Neighborhood-Focused Resilience:

Leveraging sustainability planning for revitalizing neighborhoods in distress

The Climate Center
December 2022

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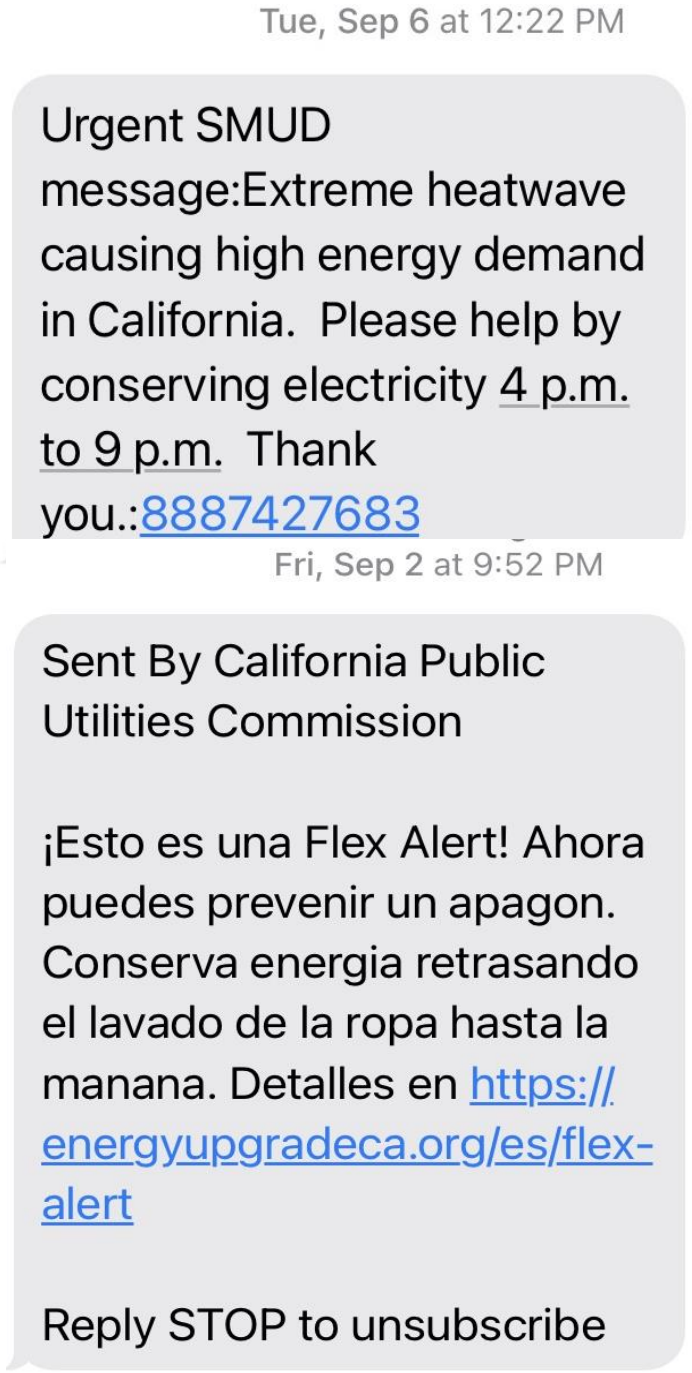
State legislation on climate change intervention: The focus is location and sustainability !!

- **Prioritizes the wellbeing of the "Disadvantaged Community" (DAC).**
  - Recognizes the "divided" city and the cumulative trauma from segregation, divestment, and disinvestment.
  - Spatial/racial differences in exposure to risk: cumulative effects.
  - The legislatively designated DAC is the key **unit of analysis** – not the "deficient" rate payer!
- Connects urban planning to public and environmental health:
  - Sustainable strategies now places a priority on neighborhood stabilization using environmental justice interventions.
- **Intervention through targeted <u>place-based</u> investment is the repeated legislative mandate - correcting disparate impact is the priority.**
- **The intent of the legislation focused on EJ is to include the DACs as part of the solutions for meaningful climate change interventions.**

