Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION — Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

Strategic Cropland Repurposing for Socioenvironmental Justice:

Science, Policy, and Community Power

AUGUST 2, 2023

California Adaptation Forum

CONTENTS

Angel S. Fernandez-Bou, PhD

Senior Scientist
Union of Concerned Scientists

Co-Founder
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network, SEEN

Union of Concerned Scientists

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

AUGUST 2, 2023

Nataly Escobedo-García

Policy coordinator - Water Programs
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

AUGUST 2, 2023

José Armando Munguía

General Manager
TAC Teaching and Innovation Farm Lab
Allensworth Progressive Association

AUGUST 2, 2023

Anna Gurevitz

Executive Director
Co-Founder
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network, SEEN

SEEN

SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

AUGUST 2, 2023

04 | Future: K-12 education and citizen science

05 | Q&A, Activity, and Discussion

After the presentations, we will work on the **activity** in groups.

The presenters will walk around the tables to **respond to questions**.

Feel free to move around. Occupy space and give space.

Use jamboard (https://tinyurl.com/4jcmbxhf) or pen and paper to communicate your perspectives and priorities about land repurposing.

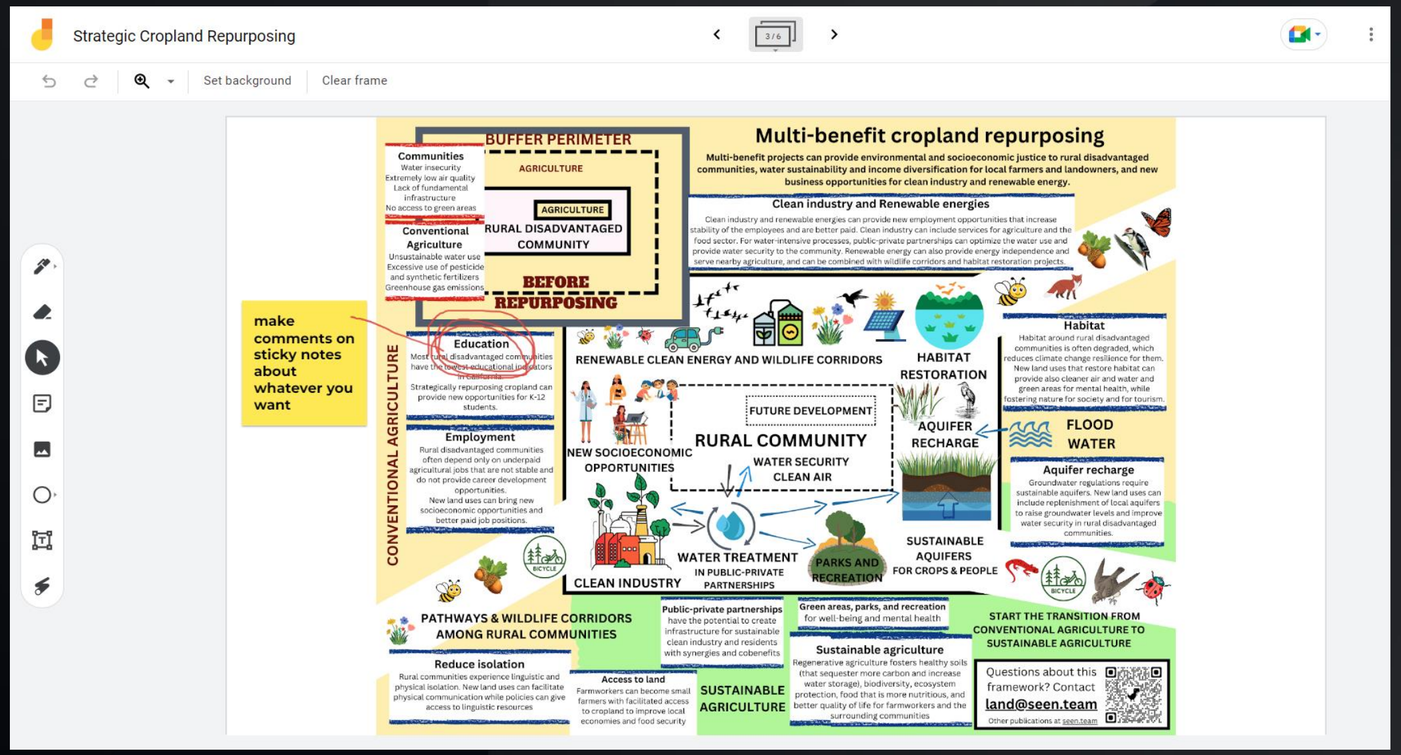
Draw, write, or use your imagination. Start now if you want. You will have 20 minutes to do/finish it after the talks.

