



Sierra Region

SIERRA INDUSTRY SHINDIG

WELCOME



INTRODUCTIONS



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CSEDD/MLJT

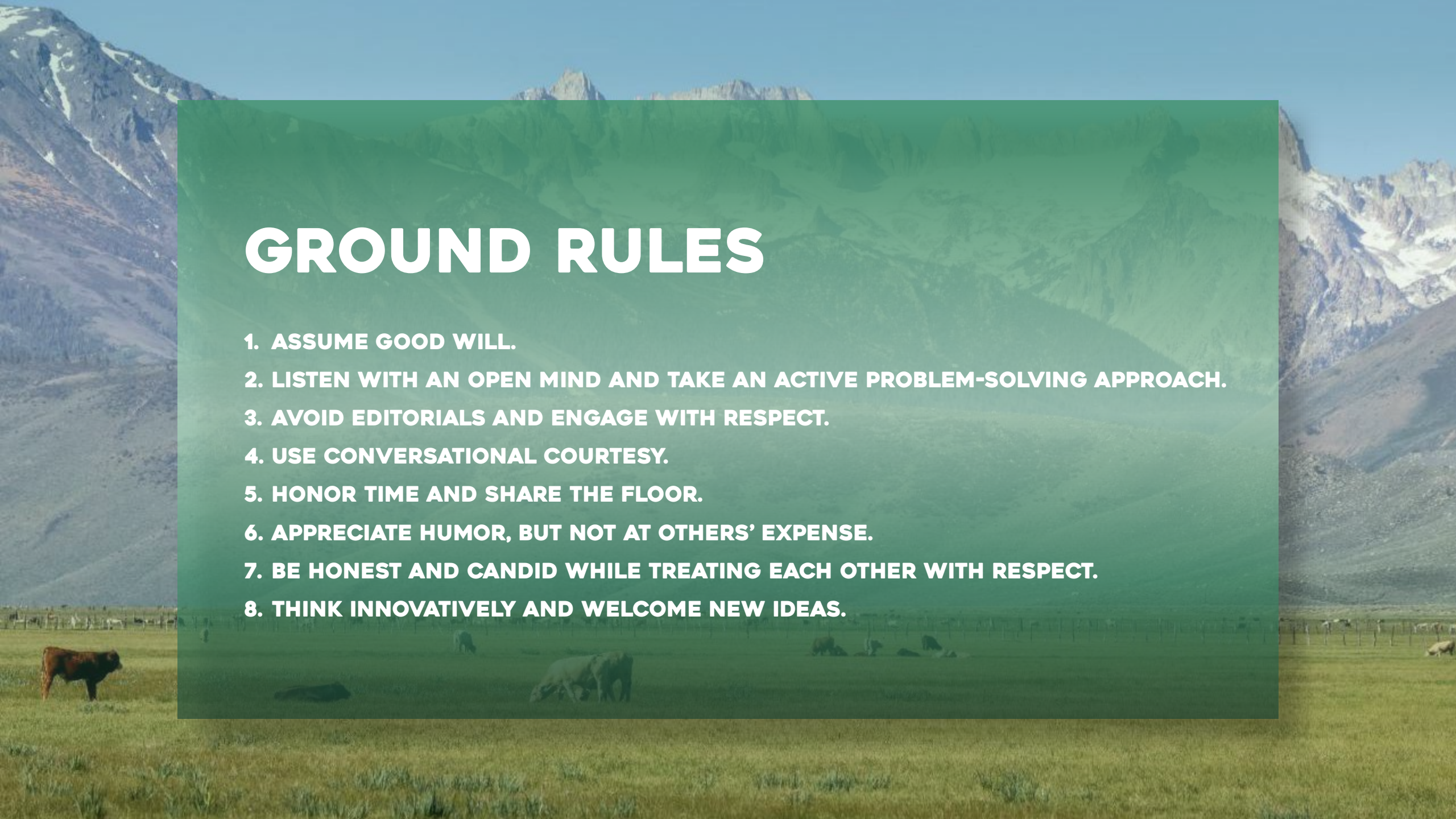


LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the lands we live and work on across **Tuolumne, Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Inyo, Mono, and Mariposa Counties** are the ancestral homelands of many Indigenous peoples, including Miwok, Mono, Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe, Yokuts, and related Tribal Nations of the Sierra and Eastern Sierra.

These lands hold creation stories, sacred sites, and living cultural traditions that continue today, despite the impacts of colonization.

We offer this acknowledgment as an invitation to recognize these places as a living homeland, and to carry forward our shared responsibility to this land and its original stewards as we do this work together.



GROUND RULES

- 1. ASSUME GOOD WILL.**
- 2. LISTEN WITH AN OPEN MIND AND TAKE AN ACTIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH.**
- 3. AVOID EDITORIALS AND ENGAGE WITH RESPECT.**
- 4. USE CONVERSATIONAL COURTESY.**
- 5. HONOR TIME AND SHARE THE FLOOR.**
- 6. APPRECIATE HUMOR, BUT NOT AT OTHERS' EXPENSE.**
- 7. BE HONEST AND CANDID WHILE TREATING EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT.**
- 8. THINK INNOVATIVELY AND WELCOME NEW IDEAS.**



SIERRA INDUSTRY SHINDIG



AGENDA

9:00 am

Meet & Greet

10:00 am

Welcome & Opening

10:20 am

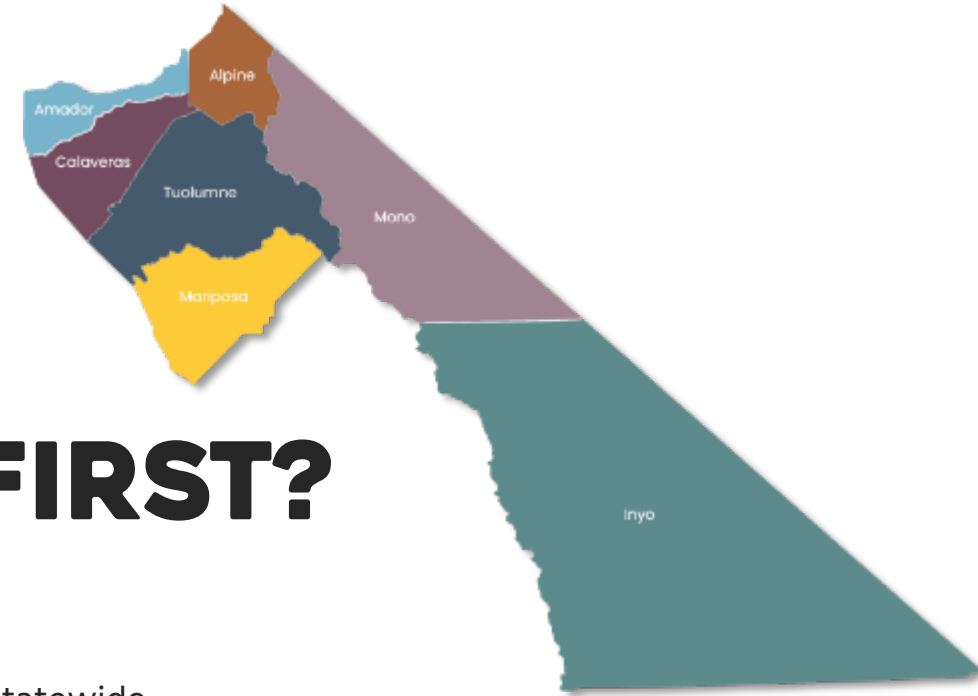
Catalyst Project Updates

11:00 am

Industry Coordinator Updates

Lunch

Project Tours kick off after lunch!



WHAT IS SIERRA JOBS FIRST?

Just a quick recap...

California Jobs First (formerly the Community Economic Resilience Fund or CERF) is a Statewide Investment in job creation, industrial strategy, and economic development initiatives to create a greener and more equitable economy.

The state is divided into thirteen separate regions, each with its own process. Sierra Business Council (SBC), a Sierra-based nonprofit, was selected as the convener for what the state defined as the Sierra (formerly "Eastern Sierra") region, comprising the seven counties of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne.



FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS

Foundational Elements of Sierra Jobs
First Economic Strategy

- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION**
- **SOCIAL AND CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
- **HOUSING & PLACEMAKING**
- **LAND USE & TENURE**



INDUSTRY SECTORS

- **SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM**
- **NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS**
- **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**
- **CLEAN ENERGY AND ENERGY RESILIENCE**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

SECTOR COORDINATORS

Industry Sector Coordinators are Sierra Jobs First's boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They help guide, connect, and support projects aligned with the Regional Strategic Plan as they form collaborative partnerships and seek additional funding for implementation.



CATALYST PROJECTS

Now that we've set the stage, we're
excited to hear about the Catalyst Projects

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM NATURAL
WORKING LANDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND
MS CLEAN ENERGY RESILIENT
UNITY HEALTHCARE SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND

TOWNS TO TRAILS

DILLON OSLEGER

M L T P A
T 2 T



Trails are connection

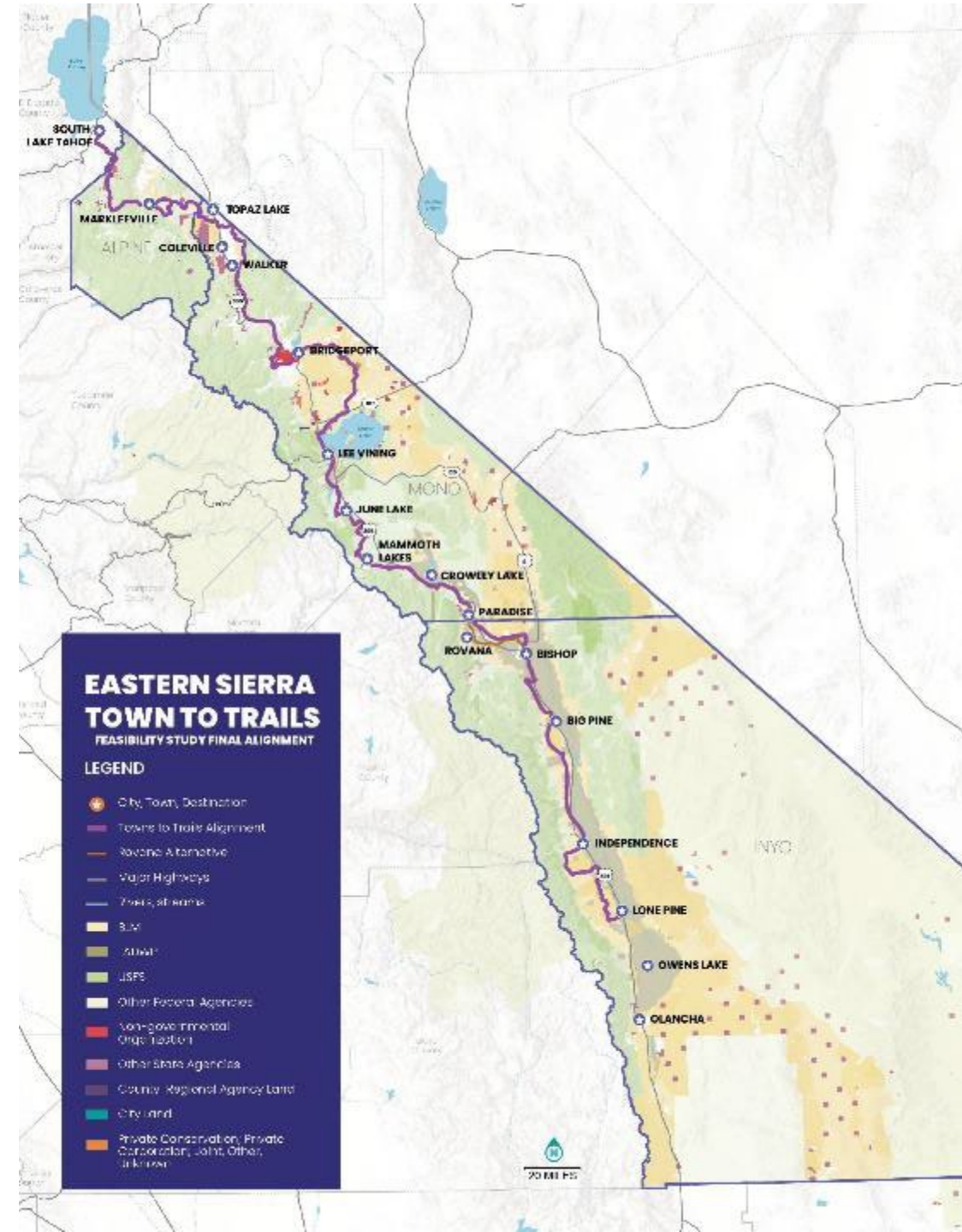
Over a century ago, cartographers walked ridgelines and valleys to map the Sierra. Trails weren't just lines on paper—they were connections across the continent. Each route carried the stories of migration, trade, and survival. Those stories are just as important as the topography itself.

