



# CivicSpark

## Introduction to CivicSpark



Local  
Government  
Commission  
*Leaders for Livable Communities*



Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 



**California  
Volunteers**  
*Office of the Governor*

# Agenda

- Overview of CivicSpark
- Application Process & Timeline
- Questions



# What is CivicSpark?

- Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program.
- Dedicated to building public sector capacity.
- Inaugurated in 2014-15 service year.
- Places fellows across California to support local projects.
- Consists of two theme-tracks:
  - Climate (50 fellows)
  - Water (20 fellows)



# LGC is the Overall Program Manager for CivicSpark

- Local Government Commission is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization with over 35 years experience identifying and championing local governments who are or want to be sustainability leaders.
- LGC manages CivicSpark:
  - Provides the program infrastructure;
  - Recruits, hires, and supports fellows;
  - Links local governments to fellow support;
  - Coordinates training; and
  - Ensures Performance Goals are met.

# Partnership with the Governor's Office leverages State resources and Support

- Climate Change and Water Management are major priorities for Governor Brown.
- CivicSpark creates support for local & regional initiatives.
- OPR helps local governments link to available tools and state goals.
- Shares CivicSpark successes throughout the state.

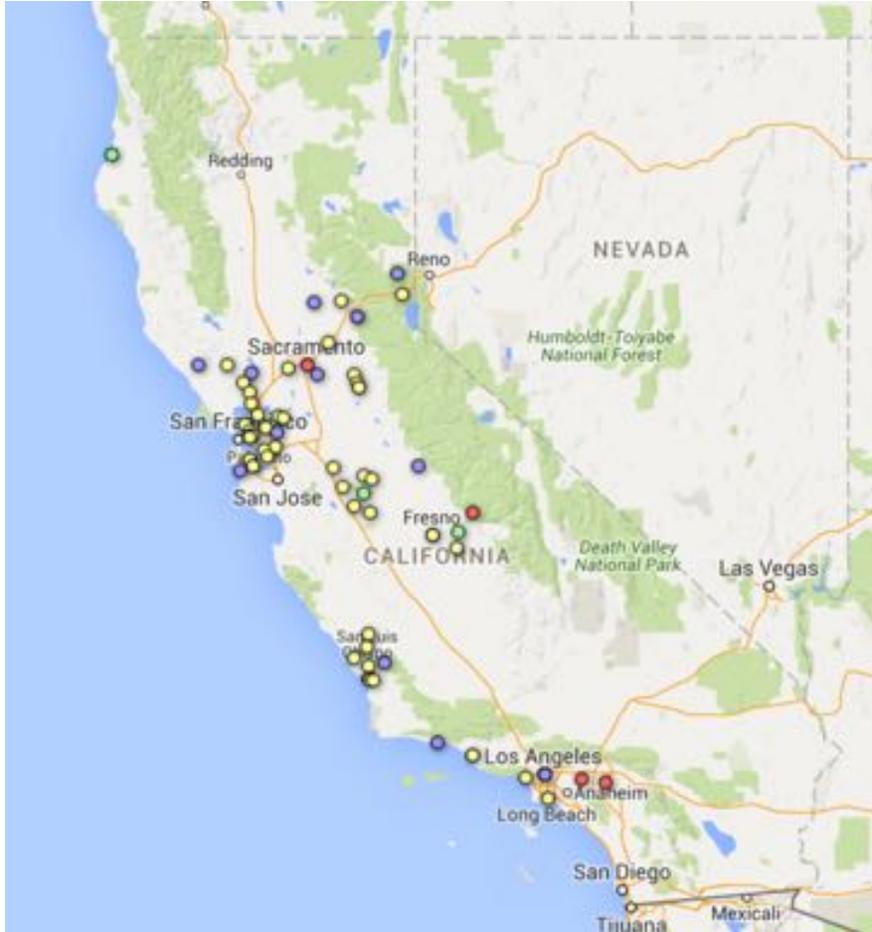


# The CivicSpark Team is a Partnership Between Multiple Players

- Corporation for National and Community Service
  - Federal agency that manages all service programs including AmeriCorps.
  - In California, AmeriCorps is managed through California Volunteers (state service programs).
- CivicSpark AmeriCorps Fellows
  - College educated with relevant experience.
  - Providing on the ground direct service to local agencies.
- Local Partners
  - Cities, counties, local or regional agencies, NGOs, and collaboratives.
  - Identify projects to receive support; provide funding match
  - Host and/or supervise Fellows on project work.