AUGUST 2, 2023

05 | Q&A, Activity, and Discussion

Jamboard https://tinyurl.com/4jcmbxhf

Make comments on sticky notes.



AUGUST 2, 2023

RESILIENCE LOSS

STRATEGIC CROPLAND REPURPOSING

= CROPLAND RETIREMENT

+ NEW LAND USE WITH BENEFICIAL SIDE EFFECTS

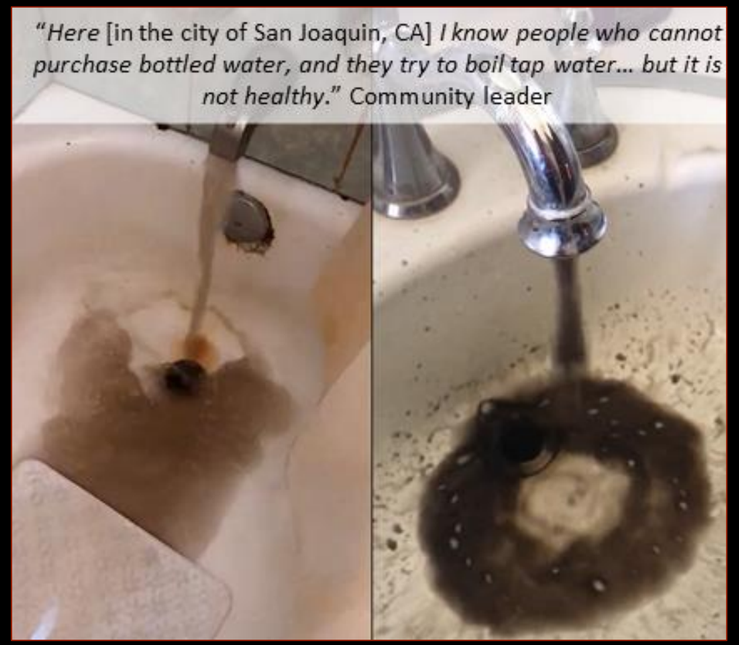
STRATEGIC CROPLAND REPURPOSING

= CROPLAND RETIREMENT

+ NEW LAND USE WITH BENEFICIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Remove negative side effects

Source: Bakersfield Californian



Source: The Desert Sun

STRATEGIC CROPLAND REPURPOSING

= CROPLAND RETIREMENT

+ NEW LAND USE WITH BENEFICIAL SIDE EFFECTS

Positive side effects


Green areas


Habitat


New socioeconomic opportunities


Clean energy and clean industry

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION Allensworth, CA

SEEN

AUGUST 2, 2023

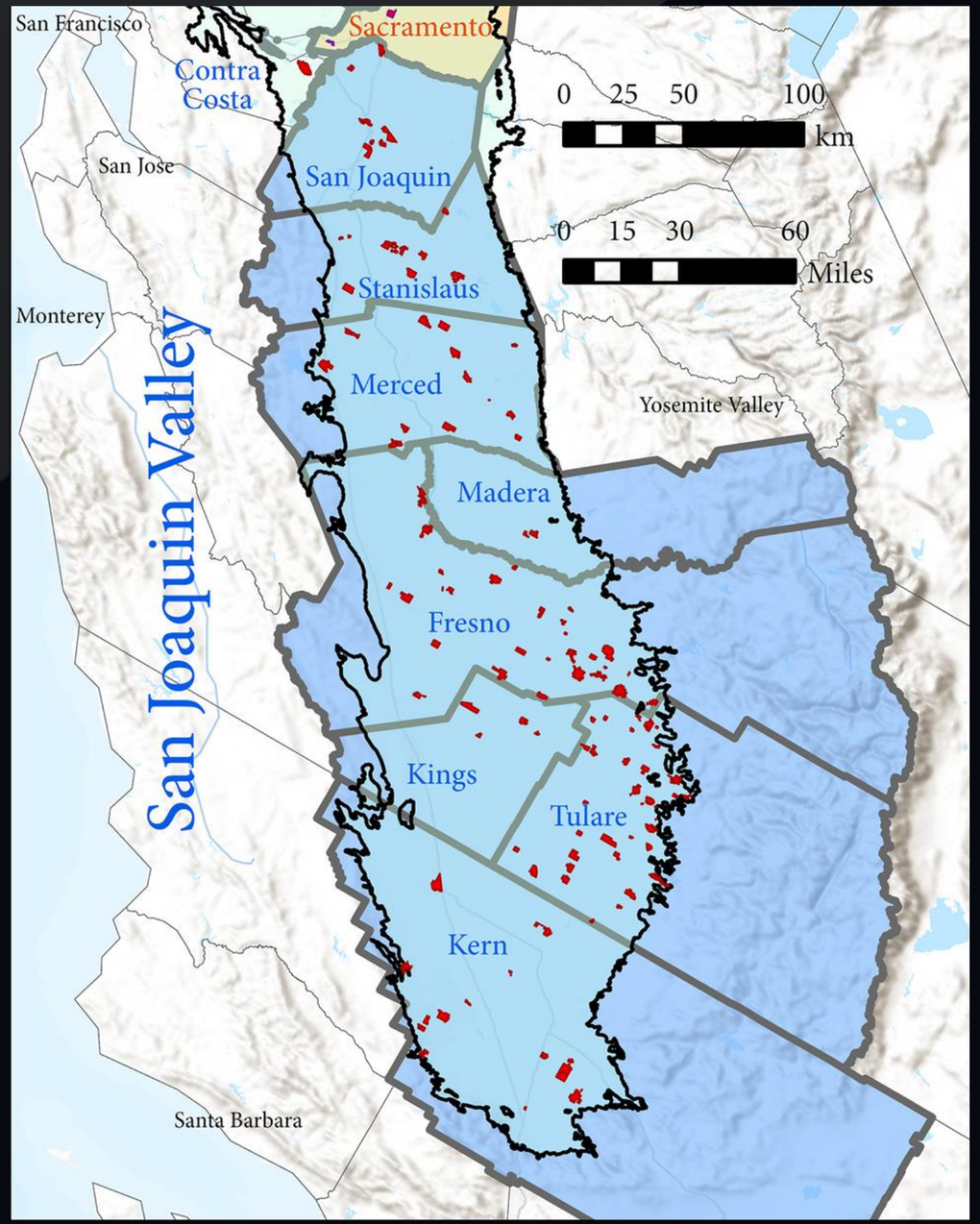
WHERE?