- Carved across the continent long before roads
- Every trail carries culture, history, and connection



In the Eastern Sierra, we've already seen what happens when we reconnect towns to trails. Access points begin in communities, not parking lots. Visitors spend time and money in town centers. Local history becomes part of the trail experience. It's a success story that proves this model works

- Trails begin in communities, not parking lots
- Visitors support local businesses & heritage
- Proof of concept in the Eastern Sierra





11/1/2025

CA_jobs_first_region_Sierra

T2T West Side alignment

In the Western slope of the Sierra, we've undertaken this same process to reconnect towns to trails, and to each other. Our goal has been to create access points that originate in communities, not parking lots 30 minutes away. Visitors spend time and money in town centers. Local history becomes part of the trail experience.

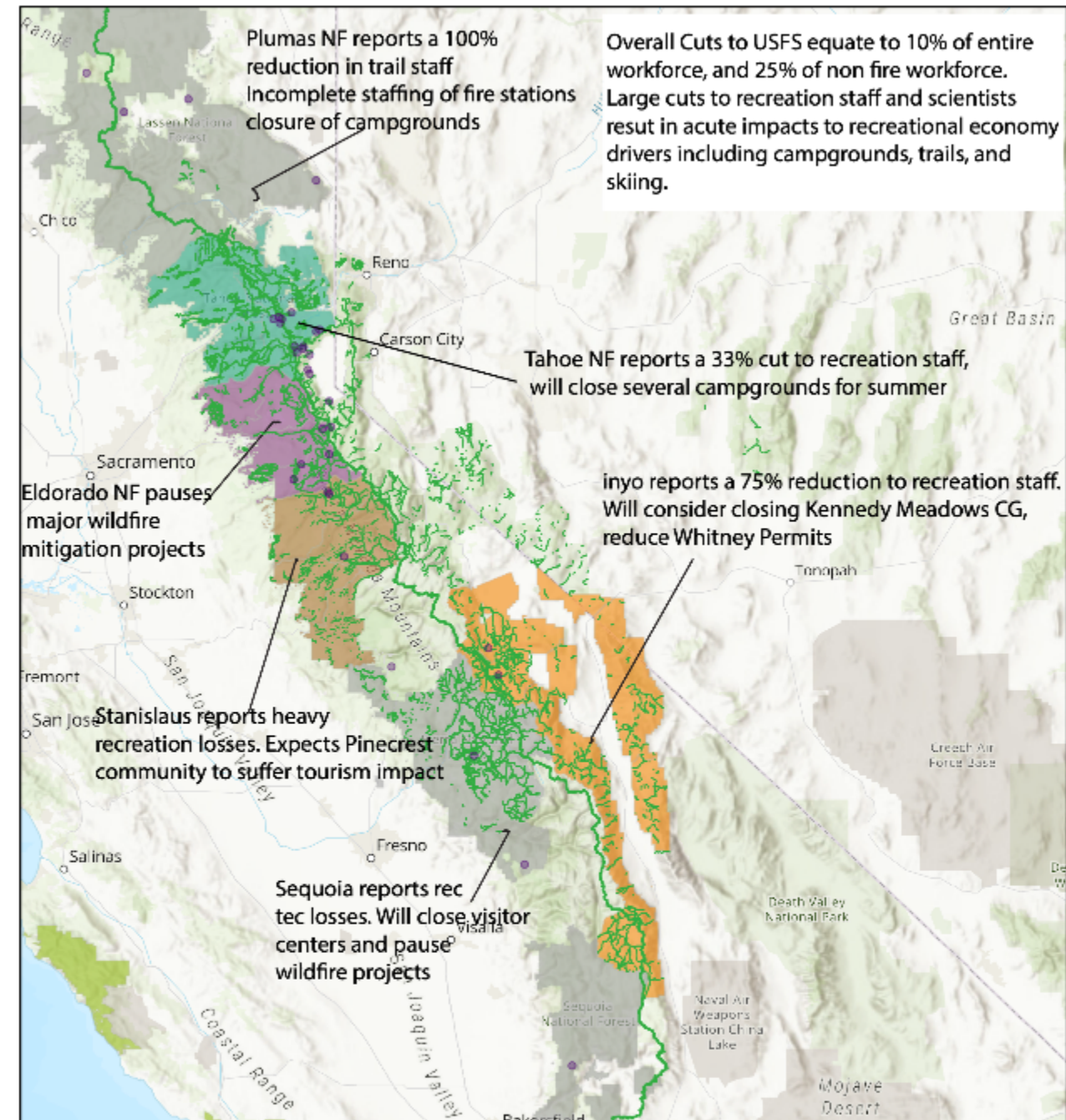
- Trails begin in communities, not parking lots
- Visitors support local businesses & heritage

A changing landscape

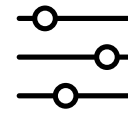
But today, the landscape is changing. Federal cuts to the U.S. Forest Service have left fewer staff, shrinking budgets, and deferred maintenance across California's public lands. Trails are deteriorating. Access is closing. Communities lose both connection and economic opportunity. That's why this project is urgent.

- USFS budget cuts → fewer staff & closed trails
- Deferred maintenance threatens access
- Communities lose economic opportunity
- Roadless rule recession may lead to closures
- BOLT Act may protect corridors
- Outdoors for All / Prop 4 offer opportunities for funding aimed at new users

fed management cuts impact map



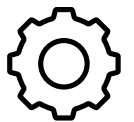
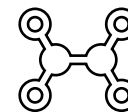
GOALS



Understand Landscapes and Connections

Restore historic routes that once linked people to place.

Connect Sierra towns directly to trail systems.



Instill Value Foster Landscape

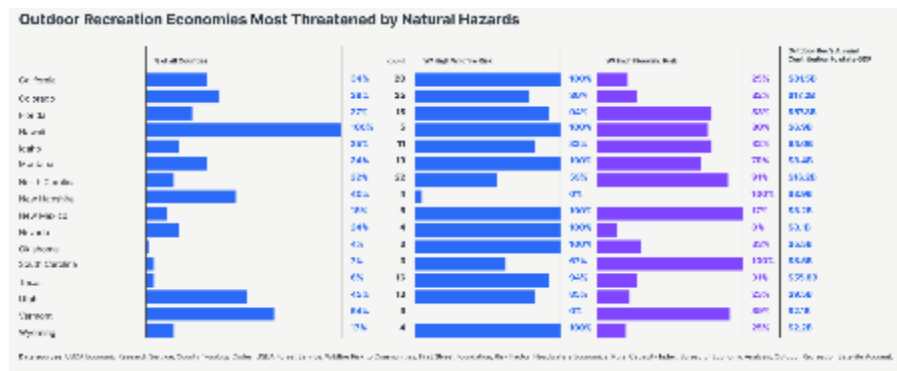
Build equitable, car-free access to public lands.

Strengthen local economies through recreation tourism.

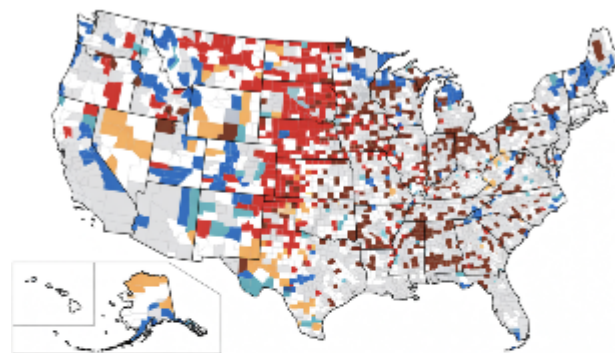
Create stewardship pathways where community members help monitor and care for trails.

Where we are

- Current corridors
- Routes tie travel to stories and culture (place names, stories)
- Map as blueprint for history, equity, and access
- \$87.87 Billion contribution of outdoor recreation economy to California - activating this locally
- Economic impacts of wildfire - case for retaining our public lands in rural counties



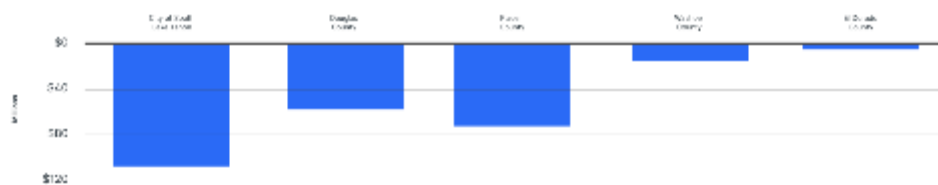
Nonmetropolitan County Industry Dependence



Industry Dependence of Nonmetropolitan Counties

Farming dependent	329
Manufacturing dependent	495
Mining dependent	78
Government dependant	79
Recreation dependent	200
Not dependent	777
Metropolitan	

FIGURE 26:
Visitor Spending Losses by Location



Potential

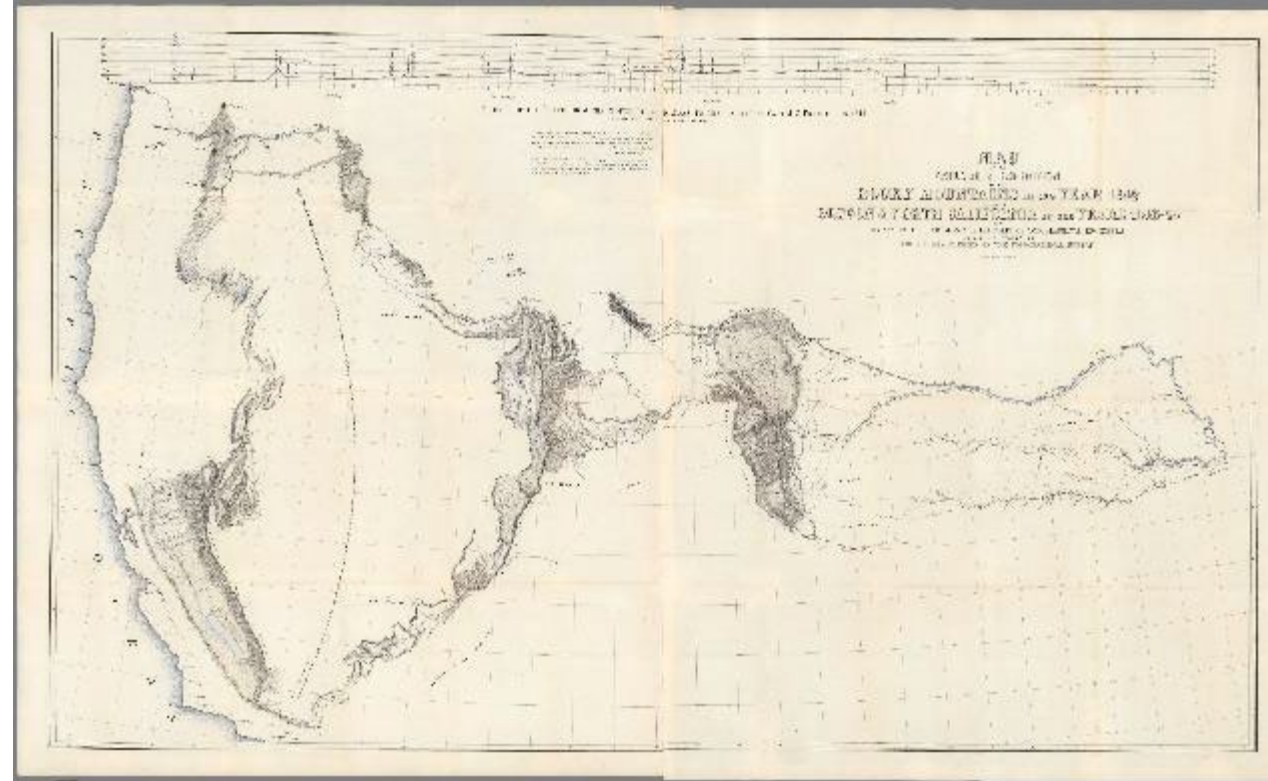
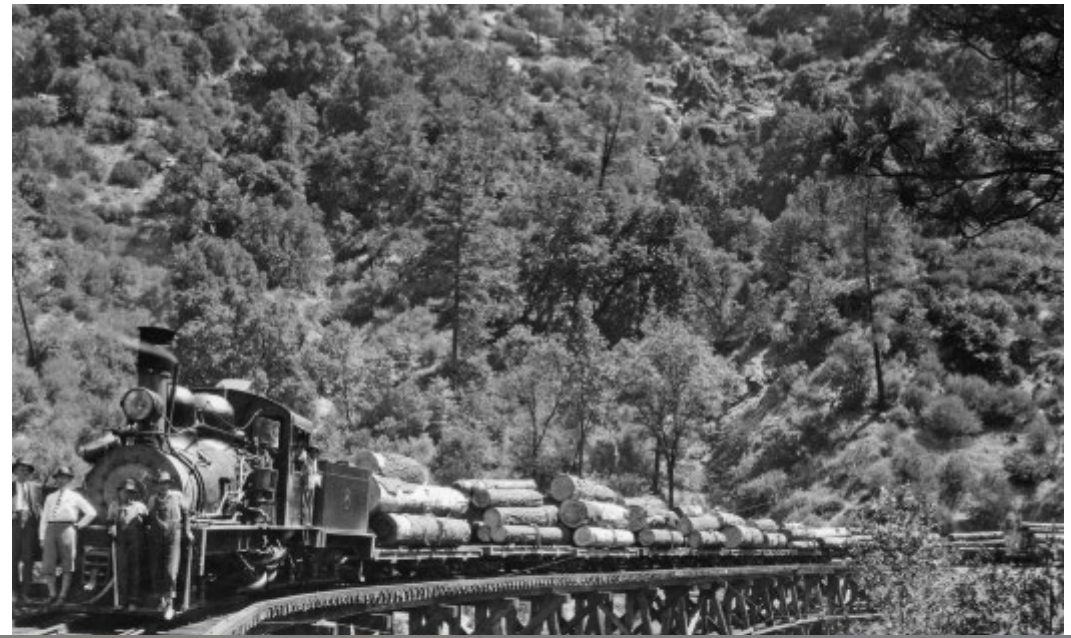
n e w r e c r e a t i o n e c o n o m y