*“Our CivicSpark member is full of energy and optimism, and single-handedly re-energized efforts to educate the community on climate action.”*

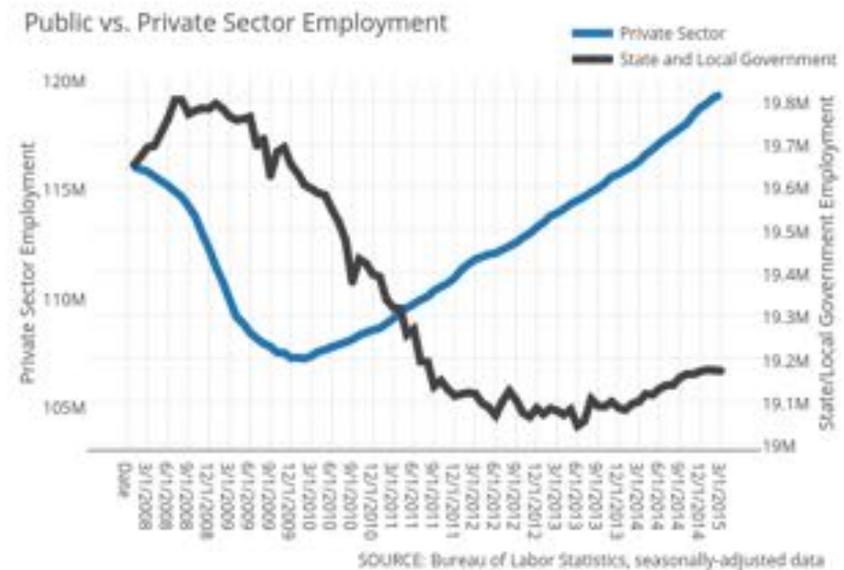
# Fellows Serve All Over California



- Climate Fellows placed singly or in teams
- Water Fellows placed in local teams of 2.
- Centered on 8 regions:
  - North Coast
  - Bay Area
  - Sacramento
  - Sierra Nevada
  - San Joaquin Valley
  - Central Coast
  - Southern California / Inland Empire
  - San Diego

# The Public Sector is Burdened With Requirements While Capacity is Very Low

- AB 32 Global Warming Solutions Act (2006).
- CEQA Lawsuits (2007).
- SB 375 Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection Act (2008).
- Governor's Executive Order B-30-15, SB32, SB 246, AB1482, SB370 (2015).
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2015)



# CivicSpark Fellows Build Capacity Through Four Core Activities



## Gap Assessments

- Fellows interview staff and review key documents to determine current climate and water needs.
- Fellows use this info to finalize project goals and scope.

## Service Projects

- Fellows complete specific research, planning, or implementation project(s).



## Volunteer Engagement

- Fellows support increased volunteerism in conjunction with their project(s).

## Transitioning Expertise

- Fellows sustain progress by providing training to staff and/or sharing results with key stakeholders.



*“Without CivicSpark, climate planning would not be happening here!”*

# CivicSpark Fellows are Doing Great Project Work

## ■ Climate

- Updating a Climate Action Plan to address resiliency and net zero energy goals in Santa Monica
- Developing GHG Reporting Protocols in SLO County
- Developing an Extreme Heat Response Framework in LA County
- Examining climate change and mental health in Kings County

## ■ Water

- Conducting a disadvantaged communities strengths and needs assessment
- Creating a Water Leaders Academy curriculum for local officials
- Supporting leak loss detection and water waste reduction

# Great Partnerships = Great Results!

Los Angeles CivicSpark fellows developed a Water Conservation Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool.



The tool helped identify and prioritize potential water saving opportunities at county facilities.



Potential annual savings of 195-280 million gallons, \$1.7 million in avoided costs, and 300 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Approach

Southern California CivicSpark fellows developed Energy Assessment Screening for Your Home (EASY)



## Benefits

This no-cost program helps residents identify ways to make their homes more efficient.