AB 32
SB 375
SB 535
AB 1550
SB 100
SB 1000
SB 350
AB 211
AB 2645

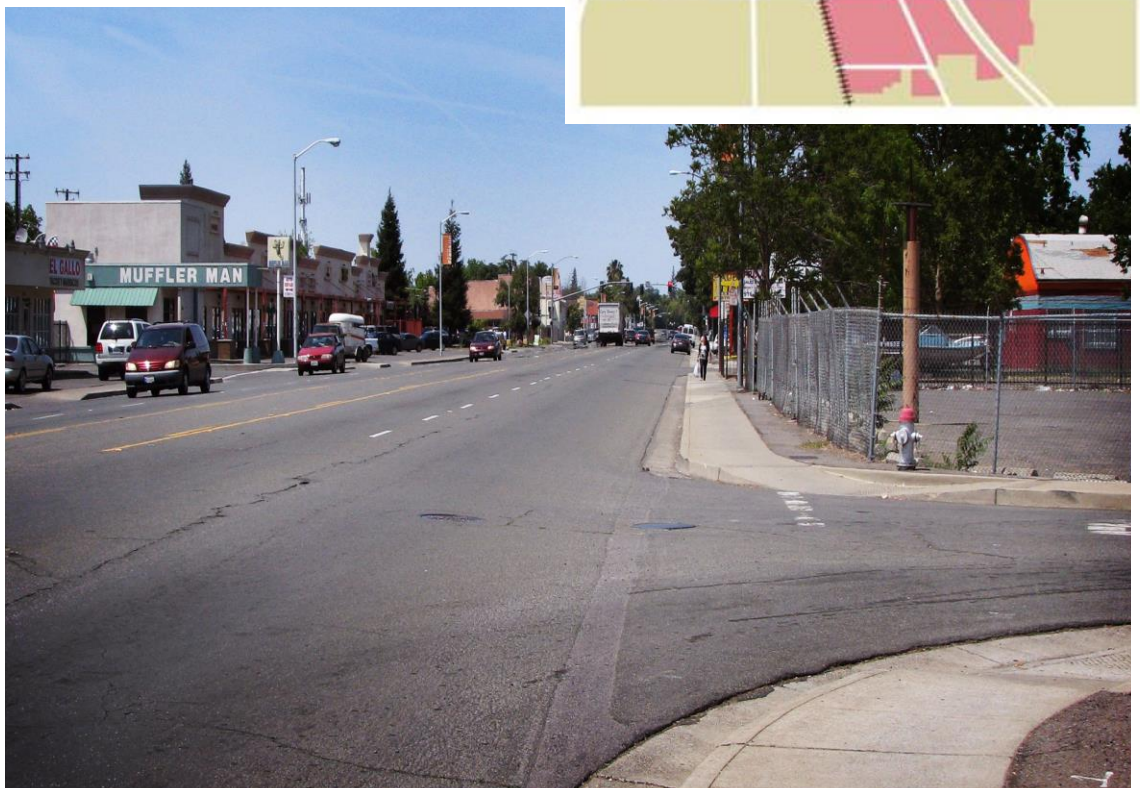
Context for Climate Change Intervention in the DACs

- Extreme inequality with multiple intersecting calamities: racial, social, economic, legal, environmental, public health are all spatially oriented.
- Increasing energy demands with temperature change.
- State agencies and utility companies have not indicated that local energy production is needed to meet future energy demands. The role of DACs in intervention strategies is uncertain.
- Lack of guidance for implementation of legislative mandates results in deficient energy planning for DACs.
- **Closed energy markets are the greatest barrier to environmental justice and DAC revitalization.**
- **How do disadvantaged neighborhoods respond?**



Case Study: North Franklin Neighborhood South Sacramento

- The project is in SB 535/AB 1550 legislatively designated Disadvantaged Community and is a California Climate Investment Priority Population.
- Multiple sources of pollution, poverty, and low economic productivity.
- Conditions reflect a cumulative trauma shaped by Sacramento's historical patterns of discriminatory housing policies and public disinvestment.
- Community Health Needs Assessments and multiple government data sources confirm long-term inequities, vulnerability, and urgency.
- Intensive neighborhood-focused research and planning produced sustainability strategies.
- **The resilience hub is one important outcome from the research and planning focused on the neighborhood.**