Union of Concerned Scientists SEEN

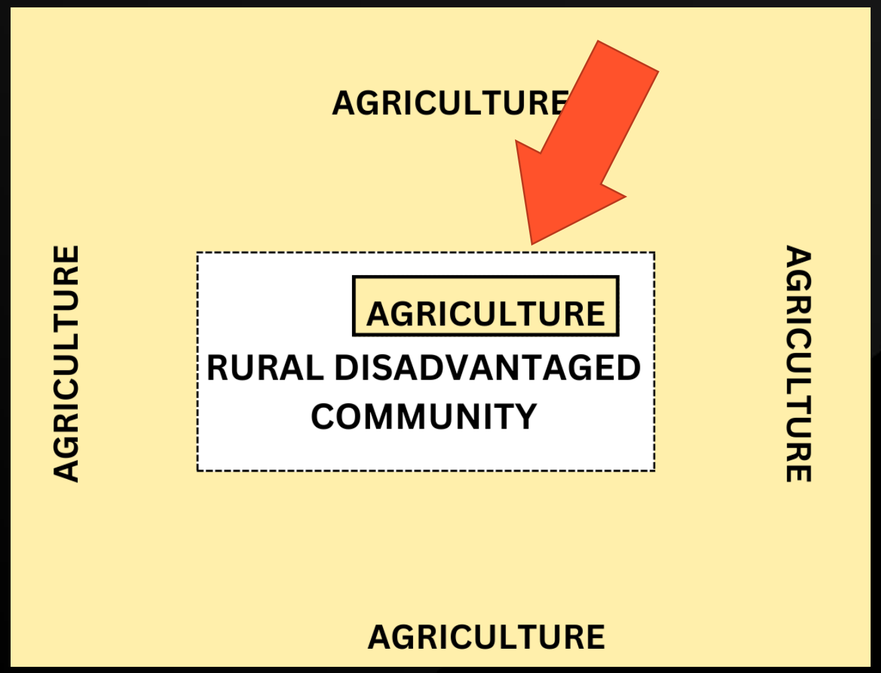
Small rural disadvantaged communities of the San Joaquin Valley

