

# Collaboration for Change

*Building toward a more Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive California*

*North State Together Summit  
March 13, 2025*



CAFWD

# ABOUT CA FWD



California Forward (CA FWD) is a multi-partisan, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization building a New California Economy that is sustainable, resilient, and inclusive so people across every region and community can prosper, both today and into the future.

# CONNECT

*Regions-Up support to build shared capacity*

**Growth & Stewardship**



# CAFWD



**CATALYZE**  
*Structural change*

**Regions-Up**

**CONVENE** *regional stakeholders for shared learning and engagement*

# CORE PARTNER: CALIFORNIA STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

The California Stewardship Network (CSN) is an alliance of regional leaders who are committed to improving government and creating inclusive, sustainable growth for all.



## CSN Member Organizations

- 3CORE
- Bay Area Council
- Central Valley
- Community Foundation
- Community Foundation
- Sonoma County
- CSU Chico - North State Planning and Development Collective
- Economic Development Collaborative
- Fresno Business Council
- Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
- Inland Empire
- Community Foundation
- Inland Empire
- Economic Partnership
- Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation
- Monterey Bay
- Economic Partnership
- North Bay Leadership Council
- Orange County Business Council
- San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
- San Mateo County Economic Development Association
- Sierra Business Council
- Silicon Valley Leadership Group
- Sonoma County Economic Development Board
- REACH
- Redwood Region RISE
- Tahoe Prosperity Center
- UNITE-LA
- University of California
- Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Valley Vision

# CA Planning & Economic Development Context



CALIFORNIA  
STEWARDSHIP  
NETWORK



CALIFORNIA  
JOBS FIRST



## Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)



State Government Office  
EDA Regional Office  
8 Economic  
Development Districts

