



Introduction to CivicSpark

April 2nd

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Local Government Commission

CivicSpark



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Agenda

- Overview of *CivicSpark*
- Application Process & Timeline
- Questions



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What is CivicSpark?

- A Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program
- Dedicated to building capacity for local governments to address climate change
- 2014-15 was the inaugural year
- *CivicSpark* places "Climate Readiness teams" in nine regional hubs
 - 48 CivicSpark Members
 - 9 Regional Supervisors
 - 9 Regional Partners
 - Statewide leadership staff



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Who manages CivicSpark

- Local Government Commission

- Non Profit with over 34 years experience identifying and championing local governments who are or want to be sustainability leaders
- Overall Program Manager
 - Provides the program infrastructure
 - Recruits, hires, and supports members
 - Links local governments to Member Support
 - Coordinates Training
 - Ensures Performance Goals are met



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Partnership with Governor's Office of Planning and Research

- Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - Climate Change is a major priority of Governor Brown
 - *CivicSpark* to create support for local and regional initiatives
 - Help local governments link to available tools and state goals
 - Share CivicSpark successes throughout the state



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Program Partners

- Corporation for National and Community Service

- Federal agency that manages all service programs including AmeriCorps
- In California AmeriCorps is managed through California Volunteers who manages state service programs



- Encore.org

- 8 seasoned professional project managers who act as direct supervisors for Members

- *CivicSpark* AmeriCorps Members

- College educated with relevant experience
- Will be providing on the ground direct service to beneficiaries



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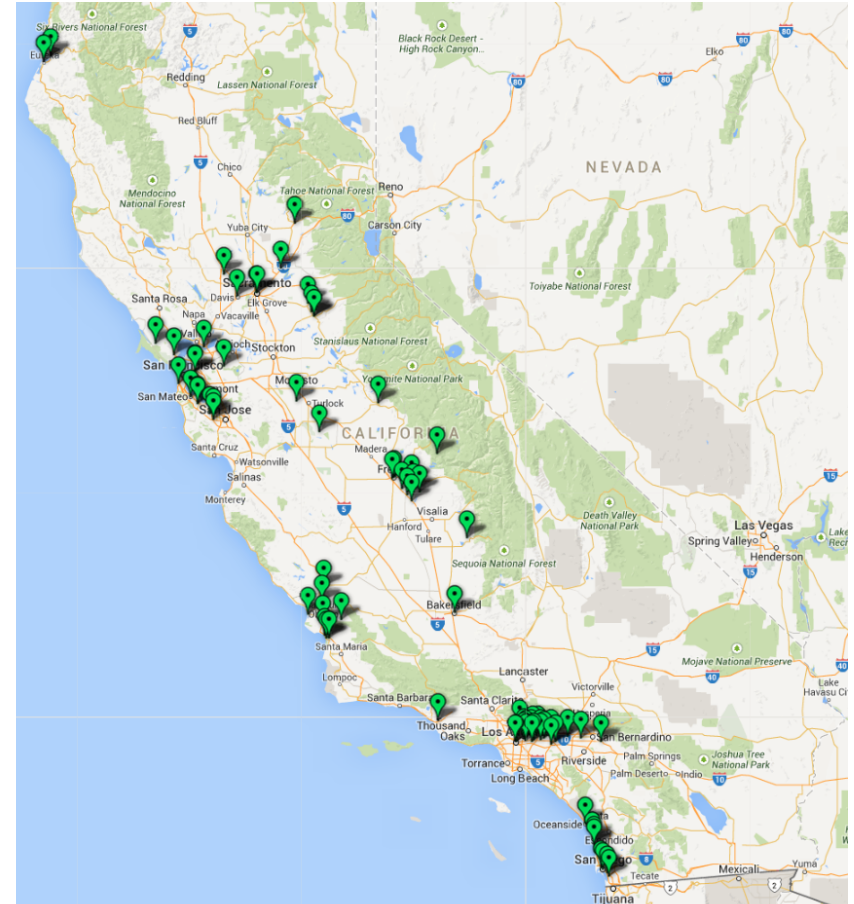
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Regional Partners

- **North Coast:**
 - Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- **Bay Area:**
 - Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission
- **Sacramento Region:**
 - Sacramento Area Council of Governments/ Sacramento Municipal Air Quality Management District
- **Sierra Nevada Region:**
 - Sierra Business Council
- **San Joaquin Valley:**
 - Fresno State Office of Community and Economic Development
- **Central Coast:**
 - San Louis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
- **Inland Empire:**
 - San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
- **Los Angeles Region:**
 - Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability
- **San Diego:**
 - The San Diego Climate Collaborative



