

## **Project Description & Goals (750 words)**

### **1. Project Description**

Yolo County, the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation; University of California at Davis (UC Davis); the Cities of Davis and Woodland; Cool Davis; and Valley Vision (Regional Partners) will engage the community to 1) develop a needs assessment that identifies shared resilience priorities related to climate risks, including wildfire, extreme heat, drought, and flooding, 2) create a governance structure for the proposed Yolo County Regional Resilience Collaborative (Collaborative), to achieve these shared priorities, and 3) develop a funding and implementation strategy to build staff capacity and facilitate ongoing collaborative work in Yolo County, including implementing climate-resilient projects. The Regional Partners will focus on identifying shared priorities for addressing climate risks impacting vulnerable communities and will ensure vulnerable communities have a decision-making role in the Collaborative.

The proposed project aligns with the activities and objectives of local, regional, and state plans. The project will help fulfill the following priorities of California Climate Adaptation Strategy: 1) partner and collaborate to leverage resources; 2) strengthen protections for vulnerable communities, including Goal A, to engage with and build capacity in climate vulnerable communities. Yolo County and each of the County's incorporated cities have or are developing plans to assess climate impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, all of which rely on cooperation with other jurisdictions to maximize success. Shared plan themes relevant to this project include creating and participating in regional partnerships; sharing best practice strategies and jointly pursuing funding opportunities; engaging in regional planning to reduce commuting and GHG emissions; and engaging the region's collaborative community. A priority objective of Yolo County's emerging Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is the development of strong partnerships with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, UC Davis, the incorporated cities, as well as community-based organizations (CBOs) serving the County's most vulnerable communities. This goal reflects the County's unique role in coordinating climate resilience projects across jurisdictions.

The project will build on the Regional Partners' existing work to increase collaboration in Yolo County, which includes the informal Yolo Climate Compact—a regional network of more than 150 representatives that has met regularly for over 15 years to share resources related to climate resilience, and the more recent Yolo Resiliency Collaborative, an ad-hoc group of staff from local jurisdictions started in 2017 to collaborate on resilience issues such as extreme heat. The project will develop shared priorities and a formal governance structure to further this collaborative work for the first time in Yolo County's history and build critical staffing capacity—both through collaborative development and through hiring CivicSpark AmeriCorps Fellows to support planning—to ensure priority projects serving vulnerable communities can transition from planning to implementation. The Regional Partners will also benefit from working closely with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to identify shared climate resilience priorities which are informed by traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), as well as the Tribe's investment in innovative sustainable technologies and programs.

### **2. Who the project serves**

This project will serve the 220,000 residents of Yolo County, including residents living in the County's 13 Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities (CalEnviroScreen). The unincorporated communities of Knights Landing, Esparto, Madison, Guinda, and Dunnigan; the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, a sovereign Native American tribal government; the West

Sacramento neighborhoods of Broderick, Bryte, and the area surrounding the Port of West Sacramento; and portions of the Cities of Woodland and Davis are considered disadvantaged (at or above 75% CalEnviroScreen 4.0) and/or low-income (at or below 80% AB 1550). The shared regional resilience priorities developed as part of the proposed project will include climate-resilient projects that benefit these communities.

### **3. Expected project outcomes**

The project will result in Yolo County's first-ever governance structure for regional resilience collaboration; a needs assessment that identifies regional resilience priorities, informed by in-depth community engagement and partnership; project descriptions for shovel-ready resilience projects; and a funding and implementation strategy, all of which will further climate resilience work in the short term. Long-term, the Collaborative will utilize the funding and implementation strategy to pursue additional grant funding to implement shared priorities, including climate-resilient projects in vulnerable communities, share knowledge and resources to improve project outcomes, and increase the capacity of public agencies and CBOs supporting vulnerable communities.

## **Community Partnership, Needs & Priorities (1,000 words)**

### **What the community's needs and priorities are**

From April to July 2023, Yolo County staff and Commission members coordinated 23 outreach events and 18 public presentations to inform the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Update, engaging with hundreds of community members, and receiving more than 600 survey responses. 95% of respondents expressed concern about climate change, yet only 28% felt prepared to respond to climate risks.