# GLOBAL CONTEXT

Geopolitical,  
Economic, &  
Climate Shocks

New Political  
will for  
Transition  
Planning &  
Implementation



**CLIMATE  
SHOCKS**



**GEOPOLITICAL  
& ECONOMIC  
SHOCKS**

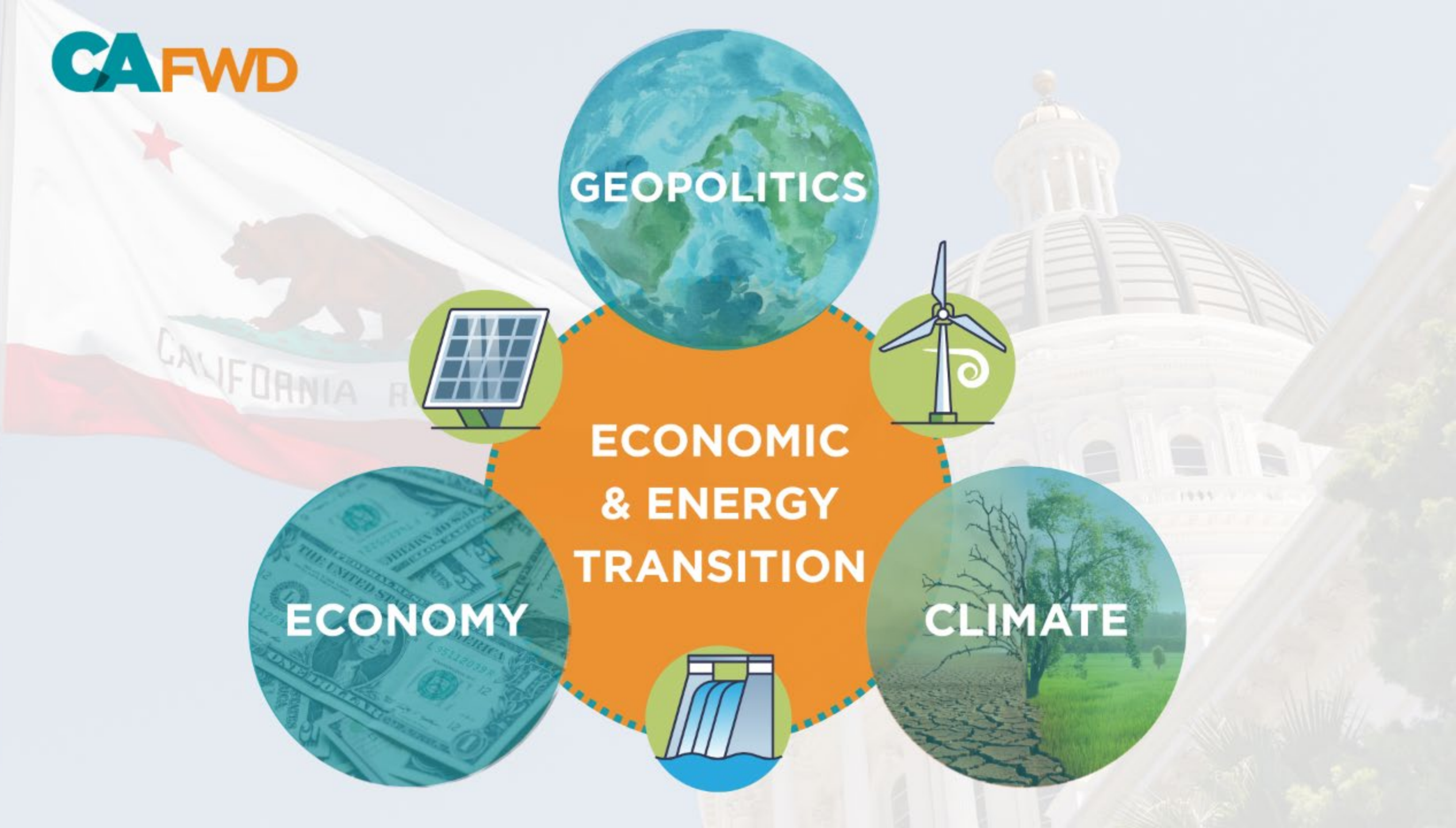


**GEOPOLITICS**

**ECONOMIC  
& ENERGY  
TRANSITION**

**ECONOMY**

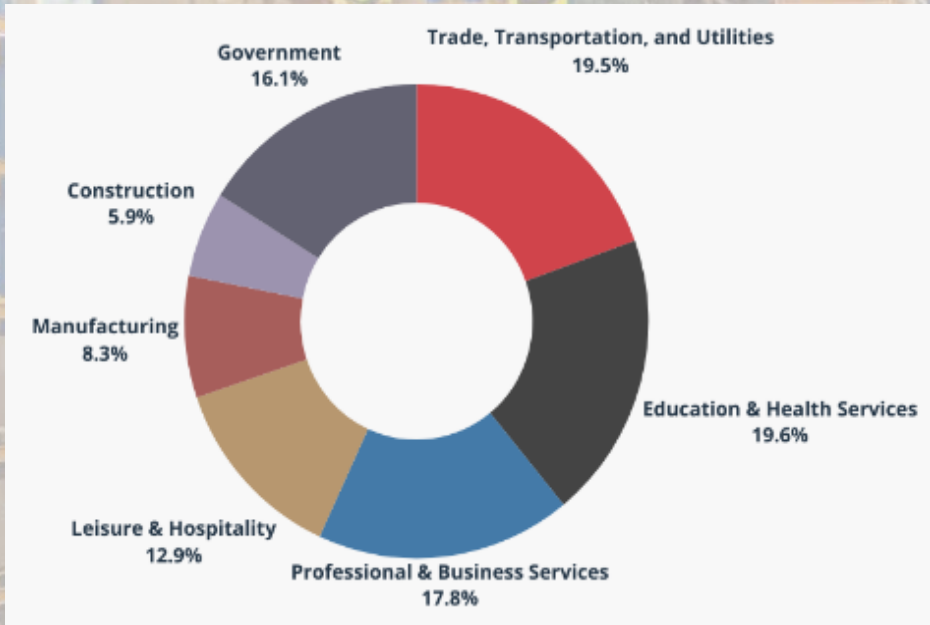
**CLIMATE**





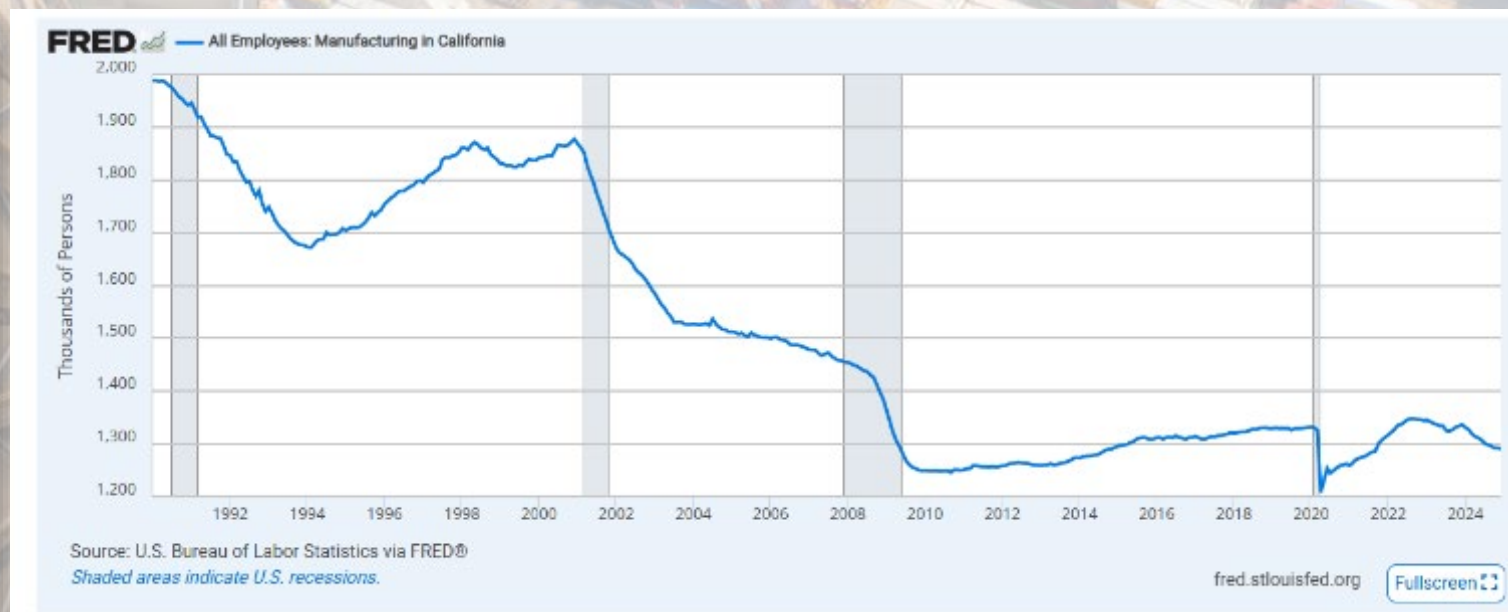
# Rise of the "Knowledge Economy"

