



Hello friends,

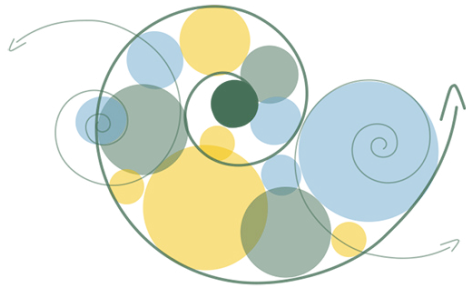
Over the past eighteen months, we have seen unprecedented collaboration across sectors to advance solutions at a scale that matters. That's been true globally, however, this has been especially evident here in Santa Barbara County. I believe we're at a potential turning point, with partnerships and trust-based networks taking on increasingly important roles in our communities. That's what we're all about here at LegacyWorks. We enable leaders to come together to rise to the challenges we face with homegrown, highly practical, collaborative solutions. We form and facilitate effective collaboratives that tackle critical needs while building capacity to take on even more ambitious opportunities. I hope you enjoy hearing about some of that work here in these pages as we celebrate some recent collective successes. Together we've done A LOT OF GOOD WORK building resilience, and we could not have done it without you. Here's to accomplishing far more together in the next eighteen months ahead than we can imagine!

With love and gratitude,

*Carl Palmer, Executive Director*



## Our Collaborative Impact Model



LegacyWorks helps community leaders, agencies, nonprofits and funders come together to collaborate on critical challenges that no single organization can take on themselves. Each successful effort builds our collective capacity and courage to seize emerging impact opportunities, fueling an expanding spiral of work among a growing network of partners. The process empowers community leadership to build resilience and implement the transformational change it requires. Here in Santa Barbara, we steward a growing portfolio of initiatives by playing a variety of roles as facilitators, conveners, project managers, strategists, and advisors. We rely on your generous gifts for much of this work.

See below for updates on our portfolio of projects and initiatives.

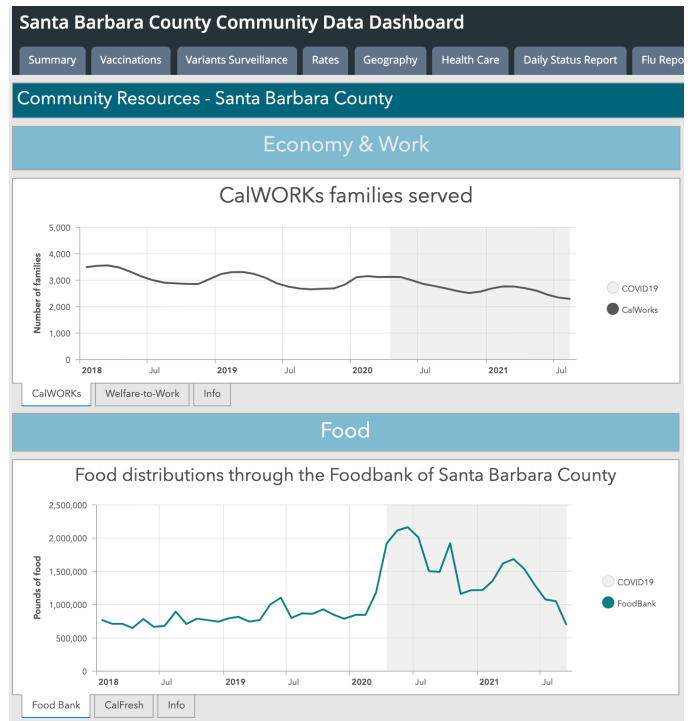
## Community Data Dashboarding

Together with the Santa Barbara County CEO, Public Health Department, Cottage Health, and an array of other partners, we launched the **Santa Barbara County Community Data Dashboard** ([sbcdashboard.org](http://sbcdashboard.org)) in November 2020 to address the critical need for timely communication about COVID and its impact on our community. The dashboard continues to evolve as the pandemic shifts and variants emerge, and the dashboard remains critical to our collective response to the pandemic. We are also thrilled to report that the Community Data Dashboard is beginning to realize its potential as a shared platform for the communication of a widening range of data important to our collective well-being.

We're expanding the dashboard's coverage into ecological and environmental data through the creation of a **Water Quality Dashboard** to communicate the quality of drinking water sources in the region. Thanks to the generous support of the Natalie Orfalea Foundation, we have been acquiring and analyzing data and creating maps of key drinking water contaminants within the county. With input from water quality experts from the Integrated Regional Water Management group, we are refining our methodology for acquiring up to date data from archaic state databases. We plan to have a prototype ready to share in the new year.

Our dashboard work is also moving toward other key challenges. As this fire season reminds us, the need for easily accessible data on wildfire incidents is growing in importance. With initial support from Lockheed-Martin, LegacyWorks has created a prototype of a **Regional Wildfire Dashboard** that aggregates a wide range of important incident information together in a single place. It includes a variety of resources covering incident tracking, air quality, weather, preparedness and more. We are beginning to share our early prototype with fire agencies, topical area experts and community leaders to gather feedback and iterate the prototype development. Stay tuned for more information on its roll out.

Finally, we are preparing to expand the **Health and Human Services (HHS)** components of the Community Data Dashboard. Over the next six months we will be helping county HHS departments improve visibility into social services, public health, mental health, substance abuse, early childcare, child support, housing and homelessness. Working in partnership with County leaders, we will be developing key metrics within each department and helping paint a more complete picture of community well-being across these critical arenas. Our goal is to support better access to the data that matters most to increase our understanding of complex challenges, communicate the impact of critical agencies, and improve decision making.