123 communities

Half million people



Agriculture inside rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley



123 small rural disadvantaged communities

Inside agriculture: 54,000 acres

19 million pounds of nitrate leached

CO2eq emissions ~ 40,000 cars

1.15 million pounds of pesticide

Agriculture inside rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley

123 small rural disadvantaged communities

Inside agriculture: 54,000 acres

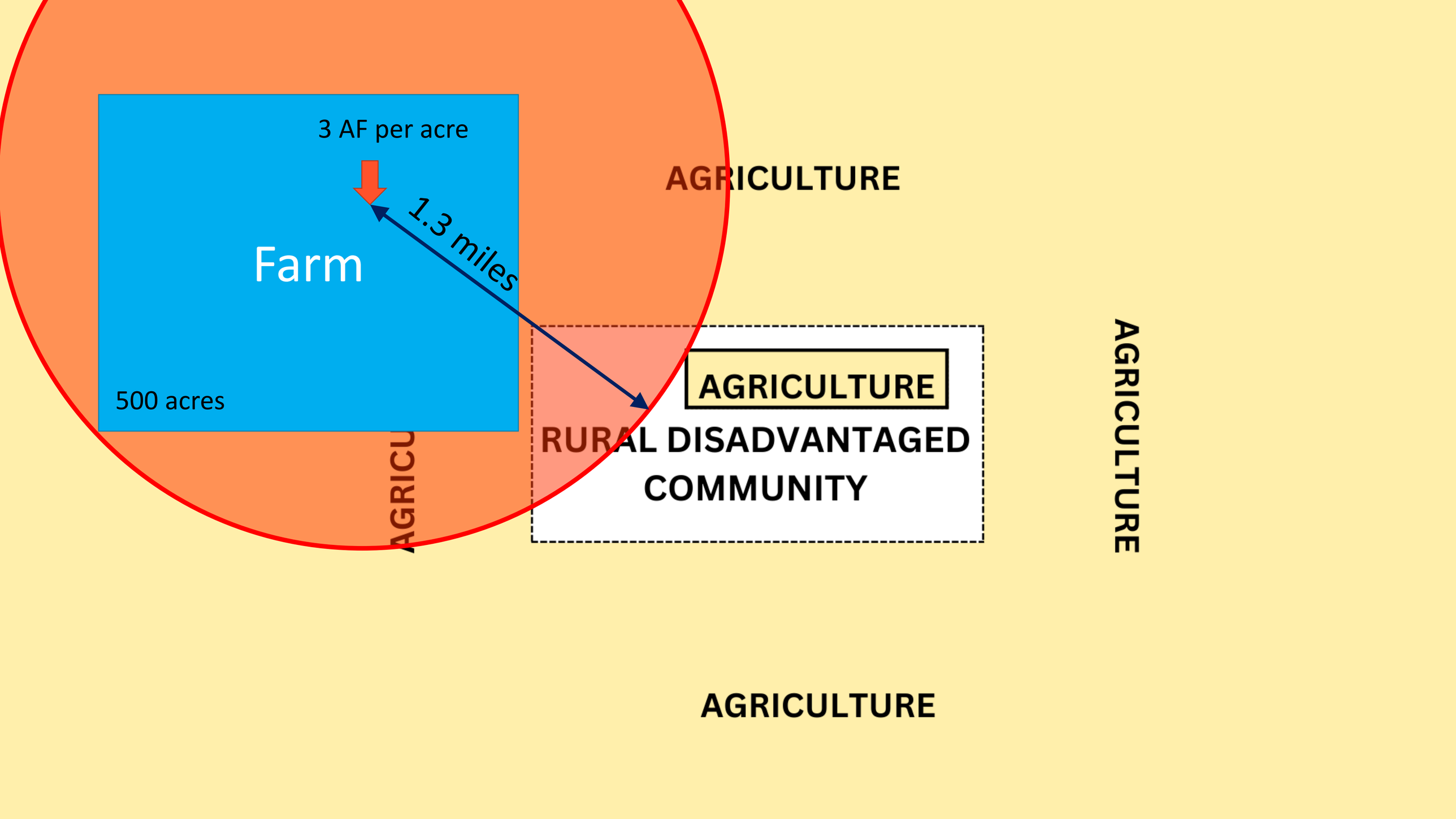
Ag Production: $170 million per year

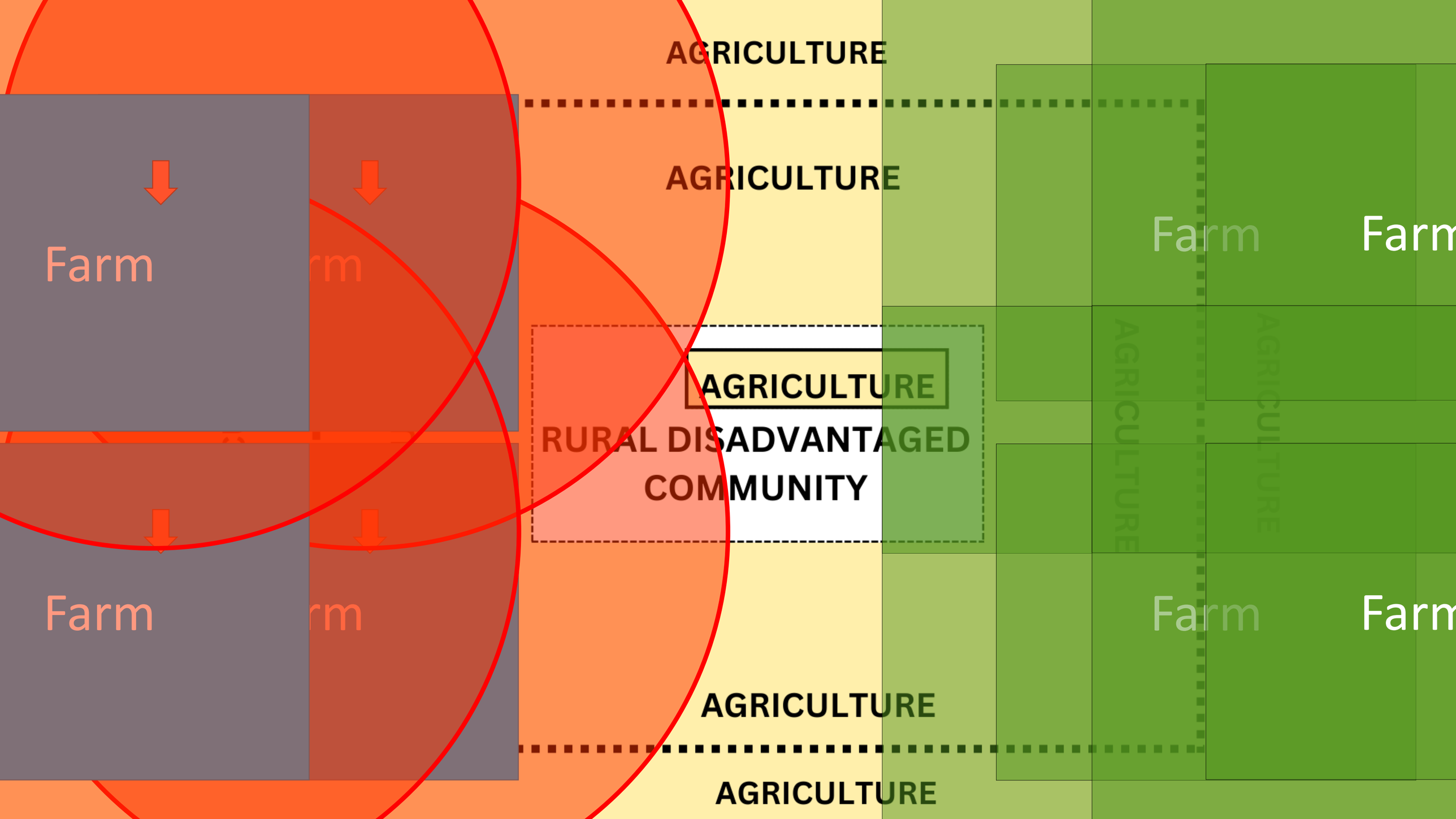
Cost of 1 gallon of bottled water per person: $190 million per year

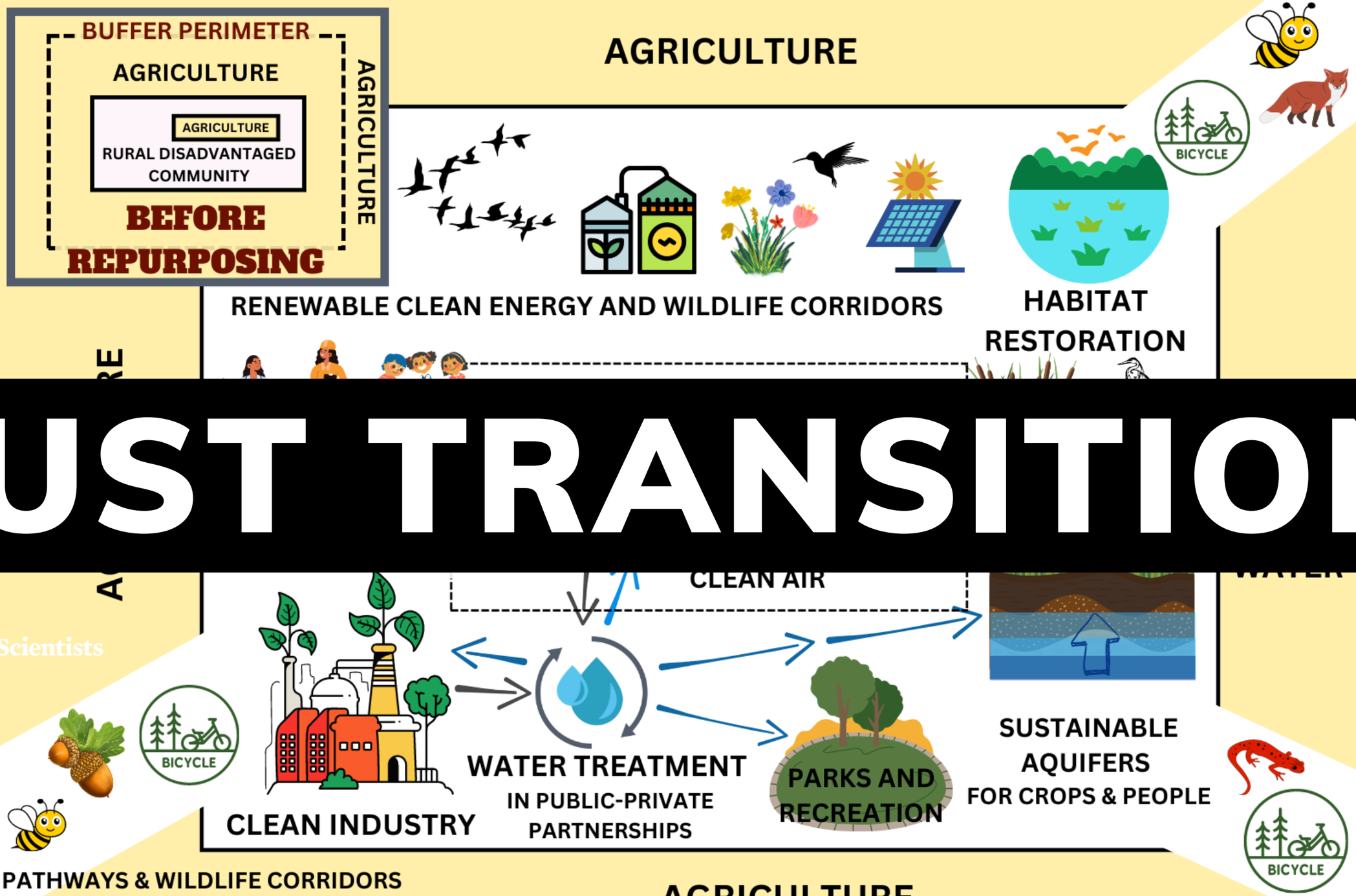
Health impacts? Ecosystems destruction? Lack of a circular economy? Education?