## CA Top Industry Employment



Source: <https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ca.htm>

## CA Manufacturing Labor Market Trends

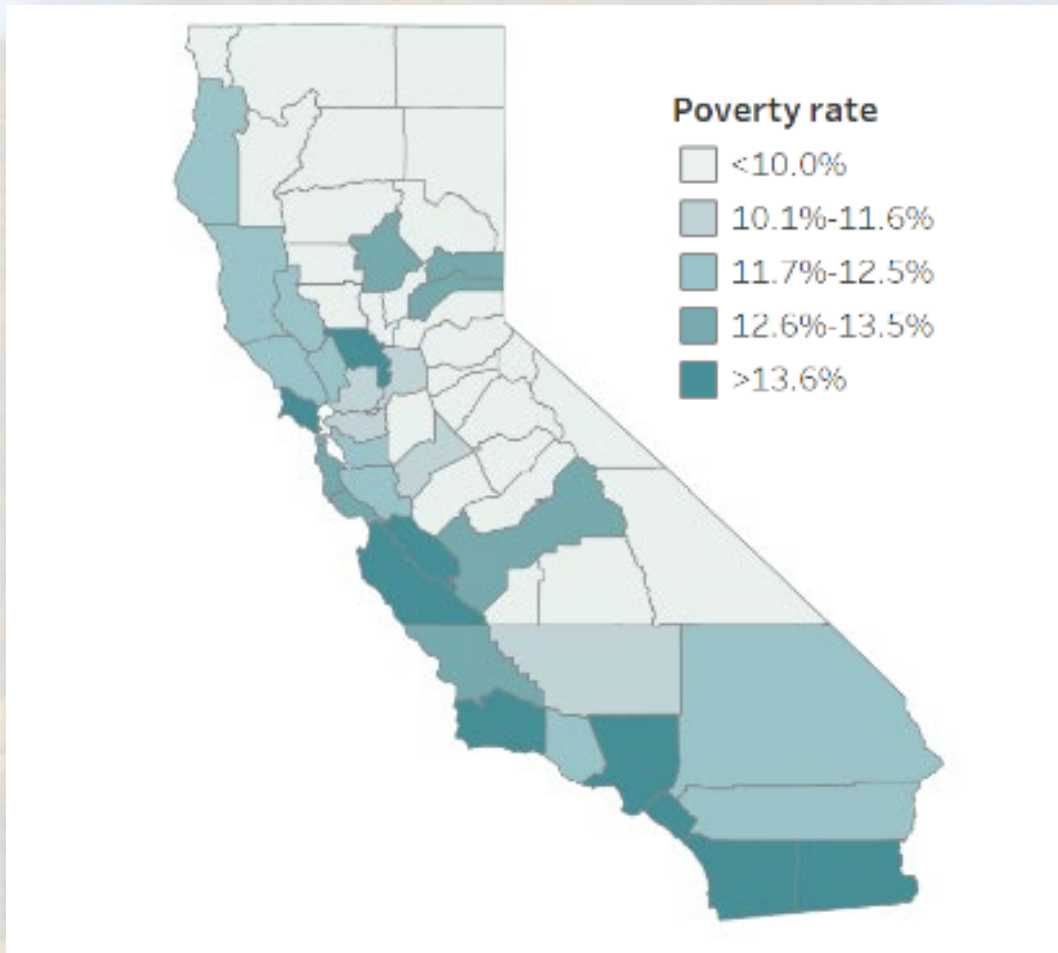


1992-2024

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

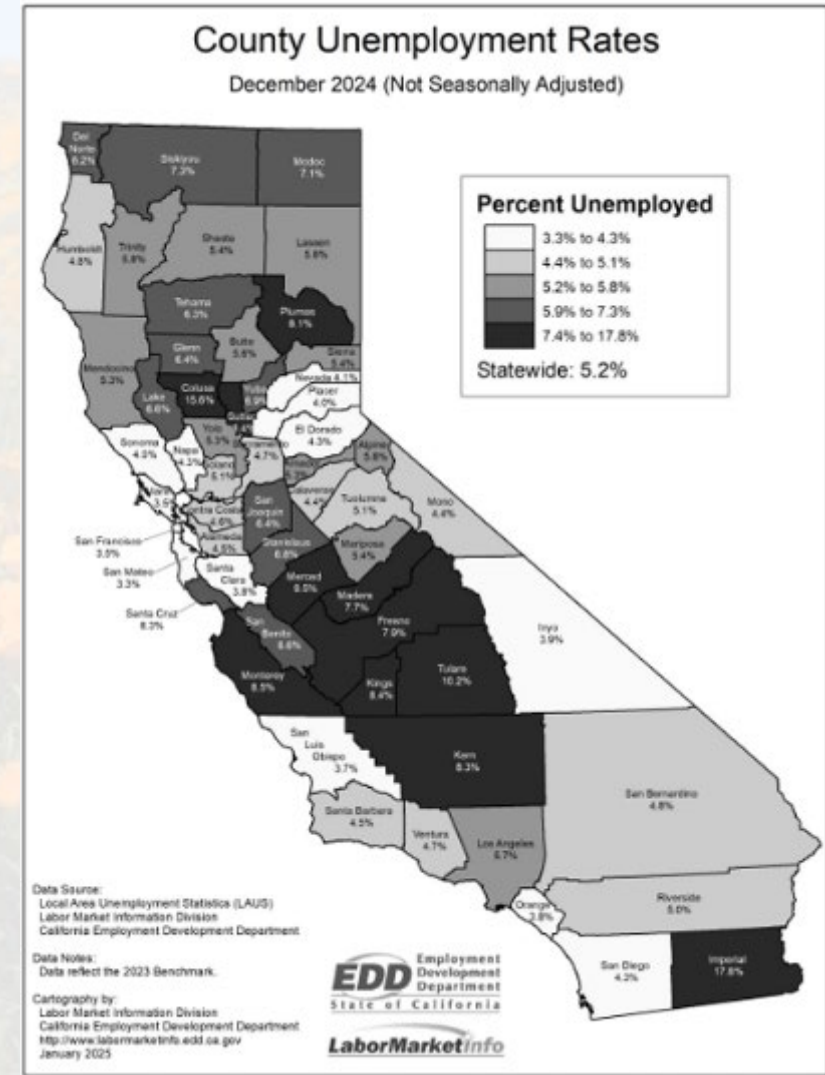
# Regional Disparities: Poverty & Unemployment

