Aligning Economic Development with Resilience

APRIL 24, 2019
NATIONAL ADAPTATION FORUM
California's Capital Region

- Six counties surrounding Sacramento
- Home to 2.5M, in 22 city and county jurisdictions
- Valley, foothills, and Sierra Nevada with both very blue and very red communities
- Majority-minority:
  - 38% Caucasian, 28.3% Hispanic/Latino, 13.4% African American, 18.7% Asian, 1.6% two or more races
- Sacramento County most language-diverse in state
  - 17 languages spoken by >2% population
- Growing inequities:
  - 34% of all families struggle economically, and
  - 66% of those without high school degrees, 47% Black and 42% Latino
Regional Climate Risks

**Heat**
- By 2050, 26 days >103.9 (currently 4)
- By 2100, summer average of 99F, equivalent of Tucson (currently 91F)
- Expected 4% annual decline in economic output for each 1C increase in temperatures

**Flood**
- Highest risk level in nation outside Louisiana
- Atmospheric rivers: more frequent and severe

**Drought**
- 2015 drought costs: $1.84B, >10,000 jobs

**Wildfire**
- Sierra and foothills communities at risk
- Wildfire-smoke air quality crises (Camp Fire, 2 weeks duration)
Shifting public opinion on climate action and jobs impact?

- Do you think that California doing things to reduce climate change in the future will result in ...
  - More jobs
  - Fewer jobs
  - No effect on jobs

- Will the results indicate a growing interest in explicitly connecting economic development efforts to climate actions?
Integrating Climate Resilience and Economic Development

1. Risk Mitigation
2. Resilience
3. Adaptation
4. Transformative Adaptation

Integration of Climate AND Economic Resilience
Integrating Climate Resilience and Economic Development

1. Risk Mitigation: Limit disasters’ devastation
   - Local Hazard Mitigation Planning
   - Disaster preparedness
   - Business resiliency planning

2. Resilience: Anticipate changes to limit economic risks
   - Levee strengthening
   - Forest management
   - Water-use efficiency measures
   - Cooling centers

3. Adaptation: Embed climate futures in economic development strategies
   - Integrate regional econ dev strategy into land use and transportation planning (SACOG)
   - "Green Means Go"

4. Transformative Adaptation: Create truly climate-adaptive economies
   - Shape economic and business strategies to accommodate and seize opportunities in future climate needs /realities
Where We Must Head

- The "silos" between community development and economic development are (rightly) being dismantled
  - Inclusive economic strategies in the Capital Region and around the country

- The next "silos" to fall will be those that distinguish between economic development and climate resilience
  - Economic strategies fully interwoven with climate change awareness, mitigation, and adaptation
Meg Arnold
Principal, GSD Consulting
(530) 867-1921
meg@gsdconsulting.net