



CivicSpark

The Local Government Commission and CivicSpark

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Local
Government
Commission



Agenda

- Overview of the Local Government Commission
- Overview of CivicSpark
- Introduction to CivicSpark: WaterCorps
- Application Timeline
- Questions



Local Government Commission: Leaders for Livable Communities

- Non Profit with over 35 years experience identifying and championing local governments who are or want to be sustainability leaders.
- Connect leaders, advance policies, and implement solutions for sustainable communities.
- Nexus of local government leadership, smart growth innovation, and environmental stewardship.



What is CivicSpark?

- A Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program.
- Dedicated to building public sector capacity.
- 2014-15 was the inaugural year.
- 48 CivicSpark members placed in 8 regions across California.



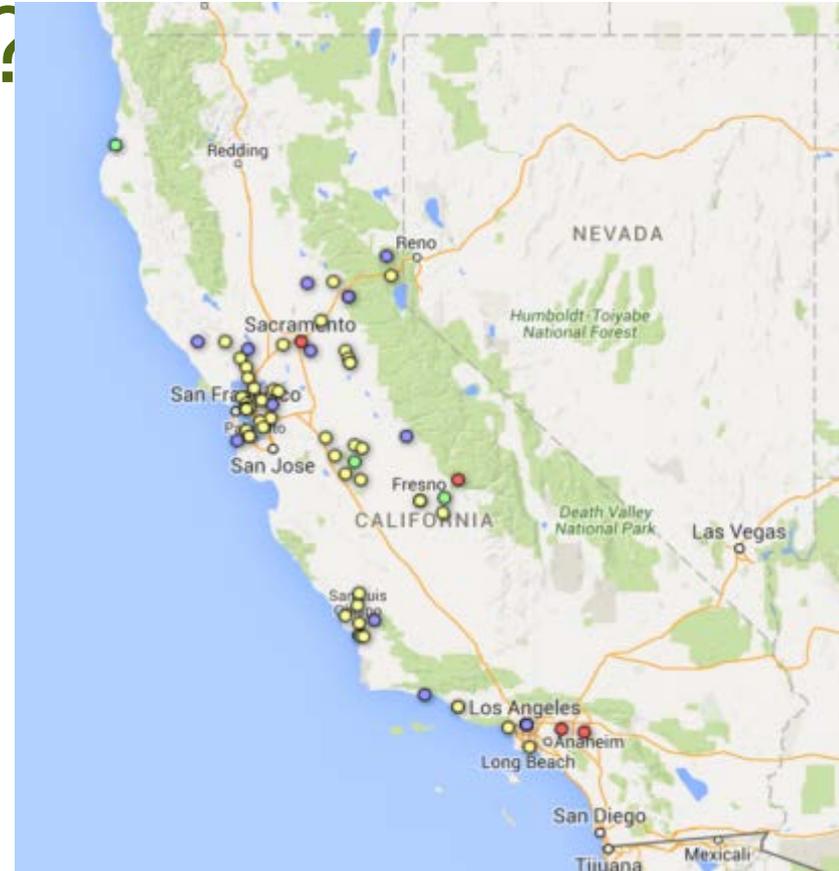
Who manages CivicSpark?

- The Local Government Commission is the overall program manager.
- Partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.
 - Work closely with the Administration, State agencies and departments and federal partners to support CivicSpark.
 - Helps local governments link to available tools and state goals.



Where in California?

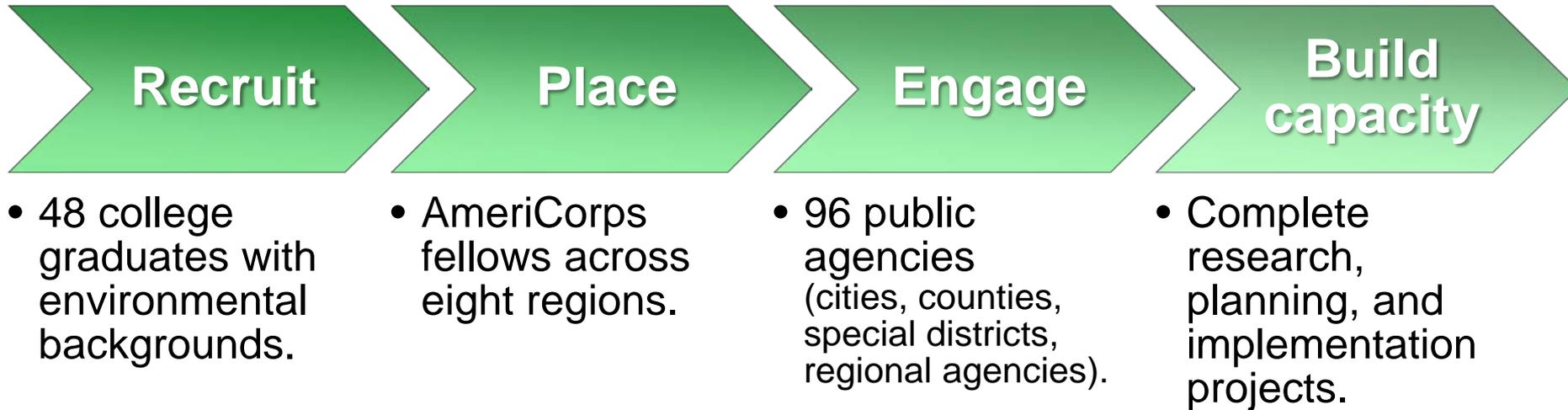
- Currently serving 8 regions:
 - North Coast;
 - San Francisco Bay Area;
 - Sacramento;
 - Sierra Nevada;
 - San Joaquin Valley;
 - Central Coast;
 - Inland Empire; and
 - Los Angeles.
- Each regional team consists of:
 - 3-7 CivicSpark AmeriCorps Members;
 - 1 Regional Coordinator; and
 - 1 Regional Partner.



