing and green infrastructure to reduce the housing burden, address public and environmental health, and bolster the economy.
	<a href="#">Hoopa Indian Reservation Climate Adaptation Planning</a> (Native American Environmental Protection Coalition)	2023-2025	\$300,000	Humboldt County	Awardee coalition will support Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation’s planning for climate vulnerability and adaptation. Project will include community engagement and priority/blueprint setting to implement adaptation measures.

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE NORTH COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS
BOOST	<a href="#">City of Arcata</a>	2019–2020	ILG received \$1 million for 10 cities and 2 regions	City of Arcata, Humboldt County	Project strengthened the city’s approach to public engagement, supporting grant acquisition for land use and housing initiatives, and highlighting the city’s efforts around climate action and equity.  Helped the city secure \$15 million in grant funding for affordable housing and critical infrastructure through public engagement training.
Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC)	No successful applications	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE)	Participants from North Coast organizations included staff from the <a href="#">National Indian Justice Center</a> (Santa Rosa) <sup>38</sup>	2020–2022	N/A	Sonoma County	Program provides training for frontline leaders, including workshops, experiential and peer-to-peer learning, Community Needs Assessments toolkits, and technical assistance, to further “community-driven, equitable climate solutions.” <sup>39</sup>
Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program	<a href="#">Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of Trinidad Rancheria</a>	2024–2026	\$244,500	Humboldt County	Project will include strategic planning activities for climate goals, climate-related grant application submissions, and partnership-building with entities that can support the tribe’s climate and economic goals.

SELECT STATE INVESTMENTS IN THE NORTH COAST					
PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT YEARS	FUNDING AMOUNT	PROJECT LOCATION	DESCRIPTION/FINDINGS
CalEPA EJ Action Grants	Assessing Threats to Tribal Health and Resources from the Closed Laytonville Landfill for the <a href="#">Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria</a>  (Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$299,979	Laytonville Rancheria, Mendocino County	Public Health, Environmental and Climate Decision-Making, Enforcement
	<a href="#">Center for Resilient Native Generations: Emergency Preparedness</a>  (California Indian Museum and Cultural Center)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$219,813	Sonoma County	Emergency Preparedness, Public Health
	<a href="#">Illegal Dumping Prevention and Mitigation</a>  (Hoopa Valley Tribe)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$198,795	Humboldt County	Public Health, Enforcement
	<a href="#">Potter Valley Tribe Water Resource Protection and Planning Program</a>  (Potter Valley Tribe)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$116,302	Mendocino County	Environmental and Climate Decision-Making
	<a href="#">The Bioaccumulation of Toxins in Fish, Bivalves, and Seaweed and their Impacts on the Safety of Tribal Subsistence Resources</a>  (Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$86,017	Del Norte County	Public Health, Environmental and Climate Decision-Making
	<a href="#">Building the Staffing Capacity of the Yurok Tribe Water Supply System</a>  (Yurok Tribe)	Grant awarded in 2024	\$296,435	Del Norte and Humboldt Counties	Emergency Preparedness, Public Health, Enforcement
	AB 617 CAP Program	No projects found	N/A	N/A	N/A



## V. MOVING FORWARD

California has invested significantly in climate programs that support and engage communities, creating much-needed soft infrastructure. As the state enters a new era of climate policy entailing a range of emerging challenges and opportunities, building on these efforts will be crucial to the long-term viability of the state's climate efforts.

Existing state capacity-building and technical assistance programs are well-situated to support the growth of additional soft infrastructure in communities. In building out these existing programs, the state should consider the following constraints and barriers that currently exist, as identified through CLEE interviews with Strategic Growth Council (SGC) program staff and program administrators:<sup>40</sup>

- Tribes are uniquely situated, which requires more forethought and additional administrative effort, as current systems are not usually constructed according to tribes' needs.<sup>41</sup>
- Some grants' structural requirements (for example, for staffing) do not match applicant needs.<sup>42</sup>
- Easing the burden of submitting applications is critical. There is a need to make application processes easier for under-resourced applicants, either through increased technical assistance, modified application processes, or both.<sup>43</sup>
- A lack of consistent program funding (many SGC programs have faced budget cuts in recent budget cycles) poses challenges for prospective applicants, as well as program administrators, in planning and preparing for applications.<sup>44</sup>

State staff have been working to overcome these challenges, and at the same time, attempting to better design programs to be more responsive to participant needs, while also creating stronger links between select state programs. Many state agency staff recognize the need to ease the administrative burden of state programs by minimizing application requirements and/or providing technical assistance through each program stage, including the application phase.<sup>45</sup> Program administrators at the Strategic Growth

Council are in the process of augmenting earlier efforts to construct a progressive pipeline through the organization’s various programs to support long-term community planning and implementation capacity.<sup>46</sup> Finally, in order to secure more funding, some program administrators are exploring the implementation of public-private partnership models, as exemplified by the [Imperial Valley Civic Ecosystem](#) project.<sup>47</sup>

To ensure even more successful deployment of climate solutions, the state might think not only about enhancing the community capacity-building and technical assistance aspects of its existing programs, but also about initiating additional community governance mechanisms such as advisory councils, participatory budgeting, worker-owned co-ops, and community-led planning and implementation processes.<sup>48</sup> Augmenting California’s “soft infrastructure” in this way could facilitate more rapid, and more successful, climate infrastructure deployment alongside community economic development.