## Results

Completed 70 energy assessments in 17 cities, organized 25 formal trainings, and reached 1700 customers.

# CivicSpark is Making a Lasting Impact Throughout California

- Over the past two years, CivicSpark Fellows provided over **130,000 hours** of service to over **100 public agencies** through **80 projects** supporting a wide range of actions including,
  - **10 climate or energy action plans;**
  - **160 energy assessment or benchmarking reports**
  - **17 climate action policies;**
  - **13 vulnerability assessments;**
  - **14 GHG inventories;**
  - **57 community workshops;**
- *And much more!*

“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.”

# CivicSpark is Leveraging Resources to Multiply Impacts for California

- From 2014 through today, Fellows directly engaged over **5,500 community members**, including residents, business owners, and the general public.
- **Over 95% of completed projects** to date have met or exceeded goals.
- For the past three years we have received **6-7 applications for each open position**; an acceptance rate greater than that of more established AmeriCorps programs.
- CivicSpark is leveraging about **\$1,000,000 annually** in local match funding annually

# Climate & Water Theme Tracks Are Slightly Different

## ■ Climate

- Any topic area related to climate change broadly.
- Regional Coordinator (RC) provides oversight, training and support locally.
- Minimum 1/2 fellow placed
- Fellow supervisor is responsible for minimal reporting and professional development support.
- Higher match cost

## ■ Water

- Project must address a state-wide water priority.
- Sacramento staff provides programmatic support and Regional Coordinator (RC) provides local training.
- Fellows placed in pairs of 2 per site.
- Fellow supervisor is responsible for minimal reporting and professional development support.
- Lower match costs

# What We're Looking for in a CivicSpark Partner

- Strong Climate or Water Project
  - Clearly defined scope suitable for a fellow
  - Commitment to implementation
  - Links to defined and eligible public agencies with a capacity need
- Commitment to fellow's growth and development
  - Direct project oversight
  - Identifying a fellow supervisor who will:
    - Help determine fellow's strengths and set professional goals,
    - Conduct performance assessments (at start and close of service),
    - Provide opportunities through project work and within the organization for fellows to advance their goals

# Climate Theme Eligibility

To participate a local government must demonstrate a “capacity need”. This need is measured by the absence of 1 or more criteria:

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

# Water Theme Eligibility

Participating public agencies must demonstrate a “capacity need,” measured by the absence of 1 or more criteria:

- *Agency does not have dedicated staff responsible for cross-sector & inter-jurisdictional collaboration, or coordinating water & land use;*
- *Agency is not a member of an IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan);*
- *Agency is not actively participating in GSA formation (Groundwater Sustainability Agency) or GSP development (Groundwater Sustainability Plan);*
- *Agency is not currently equipped to meet ALL their data, research, planning, engagement, or coordination needs to adequately meet local water sustainability goals and state water management priorities.*