“The Members have been great to work with and I am confident they have great careers ahead of them.”



Service Delivery Model



‘CivicSpark is creating a model of climate action in California. We are looking to CivicSpark Fellows 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



Project Examples

■ Climate Change

- Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County among others.
- Developing a statewide climate action database to support local climate action research and local government policymaking.

■ Water

- Assisting Water LA's science lead in the department of bio-diverse landscape plan templates and supporting program-related policy efforts to adapt existing street tree and parkway plan.
- Supporting water/energy system improvements and providing drought training for local government staff to support water-related resiliency initiatives in the region.

■ Transportation

- Supporting the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles and other alternative vehicle fuels to develop a robust market for alternative fuels in the broader North Coast region.
- Identifying specific climate risks and performing a quantitative assessment of the impacts on high-speed rail assets and future operations.



Great Partnerships Lead to Great Results

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

Approach

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

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

Benefits

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

Potential annual savings of 195-280 million gallons, \$1.7 million in avoided costs, and 300 MTCO₂e.

Results

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



CivicSpark

A program of the Local Government Commission



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Making a Lasting Impact throughout California

- In the 2014-15 Service Year CivicSpark Fellows provided over **62,000 hours of service** to California's communities supporting a wide range of actions including:
 - **8 climate or energy action plans;**
 - **100 energy assessment reports**
 - **17 climate action policies;**
 - **10 vulnerability assessments;**
 - **12 GHG inventories;**
 - **12 community workshops;**
 - **4 energy benchmarking reports;**
- *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.”



Making a Lasting Impact throughout California

- In 2014-15, Fellows directly engaged over **2,500 community members**, including residents, business owners, and the general public.
- In 2014-15 CivicSpark completed **37 projects** which supported **88 Local Government Agencies**.
- **Over 95% of completed projects** to date have met or exceeded goals.
- For 2015-16 we received **7 applications for each open position**; an acceptance rate greater than that of more established AmeriCorps programs.
- CivicSpark is currently implementing **42 projects** which are supporting **over 100 Local Government Agencies**.
- CivicSpark is leveraging about **\$1,000,000** in local match funding annually



New for 2016-17!

CivicSpark:WaterCorps

- 20 Fellows
- 10 teams of 2 around the state
- Focus: land-use/water connection
- Mirror's CivicSpark; some differences

↓ Cost

↑ Supervision required

≠ Eligibility



WaterCorps will help communities respond to critical water/land-use issues.

- WaterCorps Fellows will serve with local leaders responding to statewide priorities in water resources, such as implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the California Water Action Plan.
- Water/ Land Use issues:
 - Land use planning,
 - Groundwater management,
 - Flood mitigation,
 - Supply and demand challenges,
 - Watershed health



2016-17 Fiscal Contribution

- CivicSpark is funded by both CNCS and Partner Fiscal Contribution.

	Three months	Six months	Eleven months (embedded)	WaterCorps (estimated)
Cost	\$6,500/ 1 Fellow	\$12,350/ 1Fellow	\$23,400/ 1 Fellow	\$37,000/ 2 Fellows
Project Hours	325 @ \$20hr	650 @ \$19/hr (5% discount)	1,300+ @ \$18/hr (10% discount)	2,700 hrs @ \$14/hr
Additional Benefits	10-20 additional project-prep hours. Up to \$100 in project-related travel covered.	20-40 additional project-prep hours. Up to \$200 in project-related travel covered.	40-80 additional project-prep hours. Up to \$400 in project-related travel covered	\$3,000 host stipend

- *NGOs or local governments can contract directly with LGC for CivicSpark/WaterCorps fellows to support projects and programs as long as they have a local government connection.*



Key Dates for 2016-17

- Now: Call for proposals is open. LGC staff talk with potential partners about interest and opportunities for engagement.
- July 1: Priority application deadline to submit initial basic application
- **October 1:** Target date for all service agreements to be signed.
- **Early October:** Fellow orientation takes place.
- **Mid October:** Projects get underway.





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Questions?

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