In addition, California agencies could begin to coordinate state investments more closely across state programs, to ensure maximum synergy between various agency efforts and to take advantage of previous investments and existing civic infrastructure. Taking a state-wide and holistic regional view of programs could help further analysis of functional and geographic gaps in current programs and help communities better understand what opportunities may be available in their region.

Understanding the current landscape of California’s climate community and equity-oriented investments is an important first step in analyzing how to supplement and strengthen the state’s soft infrastructure. At the same time, the research for this report has surfaced additional questions and considerations, informed by conversations with state agency staff, which state leaders and policy analysts should consider in developing the next evolution of California’s climate investment strategy. These are captured in the sidebar at right.

#### **FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR RESEARCH INCLUDE:**

Whether state climate investments can help inform a larger support structure for “soft” (civic) infrastructure in the state across multiple sectors, and whether additional policies could help strengthen these programs or lead to more effective coordination and deployment.

How the state’s community-oriented climate programs and other investments can respond to and support communities and local partners impacted by the widespread cancellation of federal grants.

How can modeling and communicating a clean energy transition that provides reliable and affordable power alongside other benefits for communities assist in California’s climate efforts? Might the state need to augment its communication with communities by discussing the harms of the status quo (e.g., air pollution, chronic disease, natural disaster)?

Evaluating the relative efficacy of development projects that proactively engage communities and/or employ community benefits mechanisms versus those that do not, considering project outcomes/variables such as timeline, cost, and community project opposition.

Identifying opportunities for coordinated, cumulative state investment that would produce a cohesive/unfragmented vision for a region’s needs and thus provide more predictability/transparency for developers.

How can developers engage with communities during early climate infrastructure project stages while at the same time addressing investor

The state’s climate goals necessitate investment not only in policies that will create the steel, batteries, and other components that will help California reach its targets, but also in communities that will host these projects. A successful climate transition will require that communities benefit from decarbonization and other climate efforts, such as cleaner air, and that communities are meaningfully included in project planning and deployment. The state’s existing programs are moving California in the right direction, and, simultaneously, new questions are surfacing as state staff, developers, and communities navigate towards California’s climate goals in real time. CLEE, through its Equitable Climate Infrastructure Investment Initiative, and in partnership with other researchers and community partners, will continue to examine how California’s climate efforts can help the state reach its climate goals in an equitable and just manner.

uncertainty that can arise from community opposition?

Whether building publicly accessible, continually updated portfolios of prospective projects or actions that reflect local or regional community vision, and providing a list of community benefits for developers to reference in their project planning and implementation, could assist state agencies, developers, and communities.

How to navigate projects that face opposition despite taking a thorough community benefits approach.

Whether and how existing state infrastructure can assist in the deployment of Climate Bond funds.

How to link environmental and clean energy projects with significant in-state job creation and long-term economic growth. This includes the need to identify emerging technologies and industries in which California has a “comparative advantage” and is well-positioned to build robust local supply chains.

## TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AB	California Assembly Bill	GHG	Greenhouse gas emissions
AHSC	Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, administered by the Strategic Growth Council and implemented by the California Department of Housing and Community Development	GO-Biz	Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
APCF	Air Pollution Control Fund, administered by the California Air Resources Board	IEPR	Integrated Energy Policy Report, prepared and adopted by the California Energy Commission
BOOST	Build, Organize, Optimize, Strengthen, Transform Program, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council in collaboration with the Institute for Local Government	LCTOP	The California Department of Transportation’s Low Carbon Transit Operations Program
CACE	Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council	LIWP	Low-Income Weatherization Program, administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency	PACE	Partners Advancing Climate Equity Program, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council
CARB	California Air Resources Board	RCC	Regional Climate Collaboratives, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council
CAPP	Community Air Protection Program, administered by the California Air Resources Board	SB	California Senate Bill
CBAs	Community Benefits Agreements	SGC	California Strategic Growth Council
CCI	California Climate Investments portfolio	TA	Technical assistance
CEC	California Energy Commission	TCC	Transformative Climate Communities, administered by the California Strategic Growth Council
FY	Fiscal Year	TECH	Technology and Equipment for Clean Heating Program (TECH) Clean California
GF	General Fund	YTT	Yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini Northern Chumash Tribe
GGRF	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund		

