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Urban Forestry Support Program Overview

The San Joaquin Valley is the fastest growing region in California, and population forecasts indicate that the number of Valley residents will more than double to 8.2m by 2060. The California Urban Forestes Council and the Local Governmetn Commission with funding by CalFire is launching an educational and Technical Assistance program for the San Joaquin Valley that is offering a suite of free workshops, events, and technical assistance services in 2015.

Why Urban Forestry?

Urban forests – trees in parks, yards, public spaces and along streets – have been recognized as a cost-effective means to improve environmental quality, increase the economic, physical and social health of communities, and foster civic pride – each of which will take on greater significance as communities strive to preserve and improve their quality of life in the face of this growth.¹

Trees Are a Smart Investment of Public Dollars

Studies have shown that every dollar invested in trees yields \$2 to \$4 in benefits including cleaner air, lower energy costs, improved water quality and stormwater control, improved aesthetics and increased property values



Trees Cool Our Cities

Urban greening provides the greatest benefit in mitigating the urban heat island effect and cooling ambient air temperatures. In the San Joaquin Valley where summer months are hot and dry, urban greening has among the highest cooling potentials in the nation at 5-10° F.²

Trees Clean Our Air and Provide Health Benefits

The American Lung Association found that San Joaquin Valley communities face air-pollution challenges unparalleled in the United States that negatively impact the health of Valley residents, resulting in \$135 million in annual hospitalization charges for asthma alone.³ Urban trees in the US remove 711,000 metric tons of air pollution (O3, PM10, NO2, SO2, CO) annually at a value of \$3.8 billion!⁴ More locally, in Modesto, a study found that municipal trees absorbed 154 metric tonnes (3.7lb/tree) of air pollution annually.⁵

Green Jobs

California's environmental policies are injecting hundred of millions of dollars in to a growing industry for resource management and these jobs are high - quality careers that provide a new industry opportunity for Valley residents. Urban forestry professionals make up a percentage of emerging jobs and the City of Visalia is already prepared for this with their

¹ USDA Forest Service's Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education (Pacific Southwest Research Station

² Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station

https://www.itreetools.org/streets/resources/Streets_CTG/CUFR_38_Inland_Valleys_CTG.pdf

³ American Lung Association <http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/assets/pdfs/advocacy/sjv-public-health-crossroads/san-joaquin-county-public.pdf>

⁴ Nowak, David, Daniel Crane, and Jack Stevens. "Air Pollution Removal by Urban Trees and Shrubs in the United States." *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* 4 (2006): 115-23. Web. <<http://www.fs.fed.us/ccrc/topics/urban-forests/docs/Air%20pollution%20removal%20by%20urban%20trees%20in%20the%20US.pdf>>

⁵ http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/cufr_36_Modesto%20JOA.pdf



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Sequoia Community Corps program that trains young and disadvantaged members of the community on skills necessary for gaining meaningful employment in green job sectors.⁶

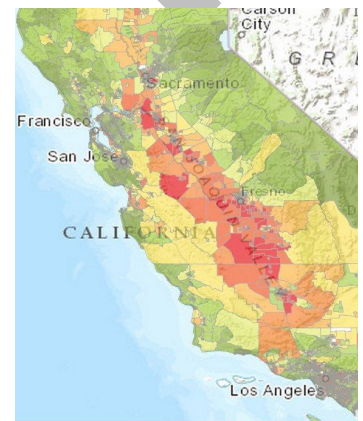
Urban Greening in a Time of Drought

Improving your city's urban forest doesn't necessarily require that you plant more trees (an especially critical consideration during a drought), but working with the resources you already have. A smart strategy could include developing a tree inventory, mapping your urban forest, and/or adopting and implementing a long-term tree management plan. These efforts can be initiated now and may increase grant competitiveness and will better prepare San Joaquin Valley cities for future plantings.



CalFire Grants: Money for urban forestry with priority funding for disadvantaged communities

CalFire is administering \$17.8 million dollars of carbon cap and trade revenue for urban forestry projects in the 2014-15 grant cycle - this is the largest one-year single-state allocation for urban forestry and is expected to continue in future years. The grant process will prioritize funding for projects that serve disadvantaged communities, as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency developed tool *California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool* (CalEnviroScreen) to identify communities that are disproportionately burdened by pollution and most vulnerable to its negative effects, given various health and socioeconomic disparities. The San Joaquin Valley is characterized by high-need CalEnviroScreen scores and investing in the Valley is a certain priority.



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This support program is bringing the following resources to Valley Communities in 2015.

- Educational Materials: A factsheet for local policymakers on the value of urban forests to Valley Communities.
- Regional Workshops: the program team will conduct 3 workshops in Northern, Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley to provide information about urban forestry, cap and trade funding opportunities, eligible projects and best practices. These workshops will be aimed at local government staff, community members and nonprofit organizations with the goal of creating strong interest and new partnerships for the next round of CalFire grants.
- Policymaker Forums: The program team will hold 3 dinners in Northern, Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley for local elected officials to build awareness and support for urban forestry efforts.
- Technical Assistance: The team will also provide technical assistance to interested local governments in disadvantaged communities within the San Joaquin Valley. This will include staff support from CaUFC and LGC and on the ground training and assistance through LGC's new Governor's Initiative CivicSpark AmeriCorps program.

⁶ <http://californiareleaf.org/jobs/cset/>