## Poverty by County



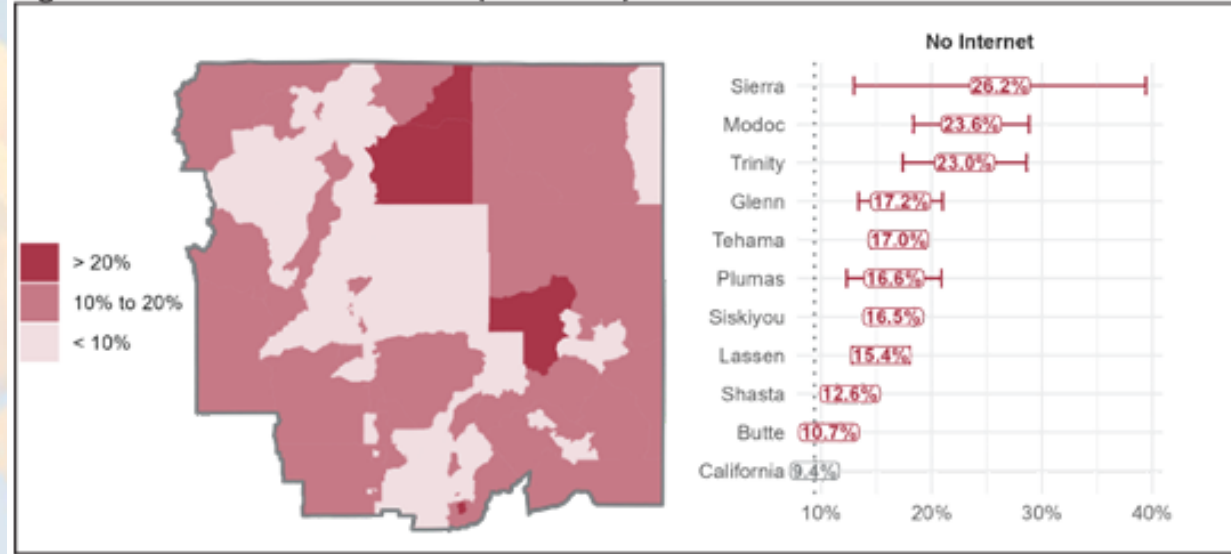
Source: California Poverty Measure, Q1 2023

## Unemployment Rates by Region 2024



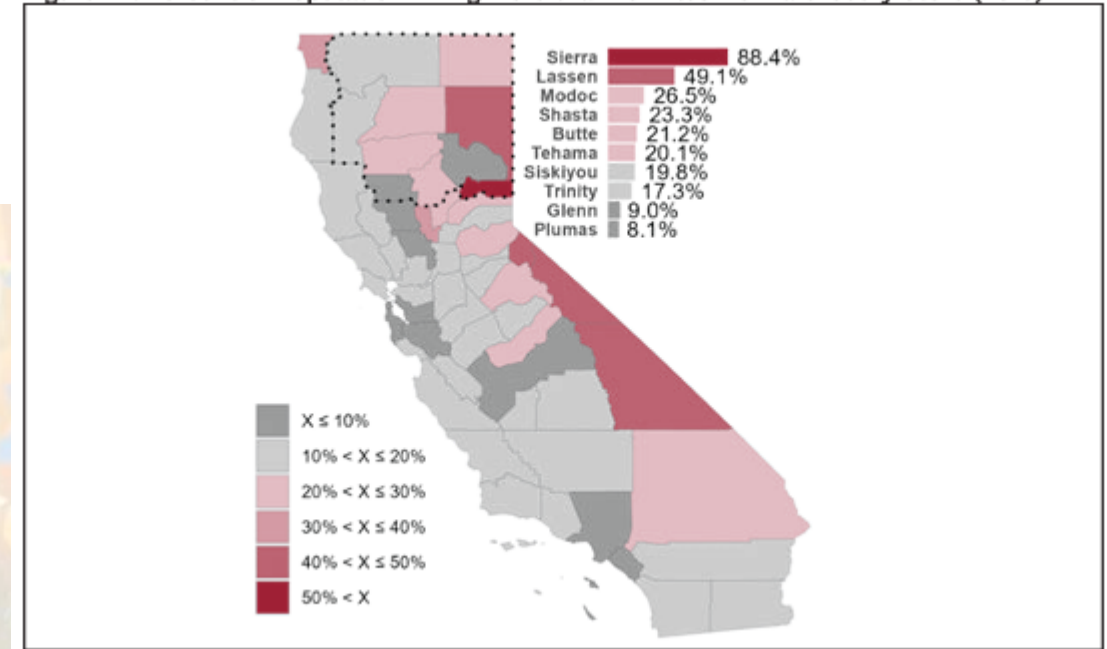
# Inter-regional Disparities: Basic Services

Figure 71. Lack of Internet Access (2017–2021)



Note. Data sourced from the ACS.