Yolo County learned that community members want local jurisdictions to collaborate and align priorities, as well as strengthen leadership, knowledge, and access to resources in vulnerable communities to increase their ability to receive funding and implement projects that improve resilience. While local governments and other community-based organizations in Yolo County informally collaborate on climate resilience efforts, there is no formal structure, funding, or staffing to support this effort. Existing regional collaboratives are large (i.e., at a six-county scale) and do not provide the local lens needed in a rural, under-resourced County like Yolo.

### **Who identified the community's needs and priorities and how**

The proposed project builds not only on recent CAAP outreach, but also on more than 15 years of conversations at the Yolo Climate Compact, the Yolo Resiliency Collaborative, the Yolo County Climate Action Commission, and through the development of recent/previous County and City CAAPs. All this work supports the proposed project's goal of developing shared climate resilience priorities and a governance structure through which to build capacity and accelerate regional resilience objectives.

The Regional Partners will engage the community in the identification of shared climate resilience priorities by completing a needs assessment, which will assess existing conditions, identify resilience gaps, prioritize resilience needs, and secure public input guided by the attached Community Engagement Strategy. The needs assessment will include a specific focus on vulnerable communities and will incorporate and expand on input collected through the CAAP engagement process.

### **How the community's needs and priorities informed the project design**

The Regional Partners designed the proposed project based on input received during the development of ongoing climate action and adaptation plans, including via surveys and public comment, community workshops, public meetings, and tabling events in low-income and vulnerable communities, including in the rural, unincorporated area. Regional Partners met multiple times to develop the proposed project and define individual roles, as well as reviewed the grant application.

There is strong support for the proposed project, as indicated by Regional Partner participation and attached support letters. The Yolo County Climate Action Commission, an 11-member community advisory body to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors responsible for centering equity and ensuring a Just Transition in climate action projects, formally supported the proposed project in July 2023.

### **The project's community engagement and partnership plan**

The Regional Partners will implement the attached Community Engagement Strategy, informed by state and federal guides to community engagement, such as the 2018 California Climate Investments "Best Practices for Community Engagement and Building Successful Projects" (Best Practices) and the 2019 federal "Regional Resilience Toolkit. Prior to implementing the Community Engagement Strategy, the Regional Partners will seek additional feedback from community-based organizations representing vulnerable communities and parties interested in helping the Regional Partners reach intended audiences. For all meetings, the Regional Partners will prepare detailed meeting summaries and share with participants for comment to "groundtruth" feedback.

- **Interested party “map.”** Consistent with the federal Resilience Toolkit, Regional Partners will create an interested party map to visualize relationships in the community and establish which interested parties are the highest priority for engagement.
- **Community-based organization interviews.** Consistent with the federal Resilience Toolkit and the California Climate Investments best practices to “build trust in partnerships and relationships,” Regional Partners will conduct up to 10 interviews with community-based organizations. Regional Partners will listen to their experience, acknowledge the past, provide information about the proposed process, receive information about climate risks and associated investments in climate resilience, and identify opportunities to expand adaptive capacity, identify shared priorities, and develop a future governance structure that will meet their needs. Regional Partners also will meet with the Yolo Youth Commission to encourage youth participation.
- **Public workshops.** The Regional Partners will hold up to two public meetings to review key deliverables, such as the needs assessment, priority project list, and proposed governance structure with the community, specifically with vulnerable communities and the CBOs serving them. The Regional Partners will provide translation services, accessible meetings times, childcare, food, and stipends to community organizations to participate.
- **Community advisory committees.** The Regional Partners will review the community engagement strategy, needs assessment plan and findings, and governance structure options with relevant committees and community leaders in Yolo County, including the City of Davis Natural Resources Commission, the City of Woodland Sustainability Advisory Committee, Yolo County’s Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Committee, the Yolo County Climate Action Commission, and UC Davis or other researchers with expertise in developing climate resilience needs assessments and governance structures.
- **Newsletters and websites.** The Regional Partners will send up to four email and hard copy newsletters (since some people do not have reliable internet access) to interested parties based on established distribution lists and development of an expanded contact list through this process. The Regional Partners also will maintain a website specific to this effort and update it regularly with links to survey opportunities, meeting announcements, and results from meetings.
- **Surveys.** Since many people cannot afford to attend meetings, the Regional Partners will also work in partnership with community-based organizations to distribute up to two surveys, available in multiple languages, to help seek feedback about the project, including one at the outset of the process to both provide information about the process and seek feedback on community engagement preferences.
- **Success measurement.** The Regional Partners will track survey and meeting participants by zip code, number of participants, and range of organizations and communities represented.