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Project Examples from 2014-2015

■ Climate Resiliency

- Resilient Shorelines in San Francisco Bay Area
- Vulnerability Assessments in Sacramento

■ GHG emission reduction

- Commercial support in Benicia and Fresno County
- Implementing solar streamlining options in Central Coast

■ Urban Greening

- Combating Urban Heat islands in Sacramento
- Encouraging Urban Forestry in SJV

■ Clean & Alternative Transportation

- Alternative Fuels corridor development for the North Coast
- “Last Mile” system development with LA Metro and SCAG

■ Regional Scale

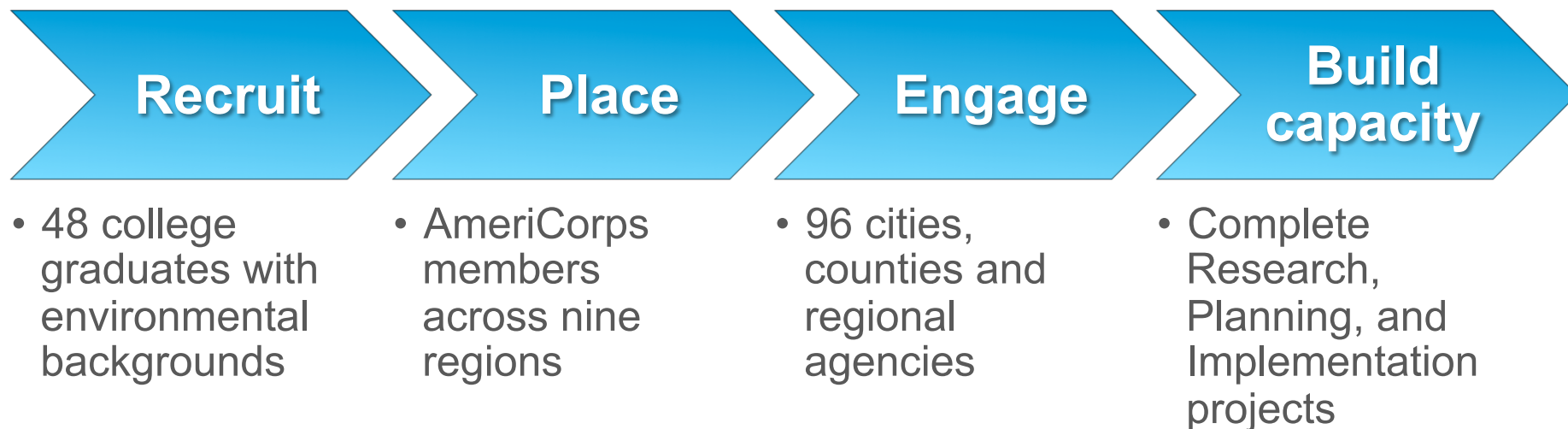
- Energy Action Plans for 7 cities in the Sierras
- Implementation of iCommute program for 3 cities in San Diego Region
- Residential Energy Permit program for all local governments in San Gabriel Valley COG



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Service Delivery Model



‘CivicSpark is creating a model of climate action in California. We are looking to CivicSpark members to move the needle and take California to the next stage of its climate action efforts.’

Wade Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Senior Advisor to Governor Brown



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How We Do It, In Four Steps

- **Gap Assessments:** Review documents and conduct interviews to ensure project scope aligns with and supports climate change capacity need
- **Service Projects:** Conduct a specific research, planning, or implementation project
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Support increased climate volunteerism in the community
- **Transitioning Expertise:** Provide transitional training to staff and/or share results with stakeholders



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Activities to Date

- We received 5 **applications for each open position**; an acceptance rate comparable to that of more established AmeriCorps programs
- Members have already provided over **18,000 hours of service** to CA communities
- We are currently implementing **36 projects** which assist over **88 Local Government Agencies**



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Partner Testimonials

- 'The workshop was very interesting and it provided a forum for open discussion. Great team!'
- "Our CivicSpark members have brought a fresh perspective on how we engage the community in energy planning in the region, and they are not short on ambition."
- "The deliverables that CivicSpark accomplished will help me to do a better job."
- "Without CivicSpark, Climate Planning would not be happening here!"
- The Members have been great to work with and I am confident they have great careers ahead of them. The work they are doing for us and the cities of the region is invaluable."