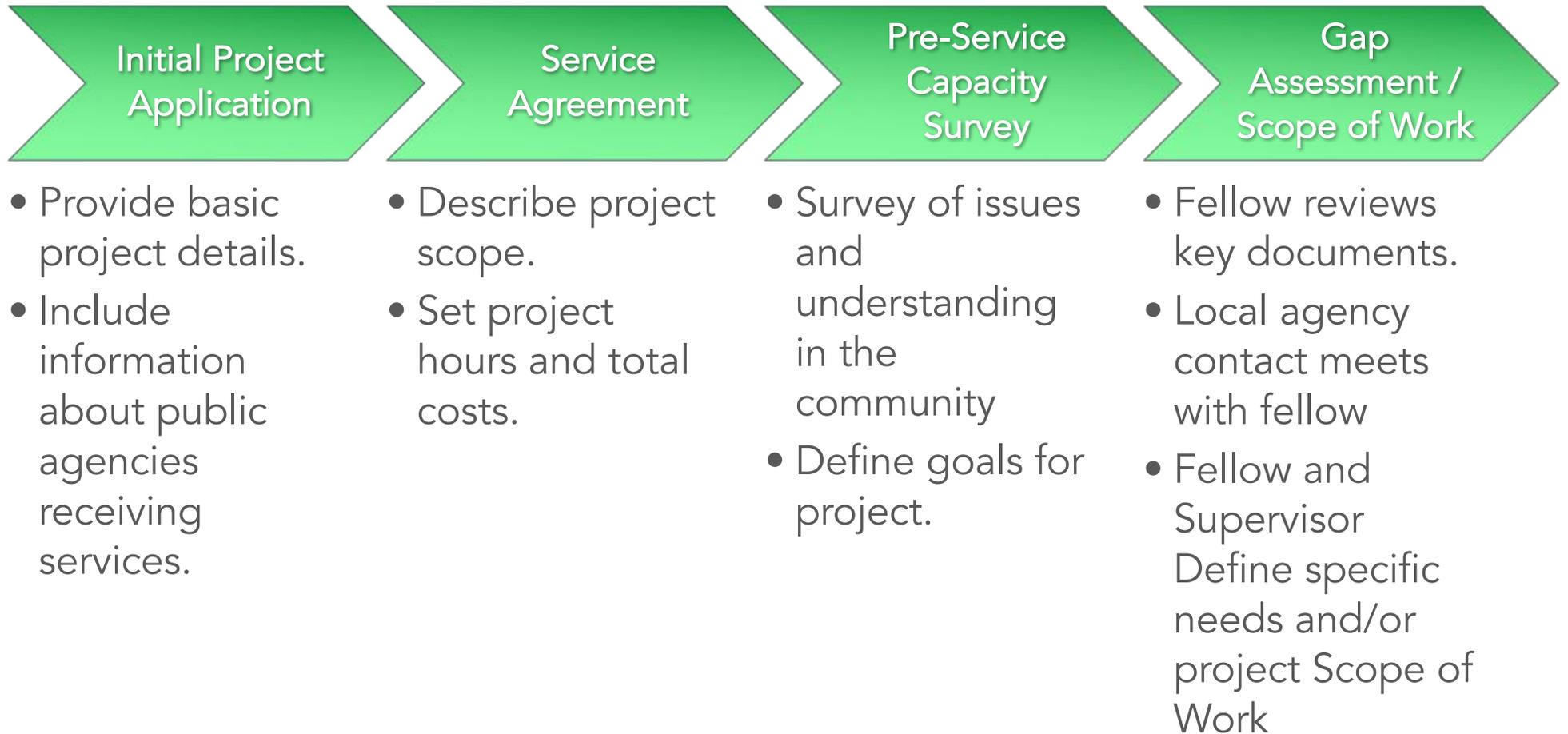
# 2017-18 Fiscal Contribution

- CivicSpark is funded by CNCS and Partner Match Funding.

	Climate Fellows Six months	Climate Fellows Eleven months (embedded)	Water Fellows Eleven months (embedded)
Cost	\$13,000 / Fellow	\$25,500 / Fellow	\$41,000 / 2 Fellows
Project Hours	650 Project hrs	1,300+ Project hrs	2,700+ Project hrs
Additional Benefits	20-40 additional Project-prep hours.  Up to \$200 in Project-related travel covered.	40-80 additional project-prep hours.  Up to 150 additional service hours for volunteer engagement.  Up to \$400 in project-related travel costs.	40-80 additional project-prep hours ( <i>per Fellow</i> ).  Up to 100 additional service hours for volunteer engagement ( <i>per Fellow</i> ).  Up to \$400 in project-related travel costs ( <i>per Fellow</i> ).

- NGOs and state agencies contract directly with LGC for CivicSpark fellows as long as projects have a defined local agency connection.

# Application & Project Startup Process



# Important Dates for 2017-18

- **Now:** Call for proposals is open. LGC staff talk with agency staff about interest and opportunities for engagement.
- **April 15:** Priority application deadline to submit initial basic application
- **September 1:** Target date for all service agreements to be signed.
- **Mid September:** Fellow orientation takes place.
- **End of September:** Projects get underway!

# Questions?

## Climate Theme

Kif Scheuer

[kscheuer@lgc.org](mailto:kscheuer@lgc.org)

(415) 717-4809

## Water Theme

Danielle Dolan

[ddolan@lgc.org](mailto:ddolan@lgc.org)

(916) 448-1198 x311

## OPR

Michael McCormick

[michael.McCormick@opr.ca.gov](mailto:michael.McCormick@opr.ca.gov)

(916) 323-9912



**Local  
Government  
Commission**

