



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIAN LOMELI

# Transformation In Action

## Transformative Climate Communities



The Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Program funds community-led development and infrastructure projects in California's most disadvantaged communities. Administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and funded by Cap-and-Trade, the program empowers local communities to design their own plans for achieving major environmental, health and economic benefits. A total of \$70 million was designated for applicants in the City of Fresno in the first year of the program, in addition to \$35 million for the City of Los Angeles and \$35 million for a third location that has yet to be determined.



## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

In Fresno, local leaders formed the Transformative Climate Communities Collaborative to identify a plan for economic and environmental transformation of Southwest, Chinatown and Downtown Fresno. A Community Steering Committee, comprised of over 160 residents and local business owners, participated in a series of community meetings that put the decision-making power in their hands. Residents of Southwest Fresno, one of the State's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, played an active role in the Community Steering Committee. The City of Fresno and the Central Valley Community Foundation collaborated with community groups such as the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities to provide support for these gatherings.

## COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

During community meetings, participants were encouraged to propose projects. Sixty-two projects were proposed in total, of which 37 were deemed eligible for funding consideration. Eligible projects were then gathered into five packages—including a package developed by Committee members who reside in Southwest Fresno—that were presented to the Community Steering Committee. Technical assistance funded by the Strategic Growth Council was provided throughout the process.

At the final Community Steering Committee meeting, a total of 126 Committee members voted to select the projects they wanted to see come to fruition in their community. They overwhelmingly chose the package designed by residents of Southwest Fresno.

## A PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION

The proposed plan that will be submitted to the SGC as part of the application includes:

- » A new Fresno City College West Fresno satellite campus
- » Two new parks and local community gardens
- » Several miles of new trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes
- » Over 100 new homes near the future High Speed Rail station
- » New rooftop solar installations and weatherization for several hundred homes
- » An electric car share system
- » Improved transit service to connect Downtown, Chinatown, and Southwest Fresno
- » Robust local workforce development programs