La Familia Counseling Center

- Services since 1970s – long-term trusted community partner
- Cultural approach to service delivery
- Health and social services/ crisis intervention
- Quasi-governmental agency capacity
- Safe house for all – no closed doors
- Hub for neighborhood access to critical social goods

The Opportunity Center at Maple School Park

- Designated HUD Envision Center
- Centralized hub that provide people with resources and support needed for:
  - educational advancement, economic empowerment, health/wellness, character/leadership
- Federal, state, & local agencies seek to build resilience network
  - HUD, FEMA, CDC, EPA, USDA …
- Safe access to social determinants
  - Emergency/disaster relief services
  - Immediate response to changing social/economic conditions
  - Public health/mental health access
  - Nutrition/social services/legal services/navigation
  - Education for social mobility; job training/job placement

Maple School Park Opportunity Center: Three Phases

- Closed elementary school conversion
- New construction for social and health services, workforce development
- Sports field conversion to public space/energy production

Resilience Hub capacity and neighborhood focused projects

Resilience Planning

- Locally owned energy production & storage
- Microgrid ready
- Islanding from grid
- Disaster recovery operations – portable energy
- Energy sale for financial sustainability
- Replicable/scalable model

Neighborhood economic productivity

- Electric vehicle recharging stations.
- Cradle to career pathways: Job training and workforce development (EV repairs)
- Solar installations and operations
- Energy asset management
- Health care access
- Energy sale spinoffs can create local market options at competitive pricing