- Bikepacking, hiking, cultural tourism
- Coffee shops, diners, & inns as trailheads
- Trails that sustain both people and land



How we get there

- Branding & Marketing to metro areas through clear - communicative websites and physical maps / photos
- Collaborative work with government agencies including USFS, Cal Fire, SNC, and Prop 4 CNRA staff
- Collaborative work with local communities and sovereign governments
- Value add studies of outdoor recreation that are county / community specific





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a



KEEP SIERRA GREEN

SHERRI REUSCHE



Empowering our Communities

Keep Sierra Green EVSE Tech Training Program

Launched in April 2025 with a mission to train 60 individuals as certified EVSE Technicians in the Sierra Foothill region





Empowering our Communities

Sign up and enroll today!

***Interested in The Electric Vehicle
Charging Station industry?***



**We're offering no cost hands-on EVSE
training courses in the Spring and the Fall...**

Date and Time:
Fall Courses

Oct 6th - Oct 24th

Nov 3rd - Nov 21st

Mon - Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Spring Courses
TBA

**Industry Focused EVSE Operations
And Maintenance**

Become certified for other certifications like
OSHA 10, NFPA 70E and fulfill prep requirements
for SAE!

Participant Requirements...

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Proficiency in English
- Basic math and tech skills

***Sign up
Today!***

**Want to
Learn More?**

hreusche@calasiancc.org
1 (916) 389-7471

**Scan
Here**



Start a new career with an average salary of 60K a year!

**Courses will
be held at...**

**819 Mountain Ranch Road, Building A
Overflow Room | San Andreas, CA**



**Find us on
Facebook**

This was a **3-week intensive program**, held Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Participants were allowed to miss no more than two days. Because the curriculum built upon the skills and knowledge learned each day, **consistent attendance was essential to successfully completing the program.**

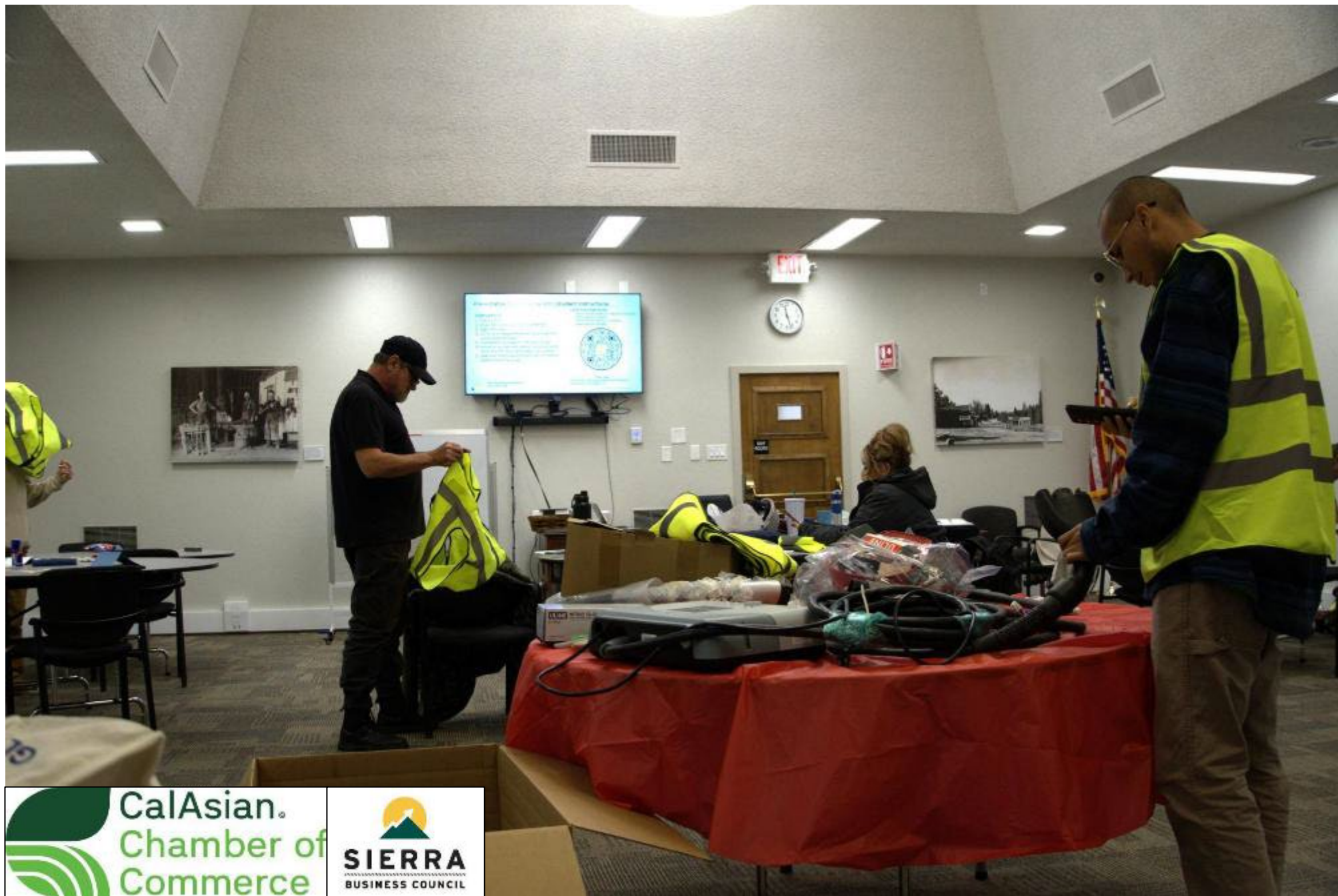




Safety was the Trainers' top priority throughout the training, with special emphasis on the safe handling and use of electricity.

Testing an EV charger involves examining and verifying multiple components to ensure safe, reliable, and proper operation.









FREE TRAINING

✓ Age 18+ ✓ English Proficiency ✓ Basic Math and Tech

**Ready to
grow with us?**



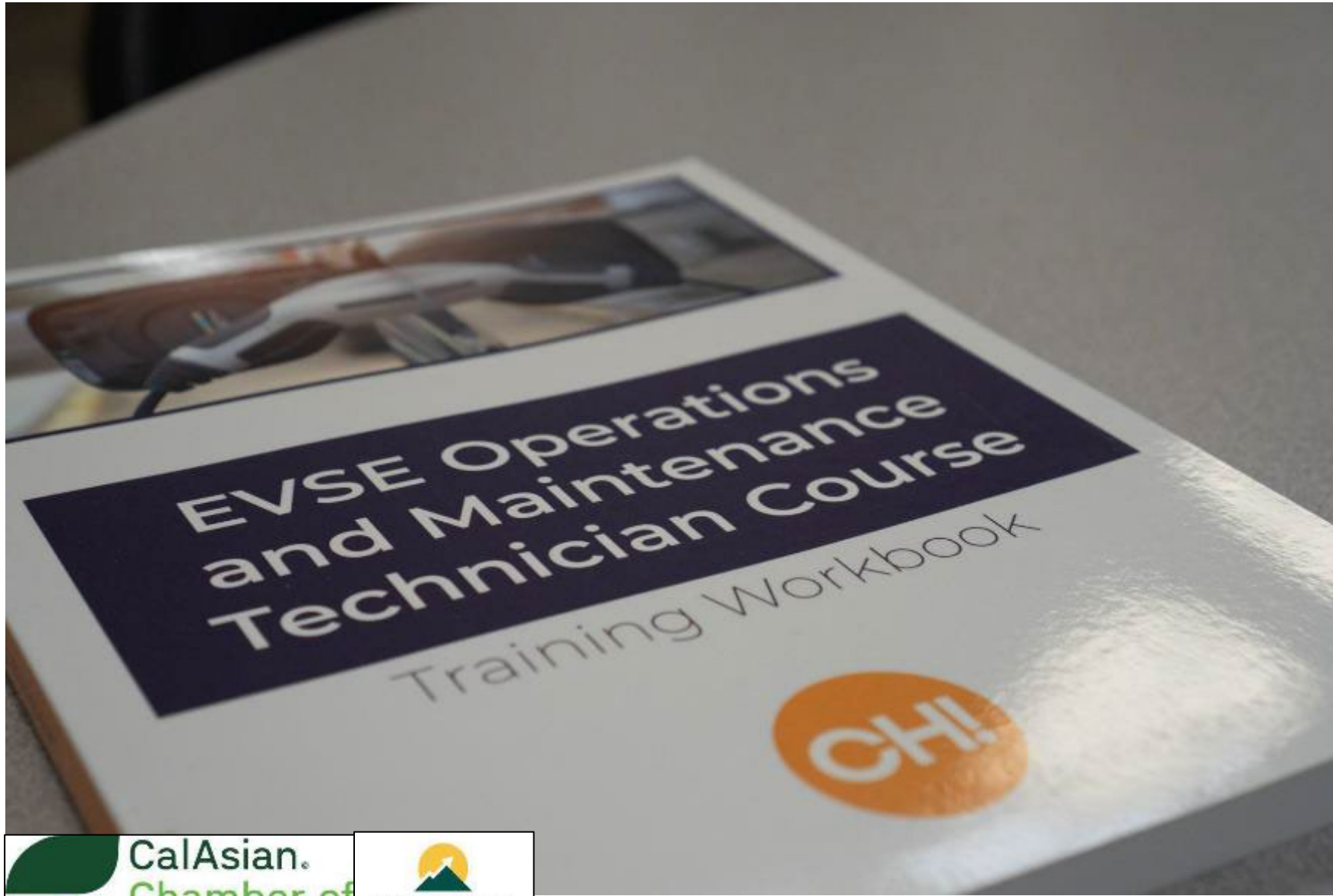
This program is designed to be inclusive and accessible, so anyone interested in technology and sustainability can take part.

Training and Partnerships: ChargerHelp! provided training services, and Mother Lode Job Training helped participants find employment opportunities. Participants earned OSHA 10, NFPA 70E High Voltage and LOTO certifications during the course and a certificate for completing the program.

