



4C Newsletter | December 2024

Happy Holidays Central Coast Climate Resilience Practitioners!

In today's newsletter, you'll find 1) climate news and updates relevant to the Central Coast region, 2) funding and grant opportunities related to climate, and 3) upcoming events and webinars.

Would you like to include an announcement, job position, or regional update in a future newsletter? Please email us at centralcoastclimate@gmail.com.

4C Updates

Welcome to our 2025 Steering Committee members!

Thank you for participating in the recent selection process for the 2025 Steering Committee, and welcome to our 2025 Steering Committee members:

- Amaury Berteaud, Regional Ag/Special District/JPA Representative
- Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino, Youth/Youth Serving/Student Representative
- Em Johnson, Member At-large
- Erin Pearce, Educational Institution Representative
- Garrett Wong, County Government Representative
- Juan Lares, Non-Profit Organization Representative
- Kirsten Liske, Member At-large
- Nancy Faulstich, Social Justice Organization Representative
- Rachel Couch, State Agency Representative
- Teresa Romero, Tribal Representative
- Tiffany Wise-West, City Government Representative

Thank you to our past and continuing Steering Committee members for guiding our climate resilience efforts in the Central Coast region!

December 4C Member Meeting Recap

Thank you to our 4C members who attended the December 4C member meeting! We shared regional funding and program opportunities, discussed the value and goals of being part of a regional climate collaborative, and connected on next steps for 4C in 2025. Interested in being a member or joining our member list? Please email centralcoastclimate@gmail.com for more information and consider

becoming a member in 2025.

ARCCA Annual Meeting in San Diego

The Association of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) hosted its strategic planning session in San Diego this December. Regional collaboratives provided updates and strategized about the future of ARCCA and the value ARCCA can provide regional collaboratives moving forward. Thank you to 4C members and representatives who completed the ARCCA Strategic Visioning survey or attended a feedback session earlier this Fall.

Coming out of the San Diego meetings, **we are excited to announced that 4C will serve as Vice-chair for ARCCA in 2025!** Email centralcoastclimate@gmail.com if you have more questions on ARCCA's Strategic Visioning Process.

State and Local Updates



Proposition 4 passes: Californians approve \$10 billion for water, wildfire, and climate projects

California voters approved Proposition 4, the state's largest-ever climate resilience bond, with 60 percent support. This \$10 billion investment will fund critical areas such as water infrastructure, wildfire prevention, urban green spaces, and sustainable agriculture. The funding intends to improve water security, protect ecosystems, support community adaptation, and ensure long-term environmental sustainability by taking a comprehensive and interconnected approach to climate challenges. [Read more here!](#)

What does this mean for the Central Coast?

Prop 4 provides \$1.2 billion for coastal and ocean resilience projects, including the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems like coastal wetlands, dunes, and kelp forests. These efforts can help mitigate the effects of sea level rise, improve flood resilience, and protect biodiversity, all of which are critical to the Central Coast's natural resources and local economies. [\[CalMatters\]](#)