## **Climate Risks and Multiple Benefits (1,000 words)**

### **1. The region's greatest climate risks**

Yolo County faces many of the challenges outlined in the RRGP (including drought, flood, extreme heat, increasing temperatures, and wildfire) and is acutely aware of the need for quick, decisive action to create climate resilience in our communities, especially those that include vulnerable populations. According to the draft Yolo Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), released in June 2023, drought is the top hazard risk to Yolo County. Wildfire is number 3, flooding is 5, high wind is 6, and extreme heat is 7. All these impacts have a substantial to high degree of risk, and a moderate to high degree of severity. These risks align with community concerns highlighted in the preliminary Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Survey, which approximately 400 community members completed in the Spring of 2023. 95% of respondents noted they were “somewhat” or “very” concerned about climate change. 41% were concerned about wildfire/smoke, 39% drought, 38% extreme heat, 22% flooding, 18% stronger storms/winds, and 18% were concerned about “all of the above.” Despite, or perhaps because of, this high level of concern, only 28% of respondents felt that their family was prepared to respond to climate impacts. This data underscores that Yolo County needs to build adaptive capacity to respond to climate risks, particularly in low-income and vulnerable communities lacking the resources to participate in unfunded climate resilience forums.

According to the Public Health Institute and UCLA, climate hazards in Yolo County are projected to worsen with time. The region is expected to reach 49 days above 100 degrees and 122 days above 90 degrees per year between 2035 and 2064 (a 300% increase from present day). Rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns are expected to exacerbate surface and groundwater scarcity, increase the prevalence of invasive species, impact water quality, and stress agricultural activities, which are integral to the region's economy. Prolonged periods of extreme heat can result in job loss, heat-related illnesses, increased energy demands for cooling, degraded air quality, and increased wear and tear on infrastructure, resulting in rising maintenance costs.

These conditions also create a favorable environment for wildfires to ignite and spread rapidly. Yolo County is surrounded by vast expanses of vegetation, including grasslands, woodlands, and forests, which can serve as potential fuel for wildfires. Wildfires can have severe consequences, leading to property damage, loss of lives, and long-lasting environmental and economic impacts. Smoke from wildfires can also degrade air quality, posing health risks to the community. The 2020 LNU Lightning Complex Fire, for example, which was started from lightning strikes, fueled by extreme heat, and fanned by strong winds, burned for over two weeks, killing six people and destroying 1,500 buildings over 400,000 acres across Yolo County and several adjacent counties.

More intense precipitation events, delivered in a shorter wet season, also are projected to increase annual precipitation from 19.7 inches to 20.6-20.8 inches by midcentury and 20.3-22.7 inches by the end of the century. Severe storms could likely increase the frequency of flooding within—as well as expand the extent of—Federal Emergency Management Agency flood hazard zones. Flooding could impact structures and property, including critical facilities, local roads, and emergency services.

### **2. Whether the application addresses the region's greatest climate risks**

The needs assessment included in the proposed project will allow Regional Partners to evaluate existing climate risks, identify actions to address the greatest climate risks (including in vulnerable communities), and develop and prioritize projects to address these needs. The proposed governance structure will provide a mechanism through which local organizations can partner to apply for funding and implement projects related to the region's greatest climate risks, as well as help CBOs serving vulnerable communities, which may have limited staffing and organizational capacity. The project will provide a forum for thoughtful and efficient climate resilience planning to ensure the region can adequately prepare for, respond to, and recover from increasing drought, extreme heat, flood, and wildfire risk, including developing a funding and implementation strategy to allow partners to identify funding opportunities in advance and develop projects in time to apply. The combined needs assessment, governance structure, and funding and implementation strategy will provide a systematic approach to maximize climate resilience and address multiple, interconnected regional climate risks.