Program Progress and Impact: Two training cohorts were completed in Calaveras County, followed by two more in Tuolumne County, with networking lunches held to connect participants with potential employers.







Each participant received a comprehensive training manual to support their coursework and exam preparation. Participants were required to achieve a **minimum score of 80% to pass**. If they did not pass on their first attempt, they were given **up to three opportunities** to successfully complete the exam.







Cohort 2 in Calaveras County





**Electrical
Vehicle Charger
Type 1
Residential and
Type 3
Commercial
were used to
train
Participants**



Charge Point,
Siemens,
Electric
Timing
Beckhoff
Bosch





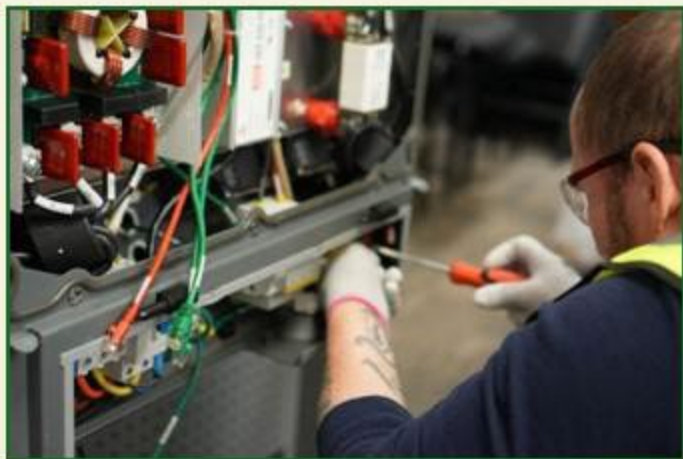




Partnership Building: Established partnerships with Columbia College, Mother Lode Job Training, and the Refuge Recovery Center in Sonora to support program enrollment and participant opportunities.

Community Engagement: Engaged community support from local businesses, CARB, Solar Gain Inc., Public Works Department, Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, and local media to promote the program. Collaborated with Central Sierra EDD to distribute assessment survey. Columbia College supported the campaign by promoting classes through their newsletter, website, social media, and Board outreach.

Program Impact: Many participants secured good jobs, and many experienced significant career advancement.







Keep Sierra Green Testimonials

"The course was phenomenal! The instructors were terrific. Keep Sierra Green was great. The whole experience was awesome."

"I took the fifth EVSE Cohort through Keep Sierra Green. It was great, and I learned a lot. I feel excited for the future with these new certifications."

"The course was thorough. The instructors were great, personable, and patient. I learned a lot."

Career Advancement: Many participants advanced their careers after the training.

Training Application: One participant uses the acquired knowledge to support colleagues at a prominent electrical engineering firm.

Alternative Graduation: One participant graduated in the Spring after fulfilling the requirement of a driver's license and a diploma or equivalent qualification.

Thank you to our partners and grantors!
Sierra Business Council, Cal Asian
Chamber, Calaveras Chamber,
Supervisor Gary Tofanelli, Columbia
College, Solar Gain Inc, CARB,
ChargerHelp, and
Mother Lode Job Training

Special Thanks to our Photographer and
Program Coordinator Hunter Reusche



SIERRA COMPOST

TIMOTHY ENGLAND

Regional Compost Systems Planning



★ Do We Have A Problem?

- EPA waste assessment training at Middletown Rancheria
 - 40 Households
 - 100lbs+ (~15%) Food scraps
 - Does not include yardwaste or woody biomass



✦ Do We Have A Problem? ... and A Solution?

- Regional Summary
 - Population: ~200k
 - SB1383: Exemption ends 2037
 - Estimated Organics: ~30k Tons per year
 - Limited existing capacity: Zero food scrap processors
 - Collection, Hauling, and Landfill rates continue to increase
 - Support local food production by creating compost
 - Supports fuel reduction and vegetation management





Funding without Planning and Phased Development

- Mariposa "Compost" Facility (began in 2006)
 - Estimated \$5.3m build
 - Poorly operated
 - No longer operational



Goals

- **Sierra Jobs First**
 - Community developed, financially sustainable projects that create high paying green jobs.
- **Sierra Compost**
 - Train local workforce
 - Plan and develop compost sites in region
 - Connect material generators, processing sites, and end users





- Agile approach
 - Don't fully build the ship before understanding the waters to be traveled
 - Phase out project(s) into smaller chunks to provide continued successes and momentum
 - Respond to feedback and be open to changing direction
 - Decentralized & Localized





- **Work collaboratively with community**
 - Understand needs and desires
 - Provide resources
 - Regular meeting facilitation & communication
 - Informational assets and tools
 - Training & educational opportunities
 - Hands on learning & In-person events
 - Tools, equipment, labor funding & stipends
 - Technical guidance & expertise



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- Outreach

- 17 Tribal entities
 - 2 as project partners
 - 3 as pilot projects
 - 11 engaged in meetings
- RCDs, Ag Comissioners, Farmers, Land Trusts, Educators, UCCE/UCANR
- Solid Waste Directors, Recycling Coordinators, Haulers, Composters
- EPA, CalRecycle, JPAs, NGOs
- County and City Development Directors, Superintendents



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- Monthly Collaborative Meetings
 - 2 Regional, 13 sub-regional, 2 capstone hands-on workshop events (5 total)
 - Averaged 18 attendees per meeting
 - Diverse presentations
 - Pesticides & herbicides, compost facility and collections regulations, biochar and compost, community asset mapping, implementing collections in commercial kitchens
- Trainings
 - (5) Institute for Local Self Reliance's Compost 101
 - (14) 131@School's Compost Operator Certificate
 - (5) US Compost Council's Compost Operations Training Course



What we've done

- Site Visit - Bishop Paiute Elder's Garden compost system
 - Material from Tribal businesses, local food bank, and Mammoth Mountain
 - Attendees included:
 - Compost technician,
 - UCANR county director
 - Garden lead
 - Big Pine recycling technician
 - SJF Tribal Coordinator



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- **Site Visit - Blue Heron Farm**

- Makes and sells compost
- Attendees included:
 - Personnel from 5 Tribal led garden projects (Bishop Paiute, Big Pine, Lone Pine, OVIWC, Tecopah)
 - Eastern Sierra Farm Fresh
 - Inyo Farm at School
 - Master Gardeners



What we've done

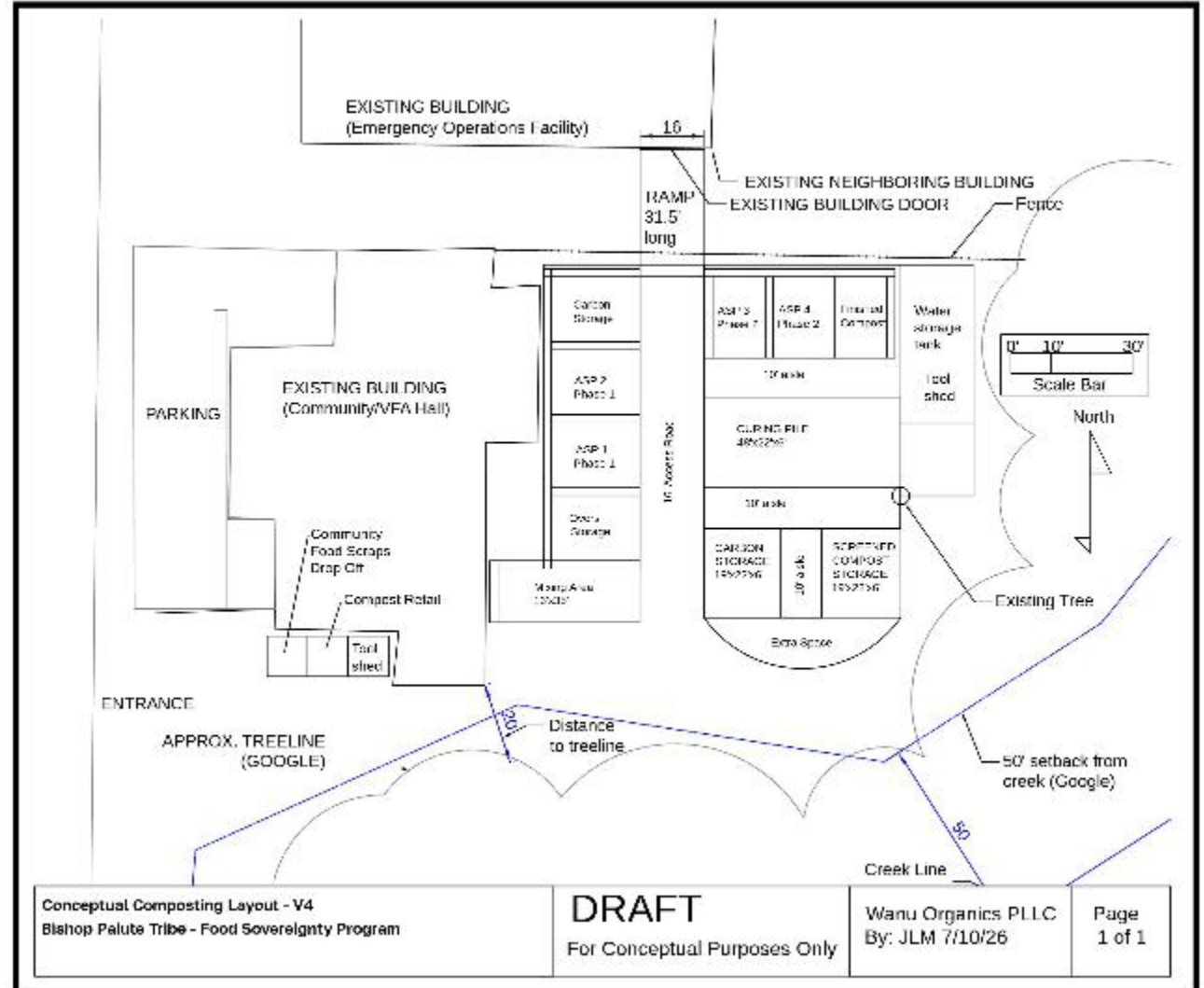
- Site Visit - Buena Vista Rancheria Pilot Project Launch
 - Food scraps from casino restaurants
 - Attendees included:
 - EPA Region 9 Zero Waste Coordinator
 - UCCE Master Garden Program Coordinator
 - Motherlode Land Trust ED
 - Calaveras Recycling Coordinator
 - Chicken Ranch Compost Lead
 - Calaveras Educator and Garden Lead





Development and Deliverables

- **Pilot Sites**
 - Buena Vista Rancheria
 - Southern Sierra Miwok
 - OVIWC - Three Creeks
- **Business and Operations Plans**
 - Bishop Paiute potential site
 - Appropriately scaled (1,000 TPY)
 - Phased development (modular design)
 - Low investment startup (<\$100k)
 - Sustainable return at capacity (up to \$150k in annual sales and service fees)



What's Next?

- Continued support and development of pilot projects
- Continued Collaborative meetings
- Continued material flow connections
- Implementation funding
 - Grants
 - CalRecycle's Community Composting in Green Spaces
 - Service contracts
 - Self-fund



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INDUS. ARTS TRAINING FRAMEWORK

ANDREW GARDNER

ENTREPRENEUR CENTER OF THE SIERRAS

TOM DUBOIS

A REPEATABLE FRAMEWORK FOR RURAL INNOVATION

The Entrepreneurship Center of the Sierras

From planning grant to rural proof-point - converting an underused historic asset into a year-round engine for founders, jobs, and Main Street resilience.

Tom DuBois, City Manager,
City of Sutter Creek
Amador County

From capital ask to ecosystem -first strategy

Lower-than-expected grant forced a disciplined pivot — validate the plan before establishing a physical location. The result is a lower-risk, fundable path.

LATE 2025

California Jobs First — Planning Grant

Initial vision: Utilize underused city asset as co-working space for economic development

EARLY 2026 — THE PIVOT

Capital gap → intensive feasibility

De-risk through planning, networking and measuring interest from founders, mentors & investors first.

MID 2026

USC Sunstone Challenge + BEAM Circular Alignment

External validation + circular economy thesis locked.