Figure 42. Percent of Population Living More than 10 Miles from a Grocery Store (2015)



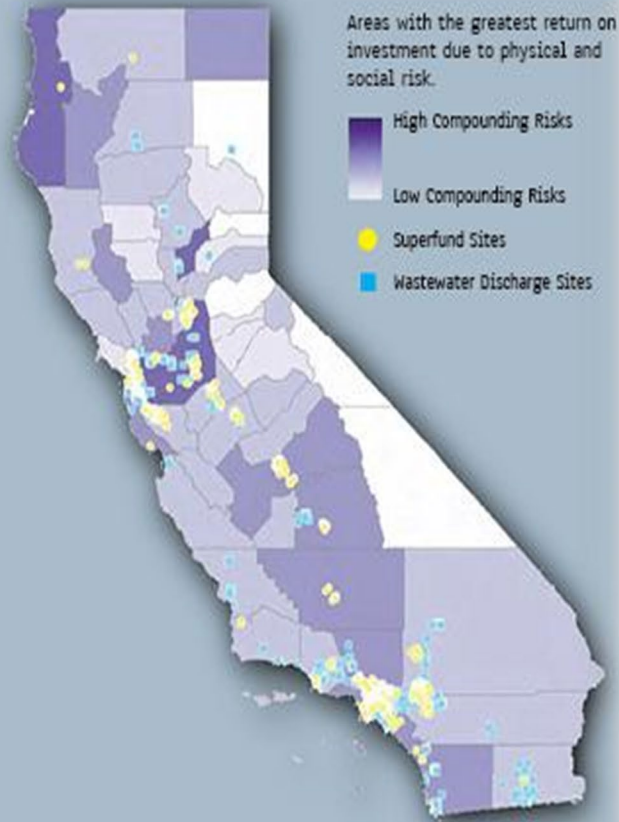
Note. Data sourced from the USDA Food Environment Atlas.

# Climate Risk Across California

## CALIFORNIA STATISTICS SUMMARY 2011-2021

### HIGHEST Number of Disasters in the Country

<b>25</b> Climate Disaster Declarations	<b>NAPA</b> County with the Highest Disaster Occurrences	<b>15</b> Counties with Five or More Disasters	<b>39.3 MILLION</b> Population Total
<b>2,557</b> Wastewater Discharge Sites	<b>C-</b> ASCE Infrastructure Report Card Grade	<b>\$6.2 BILLION</b> FEMA + HUD Post-Disaster Funding	<b>\$157</b> Per Capita Spending on Climate Disasters
<b>BUTTE</b> County with the Highest Federal Spending on Climate Disasters		<b>1,966</b> Superfund Sites	<b>\$32.9 BILLION</b> of Climate Infrastructure Could Be Supported through a Small Insurance Surcharge
<b>ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA, DEL NORTE, SACRAMENTO, SAN JOAQUIN, YUBA</b> Highest Compounding Risks			



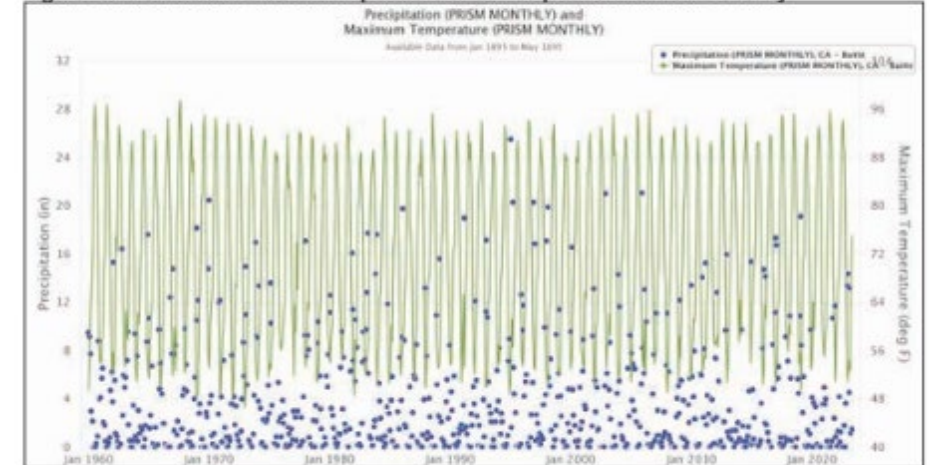
### Butte County

Table 9. Climate Projections for Butte County

Climate Indicators for Butte County	1990-2004 Observed Historical	2025-2039 RCP 8.5	2040-2054 RCP 8.5	Percent Change
Annual Cooling Degree Days Base 65F	1,023	1,560	1,778	74%
Extreme Heat Days (days/yr) above 100.1F	5	20	27	440%
Warm Nights (nights/yr) above 64.8F	6	20	29	383%
Annual Average Precipitation (inches)	45	47	45	0%
Area Burned (hectares)	1,999	2,393	3,452	73%

Note: Data sourced from Cal Adapt Tools. Table by Sierra Business Council, created with Datawrapper. Area Burned indicator does not have observed historical data and is modeled historical data under RCP 8.5.

Figure 13. Historical Trends in Temperature and Precipitation for Butte County



Note: Generated by ClimateEngine.org. The lowest maximum temperatures have been steadily increasing since the 1960s.

# Policy & Investment priorities for a Place-Based Energy Transition

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# What is “Place-Based”?

## Core elements for success:

- Include an **agreed-upon definition of “place”** for the purposes of the program or project (scope, geography, targeted population within a geography, etc)
- Recognize the **specific challenges and opportunities** of each place where investment is targeted (avoid “one size fits all” approaches)
- **Engage community members and stakeholders as active participants** in program development and implementation
- Take a **systems approach** that recognizes and addresses historic inequity and builds toward long-term change
- Continuously **learn and adapt** for better outcomes



Source: Urban Institute, 2018

So...What are we  
doing about it?