California to Receive Nearly \$1.2 Million from EPA to Help

Businesses Prevent Pollution

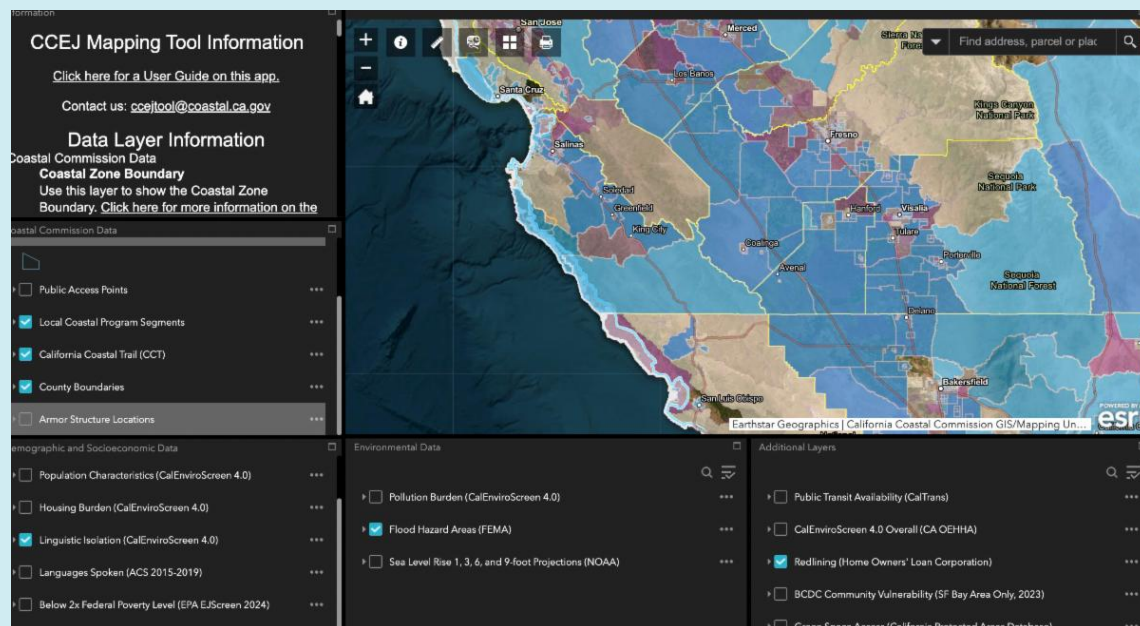
California is set to receive nearly \$1.2 million in funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assist businesses in implementing pollution prevention strategies and decreasing hazardous waste. These funds are part of the EPA's Pollution Prevention (P2) grant program, which promotes environmentally and economically sustainable practices.

The initiative aims to help businesses become more efficient, reduce waste, and improve the use of resources. By directing efforts towards preventing pollution at source, the program reduces the need for costly cleanup efforts and mitigates environmental impacts before they happen. [Read more here!](#)

Measure Q: Santa Cruz County's New Water and Wildfire Parcel Tax

This November, Santa Cruz County voters approved Measure Q, establishing an \$87 annual parcel tax to fund projects aimed at protecting water quality, reducing wildfire risks, and preserving natural habitats. The tax is expected to generate \$7.3 million annually. Funds will support local initiatives through grants, city and community-managed projects, and efforts by organizations like the Resource Conservation District. Read more about the initiative and funding allocation of Measure Q [here!](#)

Coastal California Environmental Justice Mapping Tool



The Coastal California Environmental Justice Mapping Tool (CCEJ Tool) is a step towards identifying whether a project, policy, or program will affect environmental justice communities disproportionately along the coast. The CCEJ Tool was developed to assist applicants, analysts, and the public with the implementation of the California Coastal Commission's Environmental Justice Policy. The CCEJ Tool consolidates a variety of public data to assist staff, applicants and the interested public in considering potential environmental justice implications of projects in the California Coastal Zone. The CCEJ Tool includes jurisdictional, environmental, and demographic data and indexes produced by various organizations. Looking at overlays or combinations of these data layers may assist users in considering whether projects may have unequitable environmental impacts.

Funding & Grant Opportunities

The CSCI is now accepting grants to help communities accelerate climate resilience plans and projects

The Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) is now accepting grant applications to help communities accelerate their climate resilience plans and projects. To be eligible for consideration, a community must be located in the United States and facing significant climate-related challenges, based on environmental as well as socioeconomic considerations. For the purposes of the grant program, a community must be represented by a community-based organization and a local, regional or tribal government entity working collaboratively, and they must complete the application in partnership with an adaptation professional. The initiative will accept applications into March of 2025, and expects to announce the awards in the summer of 2025. [Read more on prior grant recipients.](#)

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program

The Region 3 Grantmaker Deadline for 2-year grant applications has been extended to December 30, 2024. [Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmakers](#) for EPA Regions 2, 3, 8, and 10 are now open and accepting applications!