2027+

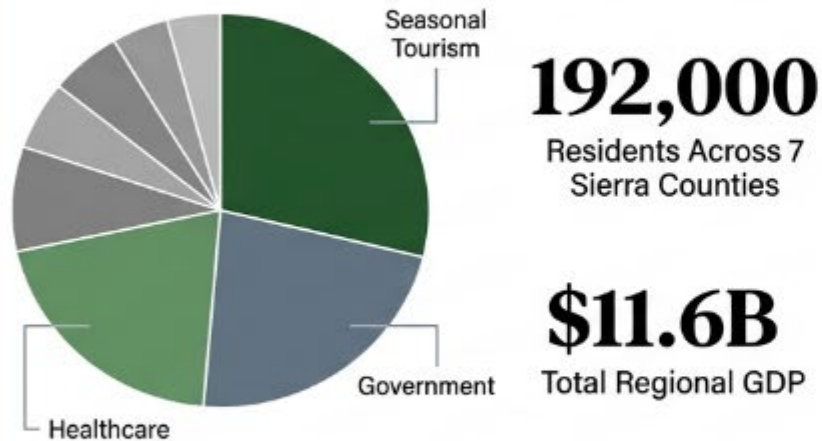
Funding, Partnering, Long-term Strategy

Evaluated in-house vs outsource strategy

The Challenge

The Regional Economic Diagnostic

The Sierra Context



The 7-county economic footprint is disproportionately reliant on seasonal tourism, government operations, and healthcare services, leaving it vulnerable to macroeconomic shocks.

The Amador Deficit



- **Demographic Cliff:** Growth is driven entirely by in-migration (retirees and remote workers) rather than natural growth.
- **Severe Labor Deficit:** A rapidly expanding affordability gap for local service-industry workers.
- **Brain Drain:** Critical loss of young entrepreneurial talent.

The Challenge and the opportunity.

Dual Economy Synthesis Matrix

The “Tuesday Afternoon” Problem Historic Main Streets thrive on weekend tourist traffic but face severe mid-week revenue slumps. The ECS introduces a steady, year-round workforce of high-earning founders and investors who purchase local services during this mid-week slump without requiring retail storefronts or altering historic town aesthetics.	The Front-Facing Economy (Current State)	The Back-Office Economy (Proposed State)
	Historic Main Street Focus	ECS Startups & Innovation Hub
	B2C (Business-to-Consumer)	B2B (Business-to-Business)
	Weekend & Seasonal Timeline	Year-Round & Mid-Week Timeline
	Imported Wealth (Tourism Dollars)	Local Wealth (Intellectual Property & Tech Jobs)
Key Insight: The ECS is an additive economic engine that complements, rather than disrupts, the historic charm that anchors the region.		

NotebookLM

The USC Sunstone Economic Development Challenge

USC Price

Sol Price School of Public Policy

01

Attraction Plan

Regional marketing paired with hyper-local quality-of-life and Main Street walkability as talent edge.

02

Entrepreneurship Development Center

City-led hub for technical assistance, advising, and navigation — the front door for every founder.

03

Innovation Campus & Business Incubator

Cohort-based programs modeled on NSF I-Corps & Lean Startup — build, test, iterate fast.

04

Ag Innovation Pilot

High-value, clean-energy waste-to-value pilot — the circular economy in practice.

Goal

Create a structured pathway to help businesses **launch, grow, and scale** within the broader region.

Closing the loop: Circular Economy Pivot

- Close the loop by converting regional residual waste into high-value clean energy and organic bio-materials. High-industry, low-sprawl.
- Leverage our DNA



GOLD STANDARD

Modesto's BEAM Circular

Proven model for ag & forest biomass conversion at scale.

- Launch of CBIO Collaborative in early 2023 with UC Merced and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as co-leads, supported by a National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engine Award.
- BEAM Circular leads a growing portfolio of public-private projects, supported by federal, state, local, and private funding (\$40M in financing).
- BEAM Circular was incubated at economic development nonprofit Opportunity Stanislaus from 2023-2024, and is now an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Establishing Regional Partnerships

Columbia College — Satellite Campus Feasibility

MOU to study a Sutter Creek satellite.

Sacramento State Carlsen Center

Innovation support provide support, joint events

San Joaquin SBDC

State government awareness. Small business development resources, training

Amador County

County government awareness and assistance

TRIBAL & MINORITY ADVOCACY

Indian Dispute Resolution Services

Mark Thompson — organizational support ensuring inclusive access.

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY - Startup

Humengi — Rick Torgerson

Sustainable building materials + proposal for Amador County pilot factory.

Outsource the hard part. Keep the upside.

Strategic decision: Partner to implement a pilot with VC Gener8tor to reduce operational risk and in-house staffing time and costs.

Why this matters:
**turnkey operator = speed, credibility
& fundraising leverage**



GENER8TOR SNAPSHOT

14 YEARS

2,100+
STARTUPS
SUPPORTED

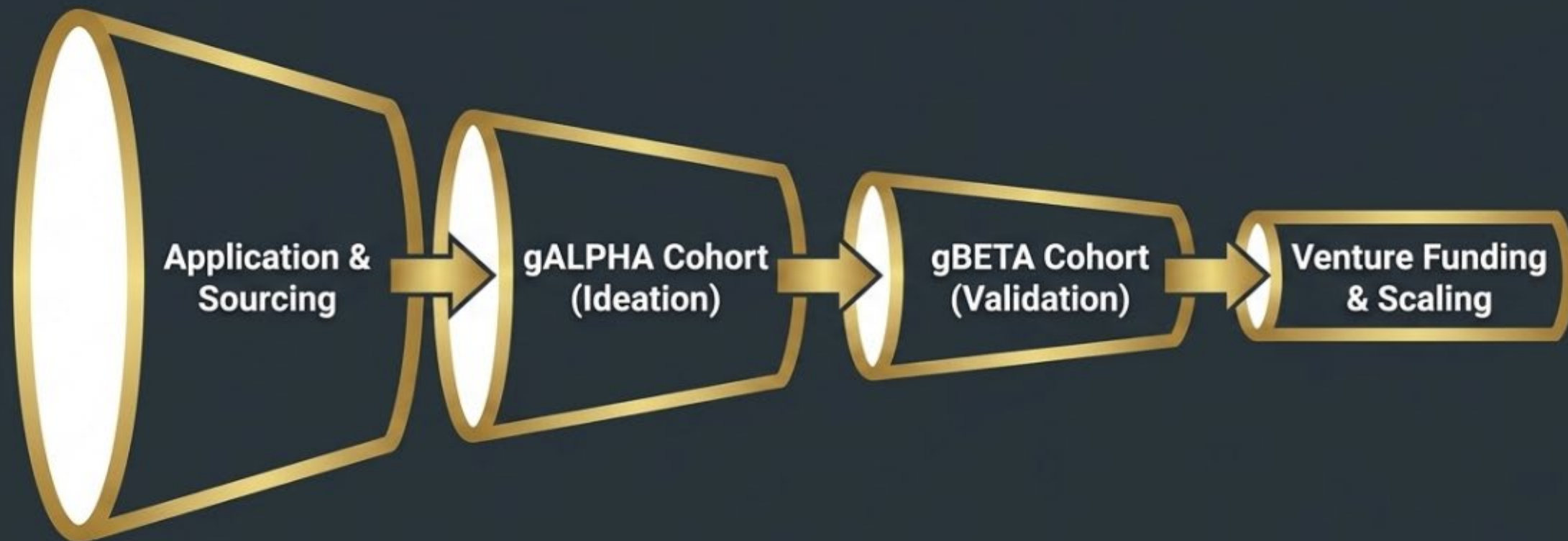
\$2.9B+
CAPITAL
RAISED

14,000+
JOBS CREATED

6,052
INVESTORS

Curated access to 6,052 investors & 100+ corporate partners — a network Sutter Creek could not build alone.

Turnkey Accelerator Execution: The Gener8tor Partnership



Strategic Outsourcing

Partnering with an established, top-tier national accelerator (Gener8tor) completely bypasses the expensive trial-and-error of building a curriculum from scratch, providing immediate operational stability.

Cohort Structure

Implementation of the renowned gALPHA and gBETA programs. These 12-week hybrid programs will be specifically tailored and exclusively focused on the bio-economy and circular clean-tech.

Operational Rigor

The model emphasizes high accountability, weekly milestones, intensive 1-on-1 mentorship, and direct exposure to early-stage venture capital networks previously inaccessible in the region.

Applied for USDA RBDG for Implementation Funding 2027

12-MONTH IMPLEMENTATION



DELIVERABLES AT A GLANCE

- ✓ Two cohorts
- ✓ 10 investment-ready teams
- ✓ Evaluation & federal reporting

Long Term Strategy Thoughts

CAPITAL STRATEGY

State + federal
+ private sponsors
eliminates General
Fund risk.

**LONG-TERM
MODEL**
Spin out into
standalone 501(c)(3)
— philanthropic
capital ready.



WHY SPIN OUT TO 501(C)(3)?

- ✓ **Unlocks philanthropic capital**
Grants & donations not available to a city department.
- ✓ **Shields the City from venture liability**
Risk moves to nonprofit; City retains civic upside.
- ✓ **Operates at the speed of business**
No municipal procurement drag
hire, partner, and ship fast.

Let's build the front door for Sierra entrepreneurship.

1

Year-round Main Street demand

Founders + remote workers fill Tuesday afternoons, not just Saturdays.

2

Clean-tech jobs without sprawl

High-wage engineering in a historic footprint
BEAM Circular proves it scales.

3

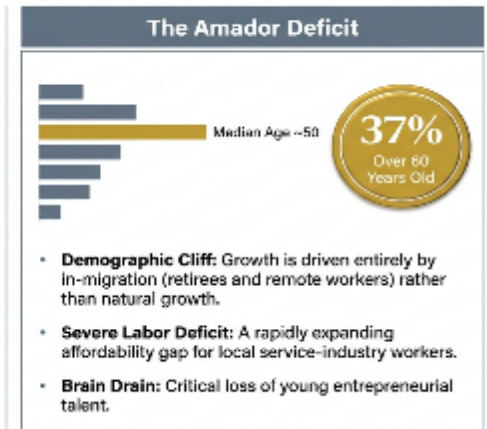
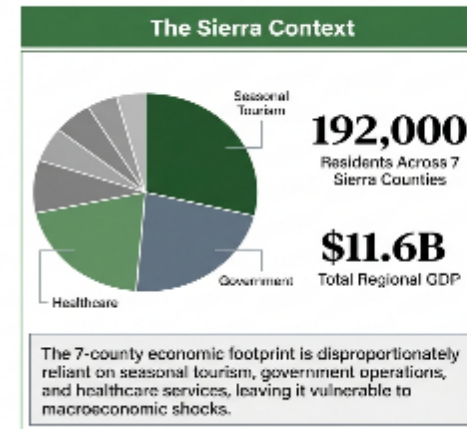
7-county playbook

No single county has enough resources or talent alone.
Together, we do — and the model travels.

Get involved in our 2027 initiative

Contact: Tom DuBois, tdubois@cityofsuttercreek.org

The Regional Economic Diagnostic



© NotebookLM

*Work together as 7 counties —
not enough resource individually.*

CALAVERAS BAND OF MI-WUK INDIANS TRINA WALLEY

Building Climate Resiliency in the Central Sierra Region

Equipment & Job Training Program

Feasibility Assessment for the ACT Partnership

Amador • Calaveras • Tuolumne Counties
Sierra Jobs First Catalyst Program



Leveraging Program Development Through Collaborations

Maximize cost share opportunities with existing efforts to build capacity for Climate Resiliency.

Calaveras County RCD Capacity Building for Forestry & Agriculture

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program to develop projects

USDA NRCS Contribution Agreement

DOC Natural & Working Lands Program to train staff on technical assistance to support Climate Smart Agriculture

Regional Technical Assistance & Training Capacity Building

DOC Natural & Working Lands Program for Amador – Alpine – Calaveras – Tuolumne for Needs Assessment and support Climate Smart Strategy

Carbon Cycle Institute and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to Create “Climate Hubs”

Central Sierra Conservation Hub development and first regional grant through CDFA Healthy Soils Program

Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians Capacity Building

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Tribal Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program

Development of a 501(3) to operate as the Calaveras Band of MI-WUK Indians Cultural & Land Stewardship Institute

Barrier to enter Red Card Trainings

Purpose and Catalyst Grant Alignment

Establish a Natural Resources Network with education, equipment access, and workforce-development components.

Education network

Mentoring and training linked to CDFA, NRCS, UCCE, technical practice implementation, business planning, succession, certifications, marketing, and regulations.