### **3. Methods the project will use to address the climate risks**

For the proposed needs assessment, the Regional Partners intend to use climate projections based on the best available science and local and/or regional data to identify climate risks and exposures, describe the impact of climate change risks and exposures on the community, and identify and prioritize climate adaptation measures and objectives that address such impacts. Yolo County and other Regional Partners have participated in workshops related to the California Fifth Climate Change Assessment, and plan to utilize the most up-to-date regional reports and datasets as soon as they become available. Regional Partners also plan to utilize the framework presented in the 2020 California Adaptation Planning Guide (and forthcoming update), General Plan Guidelines, and other relevant tools and resources as outlined in Appendix D. Partners will cross reference methodologies with those of relevant, up-to-date regional plans such as the HMP and the Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, both of which coordinated on projections and datasets.

### **4. The multiple benefits the project offers**

The proposed project will benefit all communities in the Yolo County region by creating the first formal governance structure to address climate risks and increase climate resilience. The project will focus on providing benefits to vulnerable communities who experience the greatest impacts of climate change, including the elderly, youth, low-income, and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. Additionally, the Regional Partners will utilize a broad knowledge base by combining jurisdictions' existing plans, resources, and experts, which will maximize positive impacts to the region. The Regional Partners further commit to an inclusive process that engages and empowers all interested parties, including historically under-represented and disproportionately impacted communities.

## Regional Partnership (1,000 words)

### 1. The regional partnership structure (i.e., who are the applicants and co-applicants)

The Regional Partners are Yolo County, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, University of California at Davis, City of Davis, City of Woodland, City of West Sacramento (unfunded), Cool Davis, and Valley Vision. Together, the Regional Partners serve the diverse population of Yolo County, including tribal lands, the incorporated cities, and the unincorporated area. With administrative support (in the form of agenda development, meeting summaries and meeting facilitation) from Yolo County and selected consultants, the Regional Partners will convene monthly to assess priorities and advance planning through a consensus decision-making process. Regional Partners already have established relationships and a history of effective self-governance on past regional efforts.

Regional Partners will leverage combined expertise to identify climate risks and prioritize actions to address risks in the Yolo County region, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities. Each Regional Partners brings unique strengths and approaches to the project which will improve their ability to effectively respond to climate risks, serve vulnerable communities, and increase individual and collective capacity.

Yolo County convenes a Climate Action Commission, an eleven-member volunteer advisory body charged developing and implementing of the County's CAAP update and ensuring vulnerable, marginalized, and historically underserved communities are centered in the process. The Commission consists of community leaders, activists, parents, and climate experts from across the County who can provide input to ensure the lived experiences of vulnerable communities are centered in the process.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is a federally recognized sovereign tribal government located in the Capay Valley of rural western Yolo County. Since time immemorial, the Tribe has tended the land, protected plant and animal species, and preserved ecological balance. As a responsible steward of its lands, the Tribe is committed to protecting critical natural resources and adapting to climate change impacts. The Tribe adopted a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2022 and has already begun implementing projects and pursuing grant funding related to wildfire prevention, drought response, and flood risk reduction on tribal lands. The Tribe participates as an ex-officio member on the Yolo County Climate Action Commission, ensuring the Tribe, along with other frontline rural communities, has a voice in the decision-making process and can help shape resilience goals.

Since its formation in 1908, the University of California, Davis has served the Yolo County region and State of California through nationally ranked education, research, and medical care. UC Davis will connect the Regional Partners to researchers across the University working on climate resilience and environmental and social justice, as well as experiential learning programs that advance equitable community-centered engagement.