## Wildfire Resilience

We have been partnering on a number of initiatives to increase wildfire resilience in the Santa Barbara region. Over the past year, LegacyWorks Group has collaborated with the **Regional Priority Plan (RPP)** team to conduct community outreach, map wildfire risk and create predictive models that assess the highest priority challenges and opportunities for wildfire risk reduction. The RPP team identified 50 projects critical to building community and ecosystem resilience and developed mapping and modeling tools to support planning and implementation. You can visit [www.sbcwildfireresilience.org](http://www.sbcwildfireresilience.org) for public access to a dynamic database of priority wildfire resilience projects. You will also find links to a centralized library of county wildfire data and mapping tools that identify high priority areas for wildfire risk-reduction activities. The completion of this project marks the beginning of a continuing partnership to grow our capacity to implement projects and build our collective resilience to intense wildfires, floods and debris flows.

Last year we reported on the Climate Resilience Roundtables, a project we collaborated on with the Community Environmental Council. One of the top ideas of over 700 generated through the series was to develop ways to bring indigenous burning practices back to our landscapes to reduce fire risks and improve ecological health. The use of prescribed fire is a delicate matter in our landscapes and needs to



be approached with great care to ensure that it improves ecological health and community wildfire resilience. Historically, the Chumash and other indigenous peoples judiciously used fire on a regular basis to achieve these same goals. We are working in partnership with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI) Environmental Office and the Community Environmental Council to explore how we might together approach reintroduction of cultural burning practices in Santa Barbara County via the **Chumash Good Fire Project**. This project will include convenings and outreach to local fire agencies and land managers to promote partnerships and the creation of guidelines for integrating cultural burn techniques into fire mitigation and prescribed burns. It will also support the Tribe's ongoing SYBCI research into the role of fire and smoke in propagation of culturally important species, ultimately facilitating future post-fire recovery and habitat restoration efforts.

LegacyWorks is collaborating with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District and McGinnis Environmental to develop a **Prescribed Herbivory Program** for the South Coast and Santa Ynez Valley portions of Santa Barbara County. Prescribed grazing is identified in the RPP as a key strategy for mitigating fire risk to vulnerable and underserved communities, and this project will make it easier to deploy in those areas. This program will reduce fire fuels, create mosaics of open space in thick brush, reduce invasive species, improve native habitat, maintain fuel treatments, and reduce the risk of high-severity fires by preventing the development of shrublands. While prescribed herbivory has already been implemented at Elings Park and the San Marcos Preserve, the strategic vision of this plan will address additional high risk and inaccessible areas on both private and public lands. This includes the creation of a collaborative framework for the adoption of prescribed herbivory that builds upon current regional planning efforts. Our partnership will then develop a plan to expand implementation regionally to yield significant environmental benefits.

## Conservation Outcomes

Achieving conservation outcomes always requires timely access to large sums of capital, and the timing of gifts and grants often does not line up with the realities of real estate transactions. Through our **Conservation Lending Initiative**, we helped ensure that the funding needed to conserve more than 1,100 acres for various projects was available when needed by structuring friendly loans to conservation organizations. This past spring we helped White Buffalo Land Trust acquire Jalama Canyon Ranch, and this summer we helped the Foothills Forever Campaign and Channel Islands Restoration acquire the West Mesa of the San Marcos Foothills. We have a few more potential transactions in the pipeline, and are enthusiastically committed to supporting land trusts and other nonprofit organizations when they need friendly financing for community priorities. We welcome your ideas and inquiries if you have potential projects or would like to explore how you can use personal, foundation or donor advised funds to support these kinds of projects.

On the heels of their incredibly successful campaign to raise \$18 million in 90 days and save West Mesa from development, **Foothills Forever** engaged LegacyWorks to enter the next phase of work.

Together we are designing a community engagement process to gather public input on the management of the Preserve. Comprising a coalition of the Save the San Marcos Foothills, Channel Islands Restoration Initiative, the Chumash, and a group of dedicated individuals, Foothills Forever is a beautiful reminder of what we can do together collectively, even when the challenge or opportunity seems insurmountable. It's a pleasure to be supporting the successful completion of this remarkable coalition's work to ensure effective stewardship of an iconic part of our landscape.



## Fundamental Community Needs

LWG is partnering with two initiatives in the county to increase collaboration among community partners to address **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**. Resilient Santa Barbara County (RSBC) and the Network of Care (NOC) are both focused on improving

outcomes for children experiencing trauma. Trauma resulting from ACEs can change brain development, impacting children's ability to learn and cope with stress. While such trauma can have lasting impacts on mental and physical health, with support resilience can be fostered to mitigate the impacts of toxic stress. Led by Cottage Health and RSBC, NOC is connecting social work organizations with health care providers to implement ACEs screening and refer children with ACEs to supportive services.

Together our families and communities can create buffers that protect children from many of the negative health and life outcomes that stem from adversity. Some Santa Barbara region organizations are already providing different types of buffering services and the RSBC network is working to increase community capacity through grants and improved coordination among partners. A RSBC Resource Fair will be held this winter where community members can learn about resilience and trauma informed approaches to addressing ACEs.

Libraries are critical players in community resilience, and we're happy to be entering the fourth phase of a multi-year effort to develop improved governance and financial models for the **Countywide Library System**. We are helping the county and cities with libraries launch a new elected leaders forum on libraries. The inaugural forum will, for the first time, bring key decision makers to collaborate in creating a shared understanding, plans and pathways forward for the library system.