**CA FWD IN ACTION**  
*Our current programs and projects*



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### REGIONS-UP

*Shared Capacity to Grow and Engage*

**Thriving Regions**

**Models for Inclusive Economic Growth**

**Leadership Development**

### GROWTH + STEWARDSHIP

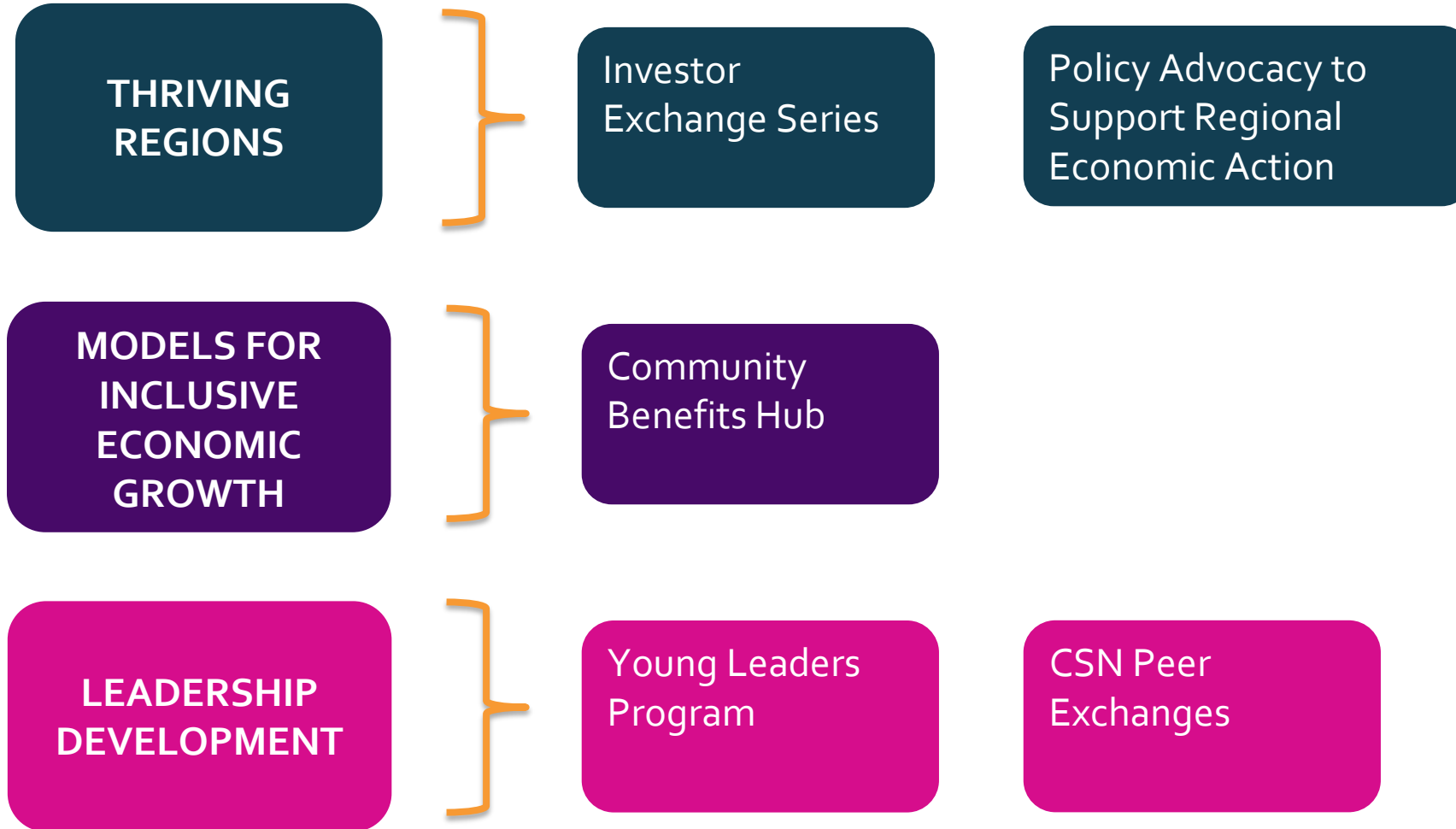
*Building Blocks of an Inclusive, Resilient,  
and Sustainable Economy*

**Energy Transition**

**Fiscal Resilience in a Changing Climate**



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY: REGIONS-UP *PROGRAMS & PROJECTS*



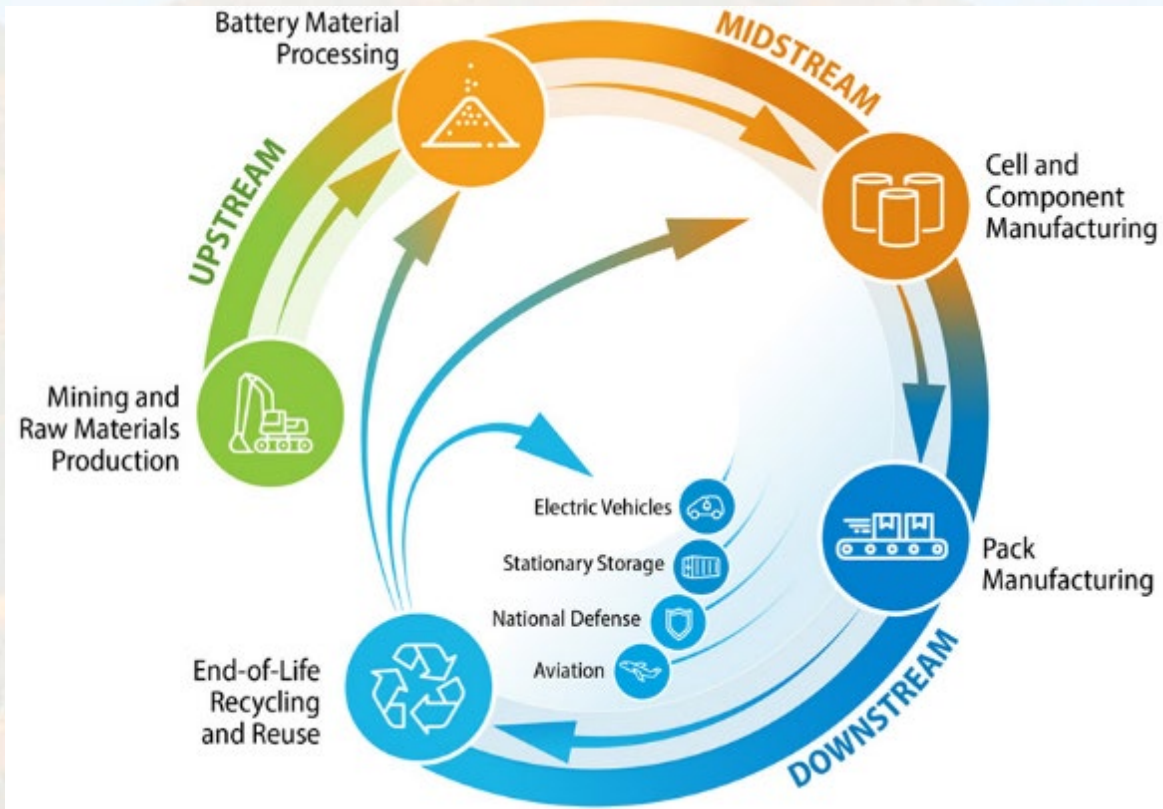
# STRATEGIC PRIORITY: GROWTH & STEWARDSHIP