1st priority

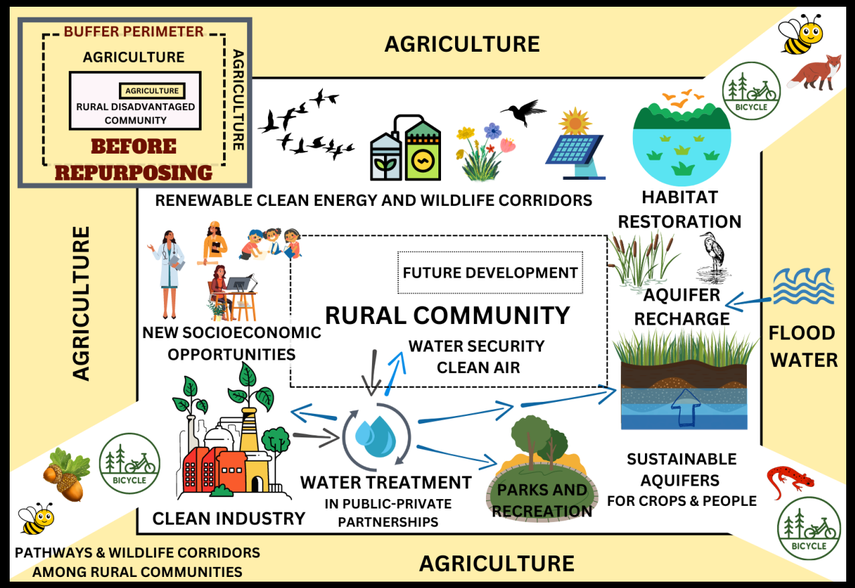
Repurpose agriculture inside rural disadvantaged communities


3 AF per acre
1.3 miles
Farm
500 acres
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
RURAL DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY
AGRICULTURE


AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
Farm
Farm
Farm
Farm
AGRICULTURE
RURAL DISADVANTAGED
COMMUNITY
AGRICULTURE
Farm
Farm
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE


BUFFER PERIMETER
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
RURAL DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY
BEFORE REPURPOSING
AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURE
BICYCLE
RENEWABLE CLEAN ENERGY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
HABITAT RESTORATION
JUST TRANSITION
CLEAN AIR
Union of Concerned Scientists
SEEN
BICYCLE
CLEAN INDUSTRY
WATER TREATMENT
IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
PARKS AND RECREATION
SUSTAINABLE AQUIFERS
FOR CROPS & PEOPLE
BICYCLE
PATHWAYS & WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
AMONG RURAL COMMUNITIES
AGRICULTURE

How much **$ and jobs** means repurposing agriculture within **1 mile per community (average)**