Coalition for Green Capital is now accepting applications for projects under EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund

Coalition for Green Capital (CGC) welcomes applications for financing of projects or portfolios of projects that qualify under the EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) through the “Request for Proposals for Financial Assistance for Qualified Projects or Portfolios of Qualified Projects” (RFP No.1). To learn more about the RFP and the instructions for submission, click [here!](#)

3C-REN Energy Efficiency Programs

3C-REN is pleased to announce the launch of two new programs to enhance energy efficiency in our community: Commercial Energy Savings and Agriculture Energy Solutions. Both programs are part of our ongoing commitment to reduce energy use and support the Central Coast's transition to a more sustainable energy future.

[Commercial Energy Savings](#) offers incentives to lower the cost of energy improvements at small and medium-sized businesses. Example projects might include water heater replacements, HVAC or refrigeration upgrades, and building insulation. The program not only aims to lower utility bills for business owners but also promotes sustainable decarbonization practices—contributing to a healthier environment for everyone.

[Agriculture Energy Solutions](#) is designed specifically for tri-county farmers and agricultural producers with high energy usage, such as controlled environment agriculture and greenhouse operations. Recognizing the unique challenges this sector faces, the program offers specialized assessments to properly scope energy

efficiency projects and connects producers to eligible incentives to help pay for upgrades. By investing in modern practices, farmers can potentially improve productivity while minimizing energy costs.



Annual Funding Opportunity from the National Fish Habitat Partnership

The California Fish Passage Forum receives funding through the National Fish Habitat Partnership via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to advance shared goals of protecting, restoring, and enhancing fish habitat, with the Forum's specific focus on anadromous fish populations in California. To fund a diverse portfolio of projects, strong project proposals that request less than \$100,000 are preferred. However, the Forums may fund proposals of particular merit at a higher level, at their discretion. Find relevant application details and form [here!](#)

Applications are now open for the latest round of Partners for Places grants

Partners for Places aims to enhance local capacity to build equitable and sustainable communities in the United States and Canada. These matching awards support the planning and implementing of urban sustainability and green stormwater infrastructure projects. The deadline to submit proposals is February 28, 2025. For more information, click [here!](#)

CAL FIRE Forest Health Grants

CAL FIRE provides funding for active restoration and reforestation activities to promote resilient forests. These grant funds help ensure the future of California's forests while also mitigating climate change, protecting communities from fire risk, strengthening rural economies, and improving California's water and air. The proposals are due by January 15, 2025. Apply [here!](#)

Coastal Conservancy Grants

The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) accepts grant applications on an ongoing basis for projects that benefit public access, natural resources, working lands, and climate resilience on the California coast and in the entirety of the nine SF Bay Area counties. The priority is to advance nature-based solutions where possible, with a focus on on-the-ground project development, including getting from concepts to implementable projects. Funded activities may include: (1) property acquisition; (2) project planning, including community capacity-building and involvement, feasibility, design, environmental review, permitting; and (3) construction and project-related monitoring. The funding does not have a maximum or minimum grant amount, but SCC anticipates that most grants will fall within the range of \$200,000 to \$5,000,000. Learn more [here!](#)

NOAA just released its final round of funding for

Transformational Habitat Restoration

NOAA Fisheries has announced its final round of funding for the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant. This opportunity supports projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems while enhancing resilience to climate hazards. The grant is open to non-profits, for-profit organizations, Native American tribal organizations, and state or local governments. With no match requirement, the program will provide up to \$100 million in total funding, with a maximum of \$10 million per project. Funded projects will span a three-year timeframe. Applications are due by April 16, 2025. To learn more, click [here!](#)

Events & Webinars



How to Collaborate with Promotores for Community Outreach

December 12 | 1 pm PST

This training will teach individuals how to work with Children and Family Resource Services (CFRS) and the [Santa Barbara County Promotores Network](#) so they may support projects with linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach. Promotores, trained and trusted community health workers, carry out outreach and education activities in Spanish and Mixteco, aiming to enhance awareness and participation in local planning and community initiatives. Examples of interactive activities include tabling outreach at events or high-traffic areas; door-to-door canvassing; trainings, classes, workshops, meetings, or presentations; distribution of flyers; responding to and/or administering surveys. [Register Here!](#)