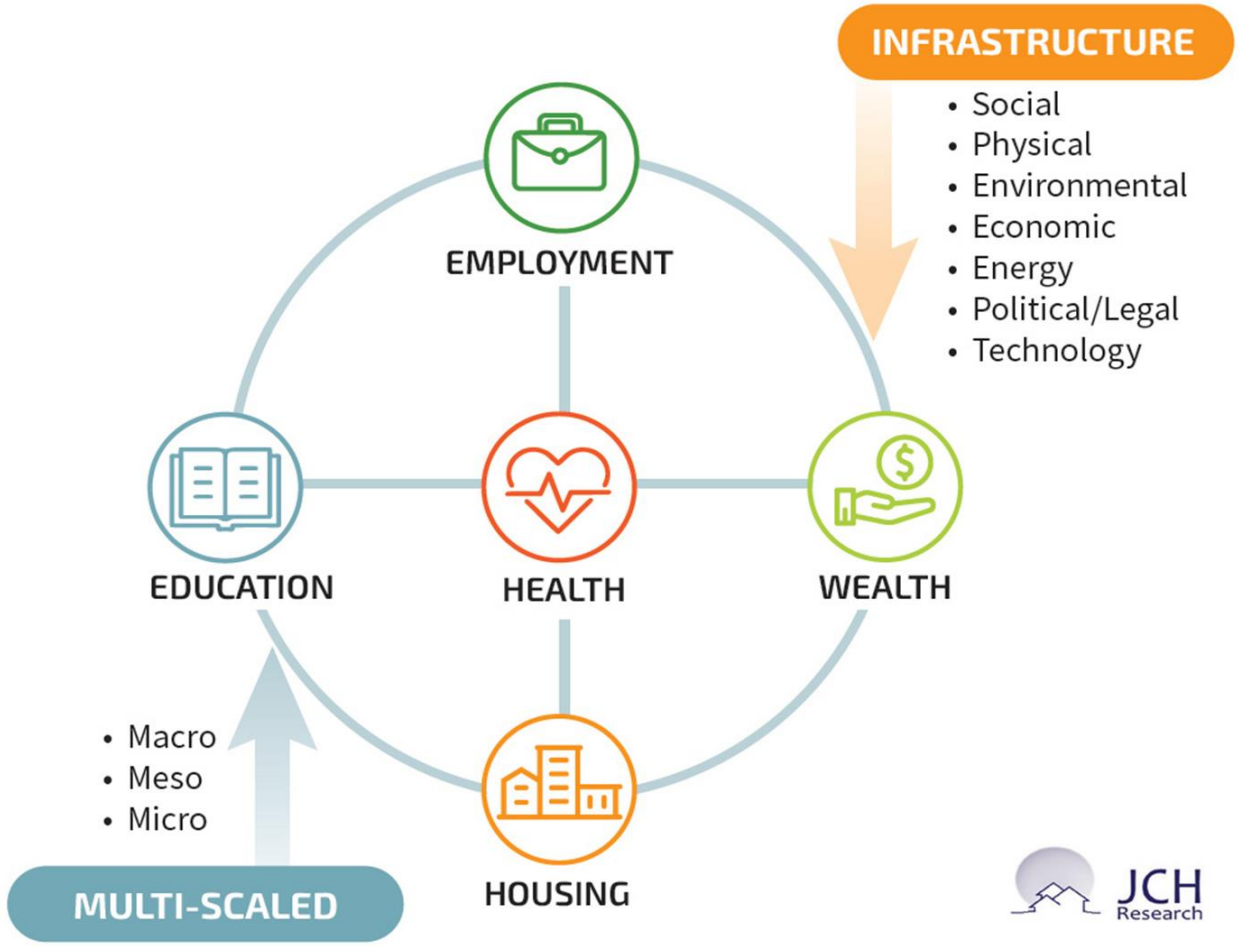
Environmental Impact

- Asphalt heat mitigation/parking canopies
- Extreme heat cooling center
- Green transportation and complete streets project
- Neighborhood shared EV use
- More solar means more GHG reduction
- Energy efficient environment
- Enhancing public, economic, and environmental health

Sustainability and resilience planning is essential for DAC stability

(the unit of analysis)

- Neighborhood stabilization requires:
  - Infrastructure that supports distributive decentralized management of social determinants – including energy !
  - Neighborhood-focused economic productivity: circular economic activity
  - Environmental risk and disaster mitigation planning
  - Cradle to career pathways in all social determinants
  - Intentional neighborhood focused urban planning that incorporates energy planning with:
    - Social determinants, e.g. housing, employment, education, infrastructure
    - Sustainability: restoration, regeneration, resilience, reliability, Title VI
    - Local energy planning must be a priority!



Making EJ legislative mandates operational is a multi-dimensional strategy

- The Resilience Hub turns state and regional climate change policies into short term projects and long-term programs.
- Creates pathways and opportunities in the energy and transportation sectors: electric vehicle repair, charging stations, solar installation, solar site development, and related technologies.
- Expands the physical capacity for neighborhood organizational and planning activities, education and workforce development, neighborhood public health and social services, and public gatherings. Public space is vital to neighborhood sustainability.
- Creates pathways to neighborhood public health services and energy jobs essential for neighborhood stability: they produce neighborhood-focused economic spinoffs!!!
- Focuses on sustainability: Restoration, regeneration, reliability, resilience, title VI
- Demonstrates how energy production is a key strategy for poverty intervention and economic productivity in one of the most poverty-stricken locations in the city.

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DAC market participation is key to equity, inclusion, and meeting clean energy needs

- Local resilience/sustainability planning requires the capacity to produce energy with on-site energy reserves
- Resilience Hub concept provides opportunity for renewable energy production, local ownership, and distribution
- Allows for competitive and reduced pricing
- Reducing utility costs can promote tenant and business retention and avoid displacement and gentrification
- Energy sale allows for economic sustainability of Resilience Hub
- Energy sale allows for scalability – financially sustainable sites means more neighborhood-owned renewable energy production that is reliable
- "Resilience Cooperatives" can provide infrastructure for scalability

Closed energy markets harm DAC economic productivity

- Our economy is still driven by markets and the ability to exchange a commodity for a price: energy is no exception from this economic structure.
- Lack of choice eliminates competitive pricing, which can lower the cost of purchasing energy and help stabilize local economies
- **Without grants, DAC energy development projects need capital for debt service.** Closed markets limits the ability to generate income for debt service and prevents bringing DAC market potential to scale.
- DAC participation in climate change and DER implementation is stunted and positive economic and environmental impact is denied – **DAC participation cannot be brought to scale**
- In a closed market, climate change solutions can only be realized through utility companies – regulation for energy production and exchange remains centered on the utility company.
- Environmental justice is intrinsically connected to energy market operations: **the structure of inequality goes unchallenged when markets are closed !!**

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Questions and inquiries are welcomed

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