30 years horizon

- Ag retired $28 million per yr
- Ag jobs 167
- Investing $27 million for 10 yr
- Revenue $101 million
- New jobs 407 paying 67% more
- 2 MAF water use reduction

2nd priority

Repurpose agriculture around rural disadvantaged communities

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION Allensworth, CA

SEEN

AUGUST 2, 2023

Water, environment, and socioeconomic justice in California: A multibenefit cropland repurposing framework

My blog

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION — Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

THANK YOU

NEXT SPEAKER:

Nataly Escobedo-Garcia

02 | Policy recommendation to maximize benefits

California Adaptation Forum

AUGUST 2, 2023

Just Land Transition

Nataly Escobedo Garcia
Water Policy Coordinator

Where we work

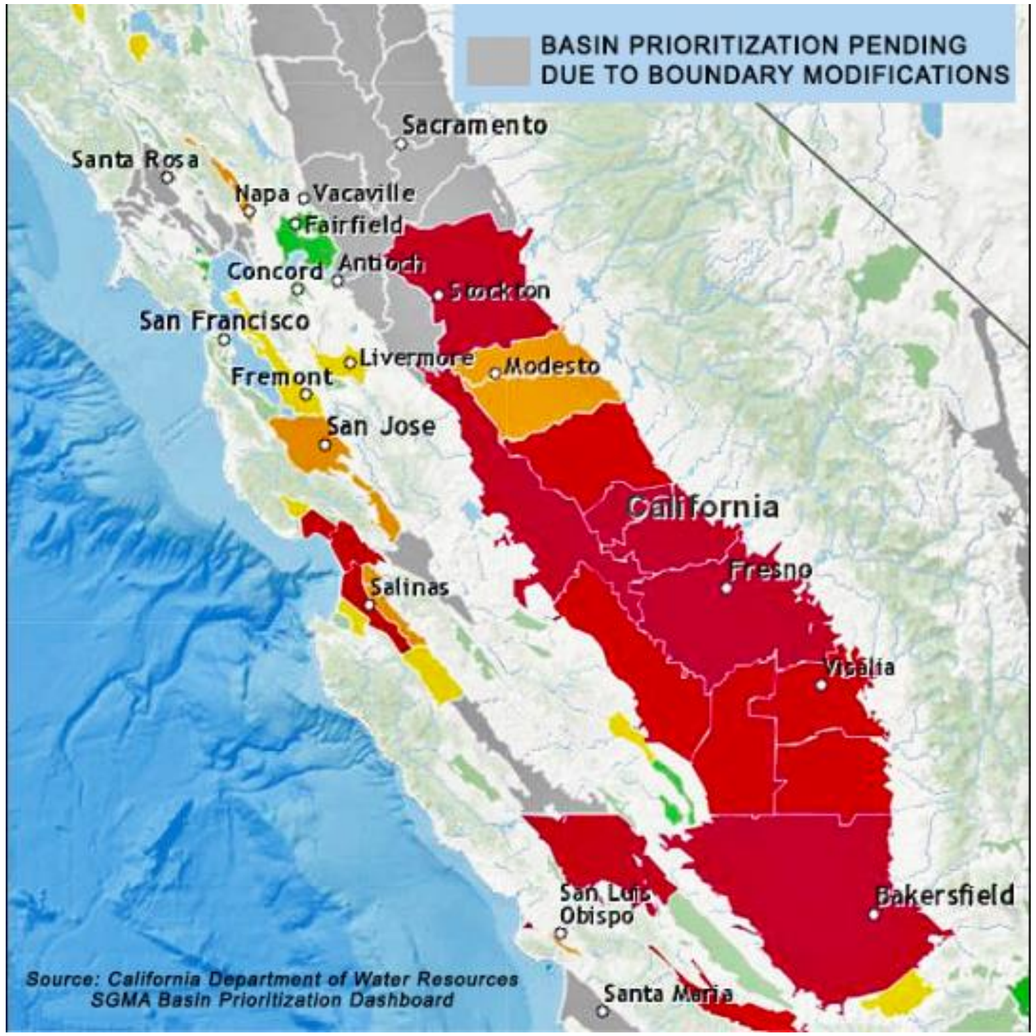
- Merced, Madera, Fresno Counties
  - Delhi, South Merced, Planada, Fairmead, City of Madera, Cantua Creek/El Porvenir, Lanare, City of Fresno, Southwest Fresno, Tombstone, Tooleville, Matheny Tract, Pixley
- Kern County
  - Bakersfield Fuller Acres, Lamont
- Eastern Coachella Valley
  - Thermal, Oasis, Mecca, North Shore, City of Coachella

Working alongside communities
Advocating for sound policy
& eradicating injustice

To ensure equal access to opportunity
Regardless of wealth, race, income or place