## ENDNOTES

- 1 *2025 Annual Report: Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds* (May 2025), Table 1, pp. 27-30, available at [https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/cci\\_annual\\_report\\_2025.pdf](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/cci_annual_report_2025.pdf).
- 2 This report analyzes only a small slice of the many state climate investment programs. Additional programs include the [Adaptation Planning Grant Program](#), the [Regional Resilience and Implementation Grant Program](#), and many more, which can be viewed on the [California Grants Portal](#).
- 3 For a guide to acronyms used in this table, please see [Table of Acronyms](#).
- 4 California Strategic Growth Council, “Transformative Climate Communities: Community-led climate solutions for equitable transformation” (factsheet), available at [https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/tcc/docs/20231218-TCC\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/tcc/docs/20231218-TCC_Fact_Sheet.pdf).
- 5 *2025 Annual Report: Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds* (May 2025), Table 1, pp. 27-30, available at [https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/cci\\_annual\\_report\\_2025.pdf](https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/cci_annual_report_2025.pdf).
- 6 Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), “Governor Newsom announces statewide plan for economic growth, \$245 million for more jobs — with additional investment for LA’s recovery” (Feb. 27, 2025, press release), available at <https://business.ca.gov/governor-newsom-announces-statewide-plan-for-economic-growth-245-million-for-more-jobs-with-additional-investment-for-las-recovery/>.
- 7 California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), *Environmental Justice Action Grants Program Round 2 Program Guidelines* (Jan. 2025), p. 7, available at <https://calepa.ca.gov/ejactiongrants/>.
- 8 California Strategic Growth Council, “BOOST Program” (factsheet), available at <https://sgc.ca.gov/technical-assistance/boost/docs/20240903-BOOST-FactSheet.pdf>.
- 9 California Strategic Growth Council, “Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program” (webpage), available at <https://sgc.ca.gov/grant-programs/tribal/>.
- 10 California Strategic Growth Council, *Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program: Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Round 2 Guidelines* (June 2023), available at [https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/2023/06-29/docs/20230629-5\\_RCC\\_Round\\_2\\_Final\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/2023/06-29/docs/20230629-5_RCC_Round_2_Final_Guidelines.pdf).
- 11 See, for example, the Transform Fresno Participatory Budgeting Process. Fresno used a participatory budgeting process, open to all residents, employees or property owners in eligible neighborhoods, to develop proposals for its \$66.5 million grant submission to the state’s Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program. Fresno Transformative Climate Communities Collaborative, “Transformative Climate Communities in Fresno: Catalytic Climate Investment to Rebuild Fresno’s Economy and Workforce” (factsheet), available at [https://www.transformfresno.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Tranform-Fresno\\_2pgr.pdf](https://www.transformfresno.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Tranform-Fresno_2pgr.pdf).
- 12 See e.g., Clean Air Task Force, “Community Ownership of Clean Energy Infrastructure, Explained” (factsheet), available at <https://www.catf.us/resource/community-ownership-clean-energy-infrastructure-explained/>.
- 13 See e.g., Dahlbeck and Lamm, *Facilitating Equity-Oriented Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Investments: Strategies for Project Design*, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (Oct. 2024), available at <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/cee/ev-equity/our-publications/equity-oriented-ev-infrastructure-investments/>.
- 14 “Initially, California Jobs First’s Program funding of \$600M was appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund of 2021 until the 2022 budget revised the source of funds to the State General Fund in SB 115 (2022).” Kern Coalition-California Jobs First, “California Jobs First - Outreach and Engagement Toolkit (English)” (toolkit), p. 5, available at <https://kern-coalition.webflow.io/our-work/resources>.
- 15 “To date, as directed through the budget, funding for CAPP comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), the Air Pollution Control Fund (APCF), and the General Fund (GF). The funding authorized in the bill is allocated to CARB to distribute through three separate funding elements of the Program: (1) Implementation Funds, (2) CAP Incentives, and (3) CAG.” California Air Resources Board, *Community Air Protection Program Annual Progress Report* (July 2024), p. 21, available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/capp/apr/2023-ab-617-annual-progress-report>.
- 16 California Air Resources Board, *Community Air Protection Program Blueprint 2.0* (Oct. 2023), p. 22, available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/capp/mdc/bp2/community-air-protection-program-blueprint-20>.
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- 19 See Appropriations by Program (Table): California Strategic Growth Council "Technical Assistance Program" at California Air Resources Board, "California Climate Investments: Appropriations & Funded Programs" (webpage), available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