Equipment lending network

Increase access for limited-resource farmers, ranchers, and disinvested communities where high capital cost blocks climate-smart practice adoption.

Workforce pilot

Pilot with the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians to build workforce-development and conservation skills pathways.

Feasibility Verdict

There is a strong documented need—but the viable program is not simply an equipment purchase program.

Demand: strong

Equipment access/lending was the top requested service: 29 of 44 regional respondents (66%). Conservation work already planned and funded creates recurring demand.

Delivery: conditional

Training, transport, aggregation, a verified roster, and administrative systems are essential. Procurement without these functions carries high failure risk.

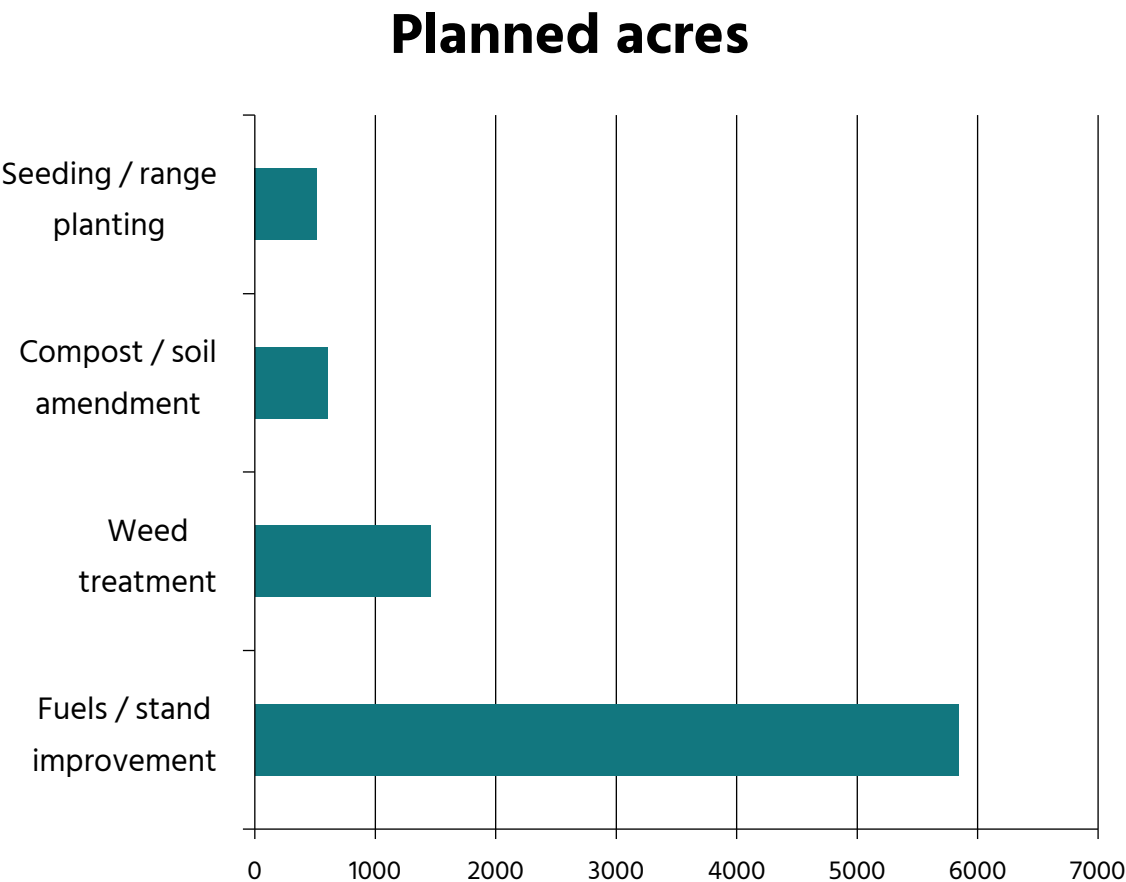
Recommended path

Launch a managed pilot: coordinate existing capacity first; acquire only assets that close validated gaps; combine every access offering with training and safety.

Recommendation: proceed with a phased, coordination-first model that pairs targeted shared access with job training and program administration.

Demand Supports Shared Access

Planned and funded conservation practices imply substantial equipment demand across the three-county region.



2,168 tons

Funded compost across 24 fields (291 acres) requires mechanical spreading.

41.2 miles

Planned fence, pipeline, and watering infrastructure implies demand for installation equipment.

\$2.25M unfunded

FY26 EQIP applications requested \$4.81M; \$2.56M was pre-approved, leaving 47% unfunded.

Where Investment is Best Supported

Evidence supports a portfolio, not a single ranked purchase list.

Compost / manure spreader	Direct + corroborated	2,168 tons funded compost; cost, rental availability, and operating knowledge are barriers.
No-till / compact seed drill	Direct + corroborated	Unavailable across four operation types; 516 planned seeding acres.
Masticator / chipper / mulcher	Direct + corroborated	5,839 planned acres of fuels and stand-improvement work.
Virtual fencing collars	Direct	Multi-county producer and technical-advisor signal; lower capital alternative to some fixed fencing.
Monitoring kits + protocol	Direct, capability-based	Top producer learning topic; should be bundled with training and staff capability.

Caveat: evidence strength identifies candidates for piloting; it does not establish a final buy order or program terms.

Existing Capacity Reveals the Real Gap

For compost, access constraints are more significant than the absence of a spreader.

Supplier threshold

Median funded compost field: 37 tons. One bulk loaner arrangement: 300-ton minimum. Aggregation can bridge this mismatch.

Equipment availability is uncertain

Some producer-held equipment is offered or potentially available, but multiple listings are “confirm first” or unknown—not dependable capacity.

Implication

Prioritize demand aggregation, transport brokering, tractor/trailer access, verified supplier status, and a maintained contractor roster before adding duplicative spreading capacity.

Terrain and access

Large haulers, 40-foot lowboy access, and implement size exclude small, steep, and irregular parcels.

Roster coverage is incomplete

Compost is mapped informally. Seed drills, masticators, chippers, and soil-health suppliers are not mapped in the roster.

Roster caution

Most provider pricing predates 2026; service areas and availability are reported, not confirmed. Verify before grant budgeting or public circulation.

Regional capacity exists

A track-driven spreader rated for steep ground is reported at roughly 40 tons/day; availability and scheduling still need verification.

Training is INTEGRAL — not an add-on

Program should prepare producers to use equipment well and staff to operate a safe, durable shared-access system.

Producer curriculum

- Equipment operation, maintenance, and safe use
- Compost application and closed-loop composting
- Reduced tillage and rangeland seeding
- Adaptive grazing & virtual fencing
- Vegetation management, fuels reduction, and liability
- Soil-health monitoring, infiltration testing, and interpretation

Staff capability

- Use agreements, insurance, liability, and cost recovery
- Reservation, scheduling, transport, and maintenance tracking
- Equipment-specific safety and oversight
- Rangeland monitoring and soil-health protocols
- Soil-health and nutrient-plan writing

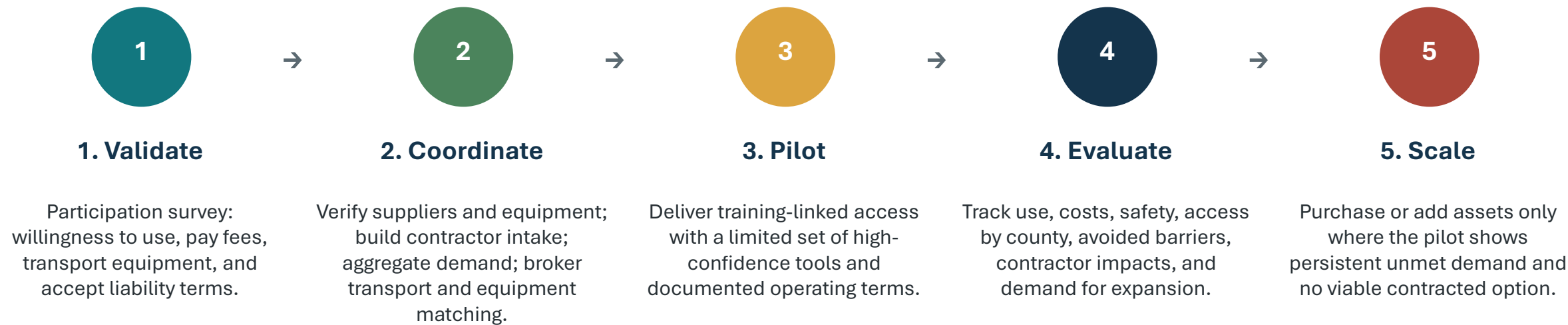
Delivery model

Field-based and peer-to-peer learning; link instruction to actual equipment access. Address participation barriers through advance notice, off-peak scheduling, fuel support, Spanish-language options, online options, and consolidated locations.

Key signal: soil health and soil amendments ranked first among learning topics—30 of 44 respondents (68%)—while equipment access/lending was the top service request.

Operating Model: Phased Pilot

Build the service system before scaling the fleet. Process confirmed with the first pilot project.



Anchor: CCRCD storage resolves a core physical constraint; equity and access across Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne require a transport and/or satellite-siting plan.

Governance, Risk, and Decisions

Leadership decisions will determine whether a pilot can safely and equitably operate.

Governance

Title/ownership; insurance; maintenance; fee and cost-recovery approach; use agreements; incident response; reservation priority.

Evidence gaps

No stated producer commitment to fees, transport, or liability terms; no equipment-ownership baseline; uneven county survey evidence.

Peer learning

Placer County RCD is launching a manure-spreader sharing program and can provide early design resources for agreements, fees, liability, reservations, transport, and maintenance. Treat it as a planning precedent—not proof of long-term durability.

Equity and access

County access and “first call” rules; transport support; rural terrain limits; inclusion of limited-resource producers and Tribal partners.

Data quality

Supplier prices mostly date to 2023–2024. Several availability statements require confirmation. Do not use unverified figures in funding proposals.

Market positioning

Avoid displacing capable providers; use the program to make contractor, transport, and supplier capacity more reachable.

Decision gate

Approve a limited pilot only after core operating policies and producer participation data are in place.

90-day Feasibility Actions

Close the highest-value gaps before committing to a larger fleet or full launch.

Launch producer participation survey

Test demand, fee tolerance, transport willingness, liability acceptance, and priority equipment needs.

Verify and maintain the roster

Confirm provider pricing, service areas, availability, terrain capability, minimum job size, and public-listing consent.

Create contractor intake protocol

Assign ownership, update cadence, accountability, and sharing rules so the roster does not become stale.

Map missing supply

Identify service and rental supply for seed drills, masticators, chippers, monitoring tools, and fuels contractors.

Secure Placer program materials

Obtain draft use agreement, fee structure, liability approach, and reservation system.

Design pilot scorecard

Measure utilization, cost per use, training completion, safety, access equity, transport burden, and partner/provider effects.

Deliverable: a board-ready implementation plan with operating policies, verified market data, pilot budget, training plan, and scale/no-scale decision criteria.

Recommended Decision

Authorize a phased feasibility-to-pilot pathway—not an immediate, broad equipment procurement.

Develop a program design that treats equipment access as a managed service:

Coordinate first

Aggregate compost demand, maintain a verified roster, broker transport, and activate existing/public-private capacity.

Train with access

Use field-based producer training plus staff systems training as a condition of durable, safe shared use.

Buy selectively

Pilot high-confidence tools only after supplier mapping, participation data, governance rules, and an equity plan are complete.

This approach aligns with the SOW's Natural Resources Network, equipment lending, and workforce-development aims while managing the documented operational and market risks.

Healthy Forest Alliance & Good Fire Training Network

The Sierra Nevada needs more good fire and a stronger wildfire resilience workforce.



1. Individual Skills

Regionally hosted trainings open to the public allows individuals not associated with agencies or organizations to pursue wildfire related careers.

2. Collaborative Programs

Smaller organizations don't have large enough pool of participants to host their own trainings so training with multiple partners is an efficient way to host.

3. Together

Learning and burning together build relationships that grow a wider wildfire resiliency workforce and network.

Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians – Cultural & Land Stewardship Institute

Works to restore and protect ancestral lands through cultural stewardship, forest restoration, watershed protection, and traditional MI-WUK ecological knowledge.