Request for Public Input: California Coast & Ocean Report Card

December 2024 and 2025

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the California Ocean Science Trust (OST) are seeking input on the development of the first-ever California Coast and Ocean Report Card, a new product that will replace the [State of the Coast and Ocean Annual Report](#). Input is welcome from the public and especially from monitoring programs, community science groups, science networks, and community organizations. While the deadline for the survey was December 9, 2024 for priority input, it will stay open until 2025. Please complete this short survey using

Social Science Basics, hosted by NOAA

January 14 2025 Onwards

Learn about the human elements of various coastal issues during this virtual training series. Participants must attend one of the introduction sessions on January 14, 2025, before taking the additional modules. [Register Here!](#)

- Introduction to Partner Engagement: January 14, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern.
- Introduction to Partner Engagement: January 14, 2025, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Eastern.
- Writing Effective Survey Questions: January 21, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Eastern.
- Conducting Interviews: January 21, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Eastern.

Employment Opportunities



Regeneración Pajaro Valley is hiring a new Climate Resilience and Adaptation Manager

The position will be responsible for serving as Regeneración's liaison to the newly forming Monterey Bay Climate Action Adaptation Network (MBCAAN) and will oversee the planning and implementation of additional Climate Resilience and Adaptation projects as they are funded, as well as assisting with the general operations of Regeneración. The anticipated start date is January 15, 2025. This is a salaried position with an excellent benefits package. To apply, send a cover letter explaining why you are interested in this position along with a detailed resume to info@regenerationpajarovalley.org. Letters of reference are optional and may be submitted after your letter of interest. The [job listing is on their website here](#) and [on Indeed here](#).

Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA) is hiring a Senior Environmental Planner

Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority (VTA) is hiring for a Senior Environmental Planner and is looking for a candidate who possesses a combination of environmental and sustainability expertise with the ability to manage multiple projects, monitor sustainability metrics and report progress to VTA's Board of Directors, implement VTA's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), and provide oversight of VTA's Sustainability Program. The application deadline is January 5th, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Learn more and apply [Learn more and apply here](#).

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County: Conservation Project Coordinator

This full-time job will help execute complex projects to restore wetlands at the Pajaro River Estuary, to build wildlife crossings, and to construct and open nature trails at our Watsonville Slough Farm. The ideal candidate will be great with people, project management and tracking the details of contracts and grants. They would love to recruit those who know the people and lands of Santa Cruz County.

\$76,000-\$85,000/y with full benefits. The job is based at our Santa Cruz office. Details are here: [Careers | Land Trust Santa Cruz](#)

Consider joining 4C!

Benefits of membership include:

- Network with climate leaders and practitioners in the Central Coast region
- Exchange knowledge on best practices, replicable strategies, and innovative solutions on climate mitigation and adaptation
- Support for regional grant funding proposals and initiatives
- Find up-to-date climate change news, resources, opportunities, and events
- Engage to align state, regional, and local efforts: research and applied science, policies, programs, plans, and projects
- Expand leadership and awareness on equitable climate action and adaptive solutions
- Participate in working groups

If your organization is able to support 4C, please consider paying dues for your membership. Dues are optional as members, and members will not be rejected or excluded for their inability to pay. If you are able to pay dues, please provide us with the [size of your organization to help determine your payment amount](#). If you or your organization are unable to pay member dues, please inform us, and please consider sponsoring or providing in-kind contributions to meet 4C's objectives.

We also offer [membership reciprocity](#) with other select climate groups. Social and environmental justice groups join for free! See 4C's online [Membership Form](#) for additional details.

We are updating our listserv! Please update your contact information by emailing us at centralcoastclimate@gmail.com

[Central Coast Climate Collaborative](#)

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