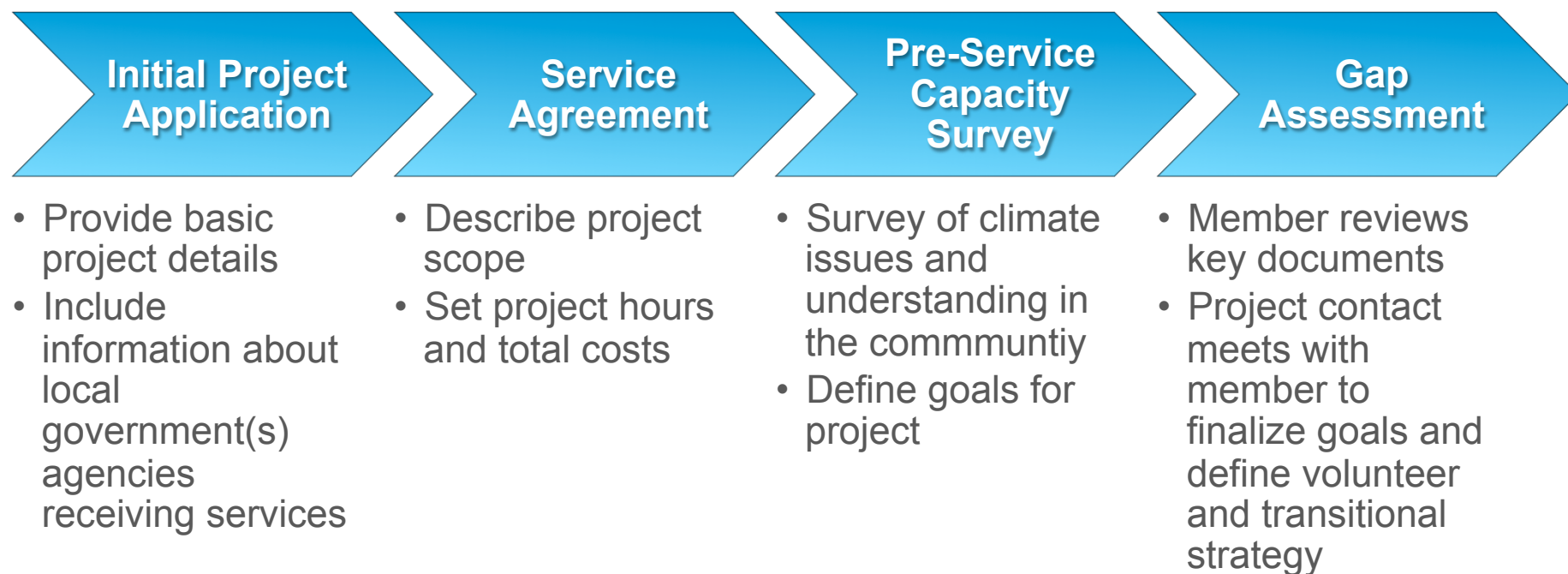


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Application & Project Startup Process



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Eligibility

To participate in *CivicSpark*, a local government must demonstrate a “capacity need”. This need is measured by the absence of (1 or more):

- A fulltime dedicated sustainability staff person, or
- A formally adopted climate action plan (or similar mechanism), or
- Specific mechanisms in place to annually track climate action progress
- All projects must be a minimum of 200 hours



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Local Government Fiscal Contribution

- *CivicSpark* is funded by both CNCS and by Partner Fiscal Contribution
- *Fiscal contribution is **\$18 times the total project hours** required for the team to complete a given project*
 - All-inclusive, and covers both member and supervisor time on the project
 - Based on project work not administrative or training time spent by the team
 - Includes up to \$1/project hour for project related travel expenses for team
 - Partner fiscal contribution is roughly matched by federal and in-kind support
- Local governments can provide this directly or can work with third party resources to provide fiscal contribution



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Key Dates for 2015-16

- **NOW:** Call for project proposals opens
- **April - September:** Project applications accepted
- **Early July:** Member recruitment starts
- **Late September:** Service Agreements finalized
- **Late October:** Member orientation
- **Early November:** Projects start

If you have immediate needs, get in touch as we still have space in some areas to take on work for the 2014-15 service year.



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Any Questions?

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