Cool Davis approaches climate action and resilience from a positive, collaborative, community-based and action-oriented perspective. It is imperative to include people and organizations who work at levels closest to the community when identifying problems and designing solutions. Cool

Davis brings broad experience in community engagement, and a commitment to inclusionary practices focused on a Just Transition for every neighborhood.

Valley Vision has served the Greater Sacramento region for 25+ years and is recognized for bringing communities together to tackle the region's biggest challenges through action-oriented research, partner engagement, and collaborative problem-solving. Valley Vision will connect Regional Partners to climate and economic development planning and collaborative efforts underway across the region, including the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), the Prosperity Strategy Partnership, the Yolo Food Hub Network, and the Cleaner Air Partnership.

The City of Davis recently adopted its 2020-2040 CAAP following an extensive community engagement process. As a founding member of the Yolo Resiliency Collaborative, Davis is committed to Countywide planning and implementation. Davis is recognized for its significant commitment to sustainability and innovative leadership in transportation, energy, waste management, water and stormwater, and climate action.

The City of Woodland's Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells and expansive municipal solar installation are nationwide models for sustainable investments at the mid-sized municipal level. In addition, the City's close relationship with its over 190 food and agriculture-related businesses is focused not just on economic development but also on the growth of more resilient and equitable food and energy systems.

## **2. Partner responsibilities and long-term goals.**

Yolo County is responsible for implementing the project as the lead applicant. Co-applicants will review and edit documents, provide expertise to inform the process, and secure approval from their respective governing bodies for the final deliverables. Yolo County will hire a consultant to help develop the needs assessment, identify governance options, resilience priorities, and funding and implementation strategies. The consultant will also coordinate monthly meetings, follow up on action items, and create detailed meeting summaries to ensure work moves forward expeditiously. Yolo County will track tasks and share working documents with the Regional Partners using Microsoft Teams to facilitate progress between meetings and foster discussion on individual projects. The Regional Partners will agree to a set of equity principles to guide the planning process.

The Regional Partners will build their individual and collective capacity by hiring CivicSpark AmeriCorps Fellows to support planning work, recruit and compensate CBOs serving vulnerable communities participate in and assist with the engagement process, developing descriptions of shovel-ready projects and a funding and implementation strategy to continue this work beyond the grant term. Capacity-building resources will be prioritized for co-applicants serving vulnerable communities.

The proposed project will improve the region's ability to identify and implement short-term projects and achieve long-term climate resilience goals individual entities would be unable to complete in isolation. The needs assessment will serve as a roadmap for implementing priority projects for the next five years and partners envision that the chosen Collaborative governance structure will exist in some form for a decade or more, serving as a central hub and strategic guide for collaborative, equitable resilience work.

Regional Partners will measure progress by developing a detailed timeline with specific deliverables and tracking key milestones during the process. The Regional Partners will also measure progress by the number of priority projects for which funding has been identified/for which Regional Partners can apply for implementation funds over the next five years.



## Budget Narrative Response

500 words, 3,500 characters

The proposed budget provides funding for Yolo County and Co-Applicants (together, “Regional Partners”) to complete a 30-month planning process to deliver a climate resilience needs assessment (including shared priorities), develop a governance structure for the proposed Yolo Regional Resilience Collaborative (“Collaborative”), create a funding and implementation strategy for priority resilience projects and the long-term operation of the Collaborative, and refine and implement the community engagement plan. The budget further includes funding to build capacity with community-based organizations to ensure the needs assessment and the governance structure reflect the priorities of vulnerable communities, as well as extensive community outreach on the climate resilience needs assessment and governance structure options. The budget also includes funding for Regional Partner outreach to additional potential members of the proposed Collaborative to ensure Collaborative membership reflects the diversity of the Yolo County community and includes representation from vulnerable communities and the organizations serving them.