## PROGRAMS & PROJECTS



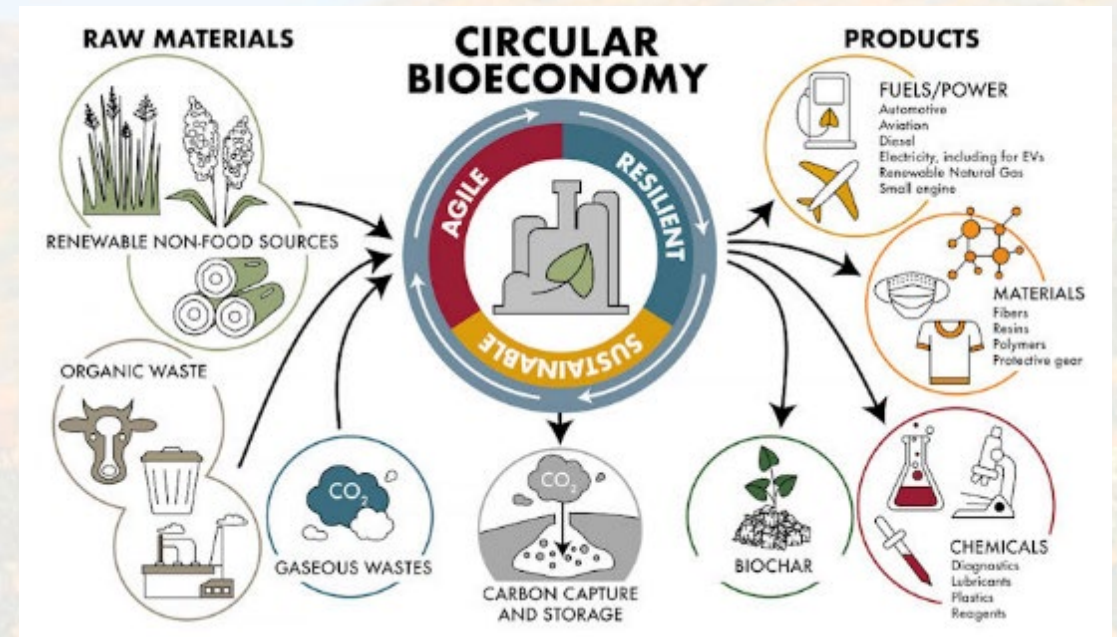
# Energy Transition Priorities

## Battery Supply Chain



Source: NREL (2024)

## Bioeconomy



Source: American Society for Microbiology (2024)