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- 21 See Appropriations by Program (Table): California Strategic Growth Council "Transformative Climate Communities Program" at California Air Resources Board, "California Climate Investments: Appropriations & Funded Programs" (webpage), available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
- 22 The Greenlining Institute, *Case Study: East Oakland – A Community Vision for a Healthy Neighborhood Without Displacement* (2021), p. 10, available at <http://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Community-Vision-Healthy-Neighborhood-Without-Displacement-TCC-Case-Study-.pdf>.
- 23 Id., pp. 7-8.
- 24 California Strategic Growth Council, "California Fuels Tribal Innovation with \$1.45M for Climate Action" (April 24, 2024, press release), available at <https://sgc.ca.gov/news/2024/04-24a.html>.
- 25 See Appropriations by Program (Table): California Strategic Growth Council "Technical Assistance Program" at California Air Resources Board, "California Climate Investments: Appropriations & Funded Programs" (webpage), available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
- 26 California Strategic Growth Council, Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Awards, *Attachment A: Project Descriptions for Applicants Recommended for Tribal Capacity Building Program Pilot Round Funding* (April 24, 2024), available at [https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/2024/04-24/docs/20240424-Item6-Attachment\\_A\\_Project\\_Descriptions\\_for\\_Applicants.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/meetings-events/council/2024/04-24/docs/20240424-Item6-Attachment_A_Project_Descriptions_for_Applicants.pdf).
- 27 Strategic Growth Council, "Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program: Preparing communities for success" (webpage), available at <https://www.sgc.ca.gov/technical-assistance/cace/>.
- 28 See Appropriations by Program (Table): California Strategic Growth Council "Technical Assistance Program" at California Air Resources Board, "California Climate Investments: Appropriations & Funded Programs" (webpage), available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
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- 30 See Appropriations by Program (Table): California Strategic Growth Council "Technical Assistance Program" at California Air Resources Board, "California Climate Investments: Appropriations & Funded Programs" (webpage), available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
- 31 This figure adheres to the boundaries of the "Central Coast" region as defined in California Job First's Playbook. California Jobs First, *The Playbook* (Jan. 2025), p. 7, available at <https://jobsfirst.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/CJF-Investment-Playbook.pdf>.
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- 37 This report interprets the “North Coast” region as coextensive with the “Redwood Region” in California Job First’s Playbook. California Jobs First, *The Playbook* (Jan. 2025), p. 7, available at <https://jobsfirst.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/CJF-Investment-Playbook.pdf>.
- 38 Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE), *Capacity Building With Frontline Community Leaders: Best Practices & Recommendations* (June 2022), pp. 3-5, available at [https://sgc.ca.gov/technical-assistance/pace/docs/20221017-PACE\\_Recommendations\\_Report\\_June\\_2022.pdf](https://sgc.ca.gov/technical-assistance/pace/docs/20221017-PACE_Recommendations_Report_June_2022.pdf).
- 39 Id.
- 40 CLEE staff conducted four interviews with California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) staff and program administrators in the spring of 2025 to better understand the following initiatives: the Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program, Partners Advancing Climate Equity, Regional Climate Collaboratives, Transformative Climate Communities, and BOOST.
- 41 As an example, state grants often require tribes to sign a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in order to secure advance pay and funding distribution, but this requirement flies in the face of tribal sovereignty. In addition, available application templates are often less relevant for tribal applicants. CLEE interview with SGC staff (February 27, 2025).
- 42 For example, program requirements that an applicant use funds to hire internal staff (to build organizational capacity) may not fulfill recipients’ needs; instead, a highly specialized consultant may be needed on a short-term basis. Id.
- 43 CLEE interview with BOOST program administrator (February 13, 2025); CLEE interview with SGC staff, (March 3, 2025).
- 44 This was a universal observation in nearly every interview we conducted with SGC program staff. Program administrators highlighted, for example, that it is difficult for applicants to know when and in what subregions to be prepared to submit an application, as timelines for the next TCC cycle remain perpetually uncertain. In addition, staff stated that a high proportion of state funding is tied to infrastructure, making it more difficult to secure funds for capacity building.
- 45 CLEE interview with BOOST program administrator (February 13, 2025); CLEE interview with SGC staff (March 3, 2025).
- 46 CLEE interview with SGC staff (February 19, 2025).
- 47 CLEE interview with BOOST program administrator (February 13, 2025).
- 48 See e.g., *Dahlbeck and Lamm, Facilitating Equity-Oriented Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Investments: Strategies for Project Design*, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment (Oct. 2024), available at <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/ev-equity/our-publications/equity-oriented-ev-infrastructure-investments/>.

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