The Regional Partners based the budget on estimates of staff and consultant costs resulting from experience implementing similar projects. All cost estimates account for cost increases which are likely to occur as a result of ongoing inflation and other factors between the time this application is submitted and execution of the grant agreement. Each Regional Partner provided an hourly rate and agreed that eight hours per month (*with a one-month recess each summer and at the end of each year*) is a reasonable estimate for participation in meetings, review of draft documents, assistance with connecting appropriate team members to experts, and engagement in community outreach throughout the grant term. Yolo County based the cost for CivicSpark fellows on past Yolo County contracts for CivicSpark fellows, assuming annual cost increases throughout the duration of the grant term. Estimates for community engagement are based on similar equity-driven efforts, including community engagement associated with development of local Climate Action and Adaptation Plans. The budget further recognizes the organizational strengths of each Regional Partner and allocates funding only to consultants when expertise is needed to achieve the project’s deliverables. The budget further allocates funding for evaluation activities and a case study to encourage peer-to-peer learning, as the Regional Partners expect the need assessment and governance structure will serve as a model for other counties who have not yet developed an entity to coordinate regional climate resilience efforts.

The budget further reflects the grant term’s timeline by estimating costs for regular coordination meetings over the entire 30-month grant term, as well as staggering work by starting first with the needs assessment, then development of governance options, a governance description, and a Memorandum of Understanding for Yolo Regional Resilience Collaborative member consideration, and finally a funding and implementation strategy to guide the Yolo Regional Resilience Collaborative’s efforts to secure funding and implement shared priorities identified in the needs assessment.

## Organizational Capacity (500 words)

### Administrative Experience

Yolo County has the expertise needed to manage the fiscal, administrative, and operational responsibilities of the grant and project, including internal processes for financial tracking, accountability, and reporting. Kristen Wraithwall, Yolo County's Sustainability Manager, will be responsible for working with the County's Department of Financial Services to execute contracts with consultants and CBOs, pay invoices, submit grant reimbursements, and manage the budget. She has 10 years of experience managing state and federal grants, including grant reimbursements, payment of invoices, and reporting.

Regional Partners have committed 8 hours per month to the planning process. As part of this commitment, they will attend planning meetings, review documents, and collaborate with experts, community members, and CBOs serving vulnerable communities within their networks. Letters of support outlining these commitments are attached.

### Programmatic Experience

The Regional Partners have programmatic experience participating in and leading collaboratives, designing equity-focused programs, and building relationships with and serving vulnerable communities.

- Kristen will draw on her experience managing Yolo County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and previous experience managing the CivicSpark AmeriCorps program, which built capacity for under-resourced public agencies and CBOs to address resilience challenges.
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation's Sarah Morgan leads the Tribe's climate change adaptation planning and implementation program and has secured and managed multiple grants on behalf of the Tribe.
- As UC Davis Sustainability's Engagement Program Manager and Interim Director, Carla Fresquez brings her experience facilitating experiential learning opportunities related to environmental justice, sustainability outreach, and stakeholder engagement.
- Spencer Bowen leads the City of Woodland's Office of Equity, Environment, Economy, and Engagement. He created and implemented the City's first Equity Action Plan and partnered with Woodland's Sustainability Advisory Committee to shape bicycle-friendly infrastructure investments.
- For more than a decade, Cool Davis has coordinated a coalition of non-profits, faith communities, schools, businesses, and neighborhood organizations to address resilience in the Davis community.
- As Valley Vision's Food and Agriculture Project Leader, Grace Kaufman's experience building collaboratives and crafting policy frameworks will help align the Collaborative with other local and regional efforts as well as state and federal funding opportunities.
- Kerry Loux managed the City of Davis's recently-adopted CAAP. She brings her experience collaborating with CBOs and working with vulnerable populations to ensure their lived experience frames City actions.

In addition to the expertise of the representatives of each of the Regional Partners, each representative can draw from expertise within their organizations as needed to improve project outcomes.

## **Plans to Meet Capacity Gaps**

The Regional Partners propose to hire a consultant or consultants with experience developing needs assessments, coordinating collaborative processes, and developing governance structures to assist with the project, as well as help with project management, as described in the Regional Partnership section. The consultant will provide technical expertise the Regional Partners do not possess, an independent facilitator of meetings to help move discussions forward, identify actions, enforce deadlines, and additional project management support to Yolo County. Additionally, Regional Partners plan to hire a CivicSpark Fellow to support research, planning, and coordination throughout the process.