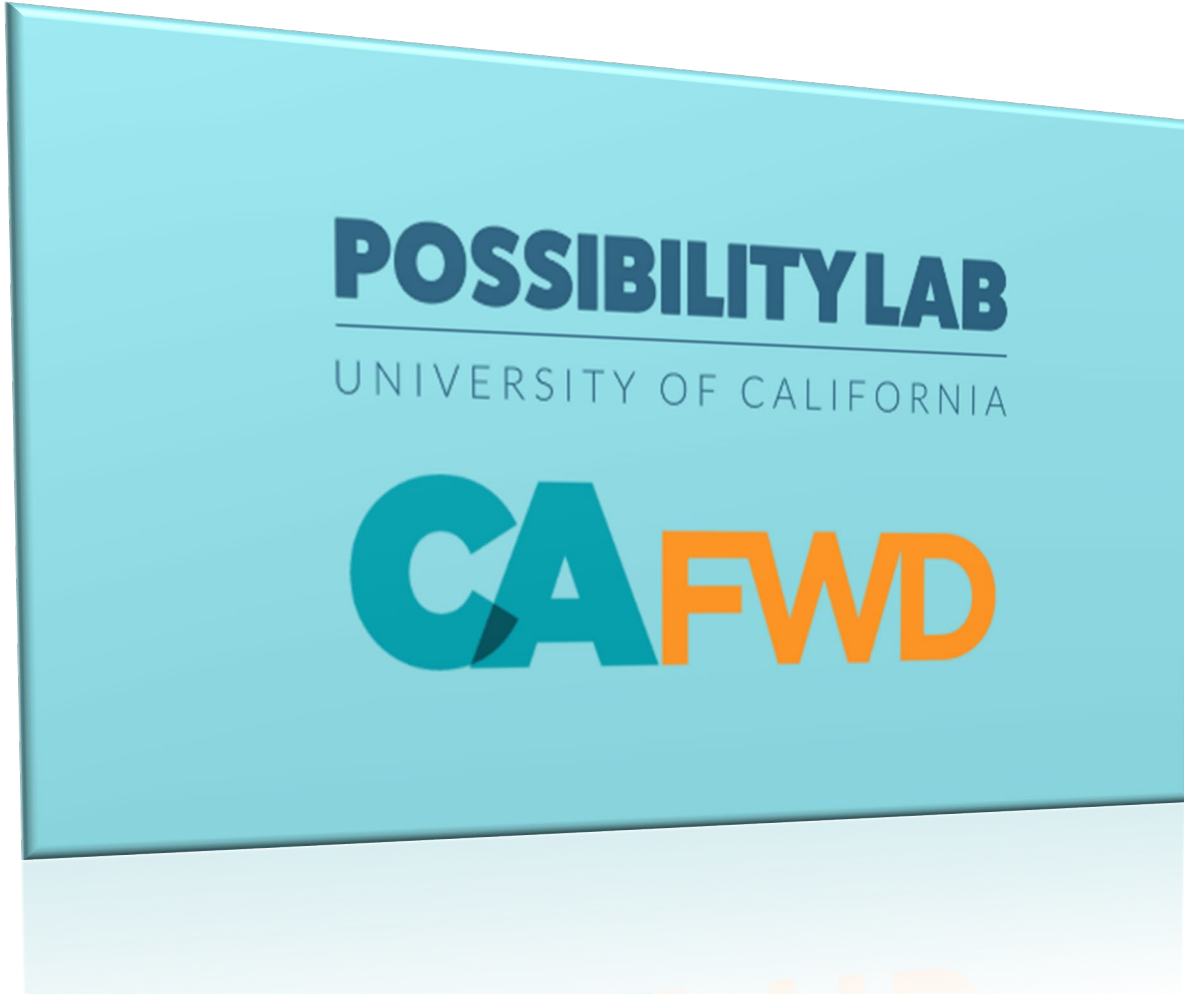
# LEADING REGIONS-UP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CA FWD CEO, Kate Gordon, and CA FWD Board Member, Lenny Mendonca, helped develop the original plan for the predecessor to California Jobs First, Regions Rise Together, when Kate was at OPR and Lenny was at GO-Biz; CA FWD was also involved in that effort. The organization continues to advocate for addressing the current economic realities in California using a regions-up approach.

[Read the Op-Ed](#)



# PARTNERING WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESOURCES



CA FWD is partnering with the Possibility Lab at University of California, Berkeley to bring much-needed economic development resources to communities across California. The partnership includes working together to build the capacity of regions and communities to engage in negotiations with project developers around community and worker benefits.

[Read About the Partnership](#)

# DEVELOPING CLIMATE RESILIENCE DISTRICT INCUBATOR



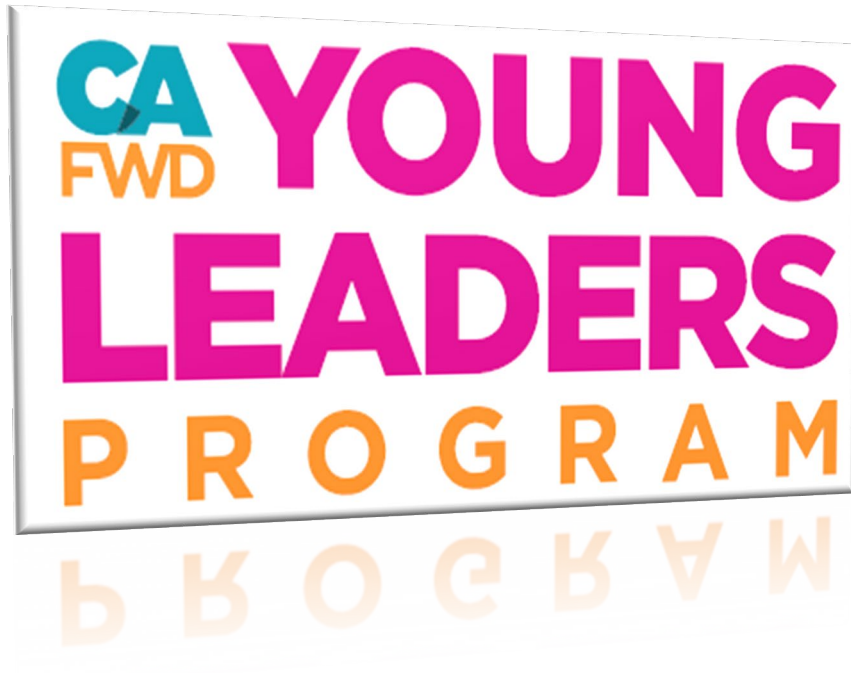
## Climate Resilience District Incubator

- Pilots a new model for pooling resources across communities to fund **risk-reduction infrastructure** such as **wildfire mitigation and flood protection**.
- Leverages the “resilience district” approach laid out in

[Read the Brief](#)

# ELEVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

The CA FWD Young Leaders Program (YLP), formerly the Young Leaders Advisory Council, is a two-year program that elevates the next generation of industry, policy, and non-profit leaders. The program focuses on professional development curriculum, peer knowledge exchange, and opportunities to engage with California's experts across a wide range of interconnected issues: economic development, land use policy, regional governance and stewardship, energy transition, and climate resilience.



[Read About the Program](#)

# CALIFORNIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT

- Produced by CA FWD in collaboration with the California Stewardship Network
- Flagship annual event convening upwards of **900+ regional leaders** from business, community, government, philanthropy, labor
- Catalyzes action toward building a New California Economy







Together, we can build a more

- ✓ *Sustainable,*
- ✓ *Resilient,*
- ✓ *Inclusive*

**California economy!**