1. Training

Our tribal members have developed wildland fire qualifications and hands-on skills that put us in a position to work alongside agencies and partners such as California State Parks and to participate safely and effectively in burn operations. It has also created a pathway for our trained tribal members to support wildfire operations when fires occur within Calaveras County and neighboring regions.



2. Long-term Workforce Capacity

The Catalyst Grant has done more than provide individual training opportunities. It has helped us begin building long-term tribal workforce capacity in wildland fire, cultural stewardship, and land management. The qualifications and experience gained through this program also position us to pursue future funding, expand our stewardship crew, and continue developing partnerships that create meaningful employment and training opportunities for tribal members.



3. Land Stewardship

“For our Tribe, this represents an important step toward bringing trained tribal people back onto the landscape—not only as participants, but as knowledgeable stewards helping care for and protect our homelands.”

Adam Lewis, Tribal Chairman

INDUSTRY SECTOR COORDINATORS

Let's take some time to talk about what the future
of collaboration in the Sierra Region looks like.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM NATURAL
WORKING LANDS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND
MS CLEAN ENERGY RESILIENT
UNITY HEALTHCARE SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND



TRIBAL UPDATES

Industry Sector Coordinators are Sierra Jobs First's boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They help guide, connect, and support projects aligned with the Regional Strategic Plan as they form collaborative partnerships and seek additional funding for implementation.



Tribal Coordinator Presentation by Travis Nabahe

Shindig 2.0
August 21, 2026



Future Tribal Opportunities

- Tribal Eco-Tourism
- Food Sovereignty
- Forestry and Fuel Reduction
- Land Back
- Water Stewardship
- Art
- Wood Processing



Sierra Region

Photo by Travis Nabahe

Key Learnings for the Future

- Engage Tribes early in the Project Concept Design & Planning Phase
- Visit Tribal Leadership and Administration on-site
- Collaboration & Partnership Opportunities through Joint Grant Submissions
- Limited Resources and Capacity
- Tribal Roundtable and Listening Sessions
- Relationship



Sierra Region

Photo by Travis Nabahe

Thank You!



AG & NATURAL/WORKING LANDS

Industry Sector Coordinators are Sierra Jobs First's boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They help guide, connect, and support projects aligned with the Regional Strategic Plan as they form collaborative partnerships and seek additional funding for implementation.



Natural & Working Lands and Sustainable Agriculture

MLJT/CSEDD'S SIERRA JOBS FIRST INDUSTRY
SECTOR COORDINATION WORK IN NATURAL &
WORKING LANDS AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



SIERRA
JOBS FIRST



SEPARATE SECTOR
WORKGROUPS



LEAF
PARTNERSHI
P



REGIONAL
COLLABORATION
& ACTION



Bringing businesses, workforce organizations, educators, Tribes, nonprofits, public agencies, resource conservation districts, and other regional partners together around shared opportunities and barriers.



A More Connected Sierra Economy

LEAF helps align people, resources, and priorities to grow opportunity across the Sierra.



Find
Funding



Find
Partners



Share
Information



Identify
Workforce
Needs



Increased
employment



Coordinate
Projects



Elevate
Regional
Priorities



Turn Natural-Resource
Challenges into
Economic Opportunities

The goal was to make the work already happening across the Sierra more connected, visible, and actionable.



Supporting the forestry Entrepreneurship Pipeline



CA Governor's Office of
Land Use and
Climate Innovation



CLERE

California Law Empowering Renewable Energy

MARIPOSA COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Through partnership with CLERE & Mariposa RCD, we advanced key resources and coordination.



Bioeconomy Playbooks

- Comprehensive overview of the regional forest and wood-products ecosystem
- Market opportunities and emerging bioeconomy sectors
- Actionable strategies to grow and diversify the forest economy

Delivered as part of a broader effort to strengthen the entrepreneurship and the bioeconomy.



Forestry Entrepreneurship Toolkit

- Practical guidance for starting and growing forestry-related businesses
- Step-by-step resources across business development, operations, and compliance
- Connections to partners, programs, and technical assistance



Idea



Business
Support



Funding



Workforce



Market



Regional
Impact

Entrepreneurs and small businesses need easier access to information, technical assistance, financing and funding pathways, permitting guidance, markets, workforce resources, and connections to the broader forestry ecosystem.

Turning Forest Challenges into **Economic Opportunity**

MLJT/CSEDD connects forest resilience with business development, workforce development, and biomass utilization to grow strong communities.



Biomass Business Competition
Amplified ideas, built capacity, and honored innovation.



Regional Biomass & Wood-Products Business Development
Strengthening and growing local enterprises.



Technical Assistance & Entrepreneurship Support
Connecting entrepreneurs to tools, networks, and expertise.

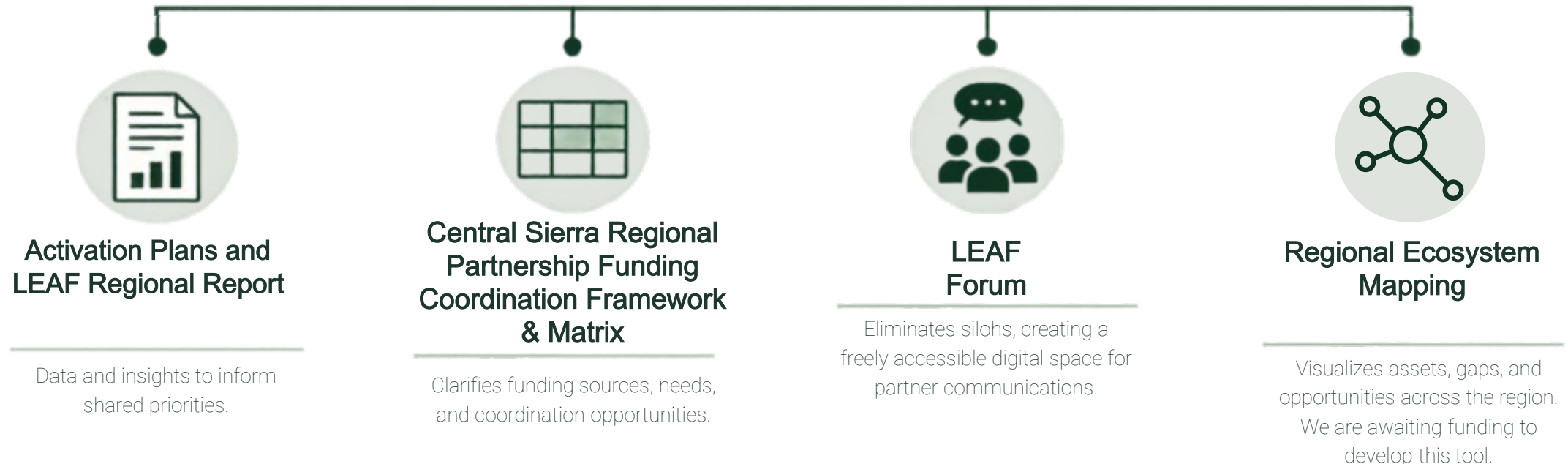


Coordination Around Biomass Facility & Utilization Needs Identified by Partners
Aligning investments and resources with real regional needs.



From Conversation to *Action*

We translated partner feedback into practical regional infrastructure.



What Our Partners Told Us

LEAF priorities were **informed by:**



November 2025
LEAF Conference
Asset-Mapping Exercise

Partners mapped assets, needs, opportunities, and priorities across the region.



February 2026
LEAF Partner Survey

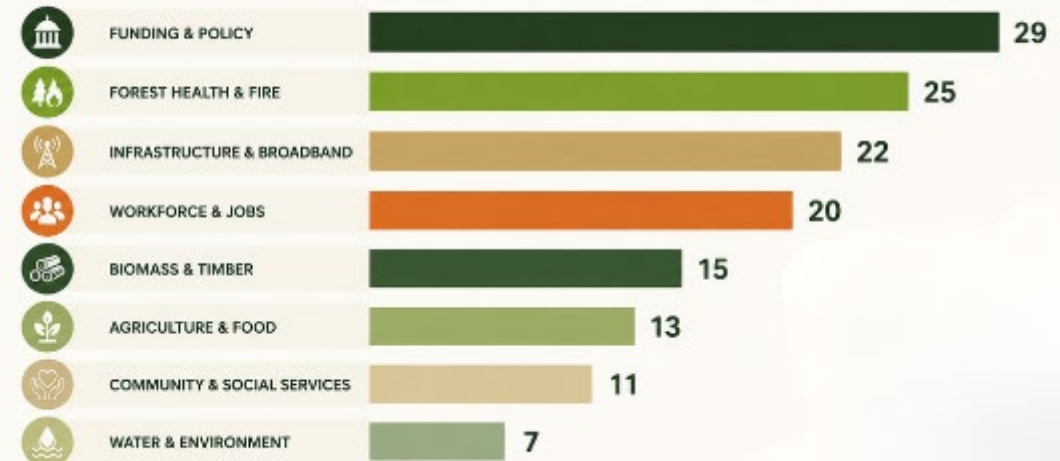
Partners shared additional insights to validate and expand the picture.



Partners identified substantial existing assets across the region, but also recurring barriers around funding, infrastructure, workforce capacity, biomass utilization, and coordination.



Across seven Sierra counties, **142** assets, needs, opportunities, and priorities identified.



Participation varied significantly by county, so the findings represent a **stakeholder snapshot** rather than a comprehensive inventory.



LEAF:

Land • Energy • Agriculture • forestry

A REGIONAL COORDINATION PLATFORM CONNECTING ORGANIZATIONS
ACROSS DEEPLY INTERCONNECTED PARTS OF THE SIERRA ECONOMY



450+

PEOPLE CONNECTED
THROUGH THE LEAF
MAILING
LIST/NETWORK



100+

PARTICIPANTS AT THE
LEAF
CONFERENCE



REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

SPANNING THE
SIERRA JOBS
FIRST
GEOGRAPHY



LEAF WORKGROUPS

RECURRING VIRTUAL
MEETINGS



THE 2026 LEAF REGIONAL REPORT



LEAF TOOLS SUITE

FOR YEAR-
ROUND
PARTNER
COMMUNICATION & RESOURCES



REDUCE
S SILOS



INCREASES
INFORMATION
SHARING



IDENTIFIES
COLLABORATION
OPPORTUNITIES



AMPLIFIES WORK
ALREADY HAPPENING
THROUGHOUT THE
REGION

LEAF CONNECTS US
WHILE WE GROW A
STRONGER SIERRA.



COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

Industry Sector Coordinators are Sierra Jobs First's boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They help guide, connect, and support projects aligned with the Regional Strategic Plan as they form collaborative partnerships and seek additional funding for implementation.

Healthcare Industry Sector Coordination

Summary of Work — Sierra Jobs First Grant



A Severed County Regional Healthcare Strategy

Regional analysis of healthcare resources, health statistics, and workforce access needs published via the Sierra Region Healthcare Activation Plan.

Engaged hospitals, public health agencies, FQHCs, Tribal clinics, government agencies, and community colleges

Established the Sierra Healthcare Industry Partnership (SHIP) to steward healthcare sector coordination efforts.



Connecting Leadership, Partners, and Resources

Strengthened regional alignment through leadership and partnership

Hosted 2 regional SHIP Conferences and ongoing quarterly meetings

Established digital footprint for SHIP communications via webpage, newsletter, forum

Elevated Sierra's priorities and needs in statewide conversations

Connected resources to address workforce, housing, and women's health needs



Building Healthcare Workforce Pathways

Established Eastern Sierra high-school dual-enrollment healthcare pathways and summer career exploration

Informed Cerro Coso programs: hybrid EMT, paramedic, physical therapy assistant, radiologic technology, and RN

Connected Cerro Coso with Columbia College, Amador Career Connect, and adult education centers

Supported hybrid EMT, Toiyabe Indian Health Dental Program, and Eastern Sierra workforce assessment



Advancing Regional Health and Workforce Priorities

Established Mono/Inyo County Behavioral Health working group

Supported Eastern Sierra Women's Health Program and statewide advocacy

Coordinated regional workforce housing workshop and site identification

Pursued CMSP, BCHIP, Rural Health Transformation, K-16, and Elevation funding opportunities



From Coordination to Regional Impact

Stronger connections across seven counties and healthcare systems

Expanded opportunities in education, training, clinical placement, and career pathways

A blueprint identifying shovel-ready projects to move the region forward

A sustainable partnership that will continue to steward these coordination efforts beyond SJF

Regional coordination turns shared challenges into shared action.





REC & TOURISM

Industry Sector Coordinators are Sierra Jobs First's boots-on-the-ground specialists, deeply knowledgeable about the industries and communities they serve. They help guide, connect, and support projects aligned with the Regional Strategic Plan as they form collaborative partnerships and seek additional funding for implementation.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM: OVERVIEW

2 ISCS

MLTPA & Sierra Focus Media identified as Industry Sector Coordinators for Rec & Tourism

SIERRA WORKS

Developed as the landing spot for this work across the region

11 PROJECTS

Rec & Tourism projects received Catalyst funding

BEYOND CATALYST

Provided support to a variety of non-Catalyst projects in the region

COLLABORATIVE WORK AS ISC's

FUNDING LIBRARY & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Updated the online Funding Library and shared applicable funding opportunities with projects.

MONTHLY ESSRP MEETINGS

Brought west and east side partners together for the first time as an information-sharing body across the seven-county Sierra region.

ACTIVATION PLAN

Convened two April Working Group meetings focused on the Activation Plan, delivered to SBC at the end of June 2025.

RECREATION & TOURISM WORKING GROUP

8 MEETINGS CONVENED

November 2025 – July 2026

Facilitated interviews with on-the-ground projects on each topic: what's working, what isn't, and shared opportunities for improvement.



SIERRA
WORKS

RECREATION & TOURISM PROJECTS IN THE SIERRAS



1. GOVERNANCE

2. INVENTORY & ASSET MAPPING

3. POLICY BARRIERS

4. REGIONAL BRANDING & IDENTITY

5. CLIMATE RESILIENCY

6. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

7. ARTS, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING

8. SIERRA RICA REVIEW

THE SIERRA RICA

Developed from the topic-themed Working Group meetings and public outreach.

GOAL 1

Fund a Regional Information-Sharing Entity That Facilitates Implementation

9 action steps

GOAL 2

Address Barriers that Obstruct Project Implementation

10 action steps

GOAL 3

Build a Year-Round, Equitable, Career-Focused Recreation Workforce

4 action steps

GOAL 4

Regional Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change

6 action steps



REC. & TOURISM SYMPOSIUM OF PRACTICE

Sacramento — CNRA Building — April 2026

50 stakeholders

Full-day session convening practitioners from across the state

Q&A with Sec. Wade Crowfoot

Direct exchange with the California Natural Resources Secretary

Presentations & breakouts

Facilitated breakout sessions that fed into the State Cohort RICA



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly ESSRP meetings continue



FIRST MONDAYS!

SNC Board Meeting



SNC Board Meeting

Sept 2 & 3

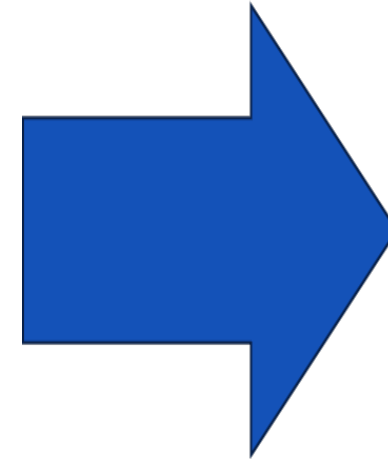
Mono County

State Election



**General Election!
Nov 3rd!**

Congratulations!



Redwood Region
RISE



**CALREC
Vision**

Congratulations!



State Cohort Draft RICA

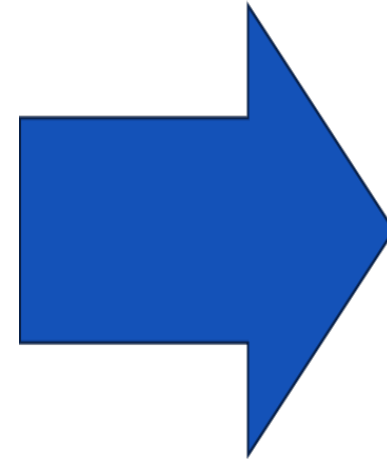
Please provide your feedback on these draft Recommendations for Implementation & Collaborative Action (RICA) for the Statewide Recreation & Tourism Cohort of Practice.

These recommendations have been compiled from the "Recreation and Tourism Symposium of Practice". The full-day facilitated session was held at the California Natural Resources building on April 23rd, 2026, and focused on lessons learned during the Catalyst phase of California Jobs First in our respective regions, the barriers to success for developed projects, and recommendations to the state to encourage the implementation of Catalyst projects developed through California Jobs First.

Don't Miss Out: Please share your feedback using a desktop machine for the best experience!

Have Fun!

Start



State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



Redwood Region
RISE



**CALREC
Vision**

10 Recreation and Tourism Cohort Meetings

CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 08/08/2025

- Welcome/Introductions
- Field Updates
- Introducing Cohort Process/Goals
- "Rays of Sunshine" Moment

MLPA Redwood Region CALREC Vision RISE

CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 07/01/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Regional Presentations
 - Ukiah
 - Ukiah
- "Rays of Sunshine" Moment

MLPA Redwood Region CALREC Vision RISE

CA JOBS FIRST - TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION COHORT

AGENDA 08/01/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Two
 - Endowment
 - UCLB
- Inter-regional Comparative Analysis - Introduction
- "Rays of Sunshine"
- Adjourn

MLPA CALREC Vision RISE

Regional Collaboration in the Coachella Valley

CVAG & CVCC Projects

Billy Morrow
Program Specialist II
BMLT/ASPC/CalPWS
1 Sept. 2025

CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 10/03/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Four
 - Santa Barbara
 - Santa Barbara
- "Rays of Sunshine"
- Adjourn

MLPA CALREC Vision RISE

CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 11/07/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Four
 - Mark's Lake (Bakers)
 - LEAVE NO TRACE
- Rays of Sunshine
- Adjourn

MLPA CALREC Vision RISE

CA JOBS FIRST - SUSTAINABLE RECREATION & TOURISM COHORT

AGENDA 12/05/2025

- Welcome/Check-in
- Field Notes
- Presentations - Session Five
 - Ukiah (Odyss)
 - Ukiah
- "Rays of Sunshine"
- Adjourn

MLPA CALREC Vision RISE

CA Jobs First Recreation & Tourism Cohort

In-Person Convening
Sacramento - April 23, 2026

Bay Area Trails Collaborative

Presented by CA Jobs First Sustainable Recreation & Tourism Cohort

JANIS WINTER
Trail Development Manager

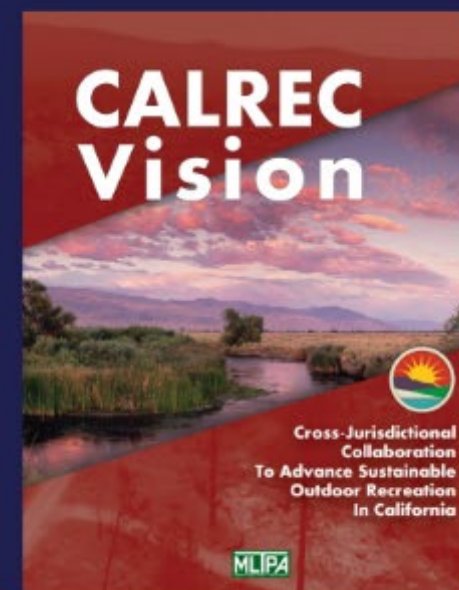
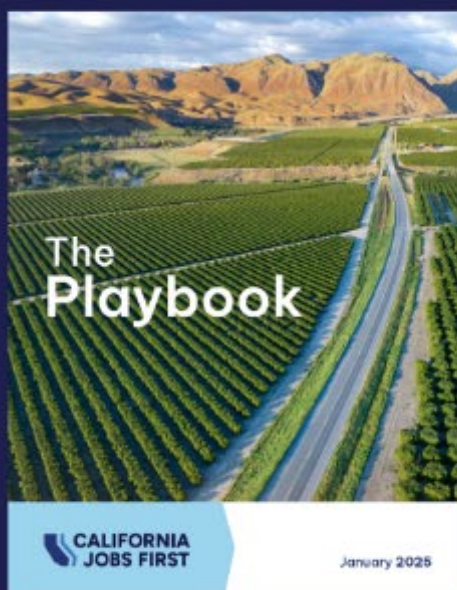
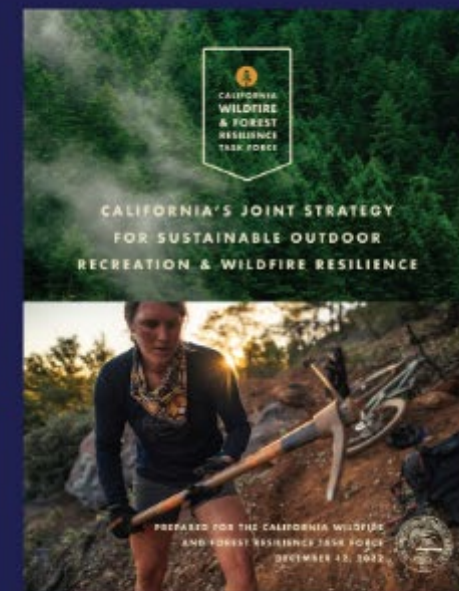
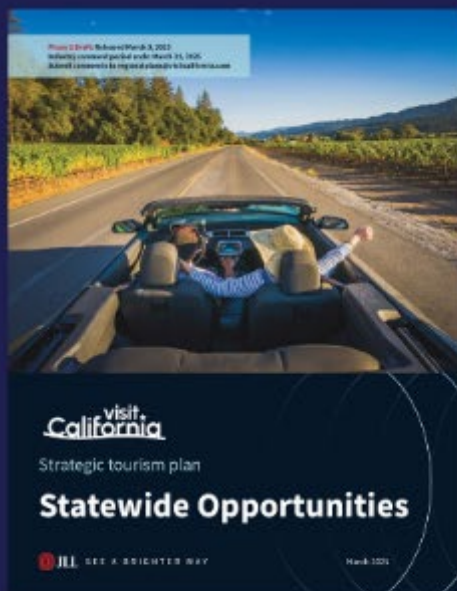
Trail With You

CA Jobs First Recreation & Tourism Cohort

Symposium of Practice
Sacramento - April 23, 2026

MLPA CALREC Vision RISE

Across the state over 8 months





HOME / SCHOOL OF APPLIED HEALTH /
CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR ECONOMY SUMMIT

California Outdoor Economy Summit

Join the Inaugural Outdoor Economy Summit

At a defining moment for **California's outdoor economy**, this inaugural summit convenes those working in and alongside outdoor recreation to build more **resilient economic development**, through equitable careers, stronger natural landscapes, and place-based futures for communities across the state.

California Outdoor Economy Summit

June 3rd-5th, 2026

Eureka, CA

State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



Sierra

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action

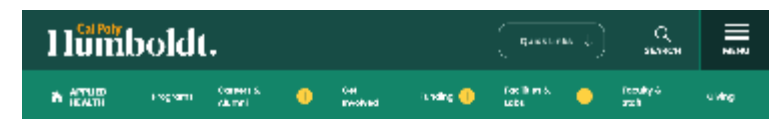


SIERRA
WORKS













April 9, 2026

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST

2026 Investment Summit



STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

State Cohort

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



Sierra

RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation &
Collaborative Action



August 2026

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST



STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

State Cohort RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
Collaborative Action



Sierra RICA

Recommendations for
Implementation and
Collaborative Action



August 31, 2026

CALIFORNIA JOBS FIRST



STATE LEADERSHIP

From Blueprint
to Breakthrough

NEXT STEPS

- The RICA document will go into final production, completed by **August 31**
- It will stay hosted on MLTPA's website, publicly available for reference and policy advocacy work.



A large steam locomotive, numbered 3, is displayed in a dark, industrial workshop. The locomotive is the central focus, with its front boiler and smokestack visible. The workshop has a high ceiling with exposed beams and some lighting fixtures. In the foreground, there are various mechanical parts and tools, including a large black metal component on the right. The overall atmosphere is industrial and historical.

LUNCH RECOMMENDATIONS

ST CHARLES SALOON - COLUMBIA

PENCE FARMS - SONORA

YOSHOKU - SONORA

CITY HOTEL - COLUMBIA



SIERRA INDUSTRY SHINDIG

**THANK YOU
FOR
COMING**