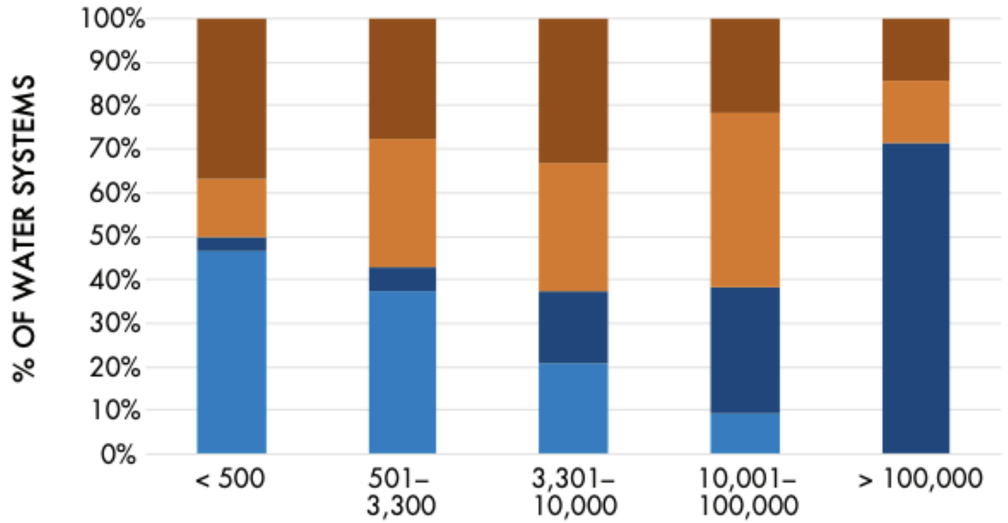
Why are we talking about land transition?

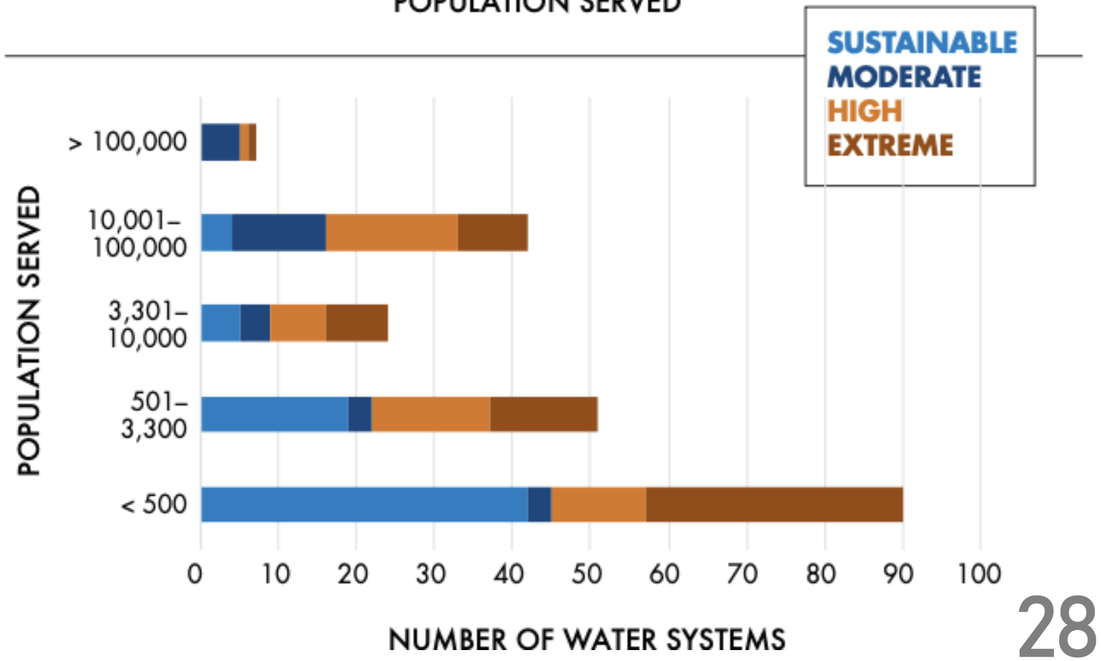
- Agricultural overpumping has been and continues to deplete our water resources
- Drought further limits our water resources
- Climate change, in combination with drought and agricultural overpumping intensifies water shortages



- SGMA meant to correct and put a stop to overpumping
- Lengthy timely that does not match our climate reality
- Based on current Groundwater Management Plans
  - Up to 12,000 private domestic wells could be impacted.
  - 503 of 1,200 public supply wells in the San Joaquin Valley, or 42%, are likely to be partially or fully dry at proposed minimum thresholds

Figure 8. Percent and Number of Water Systems Vulnerable to Minimum Thresholds by System Size





Where does that leave us?

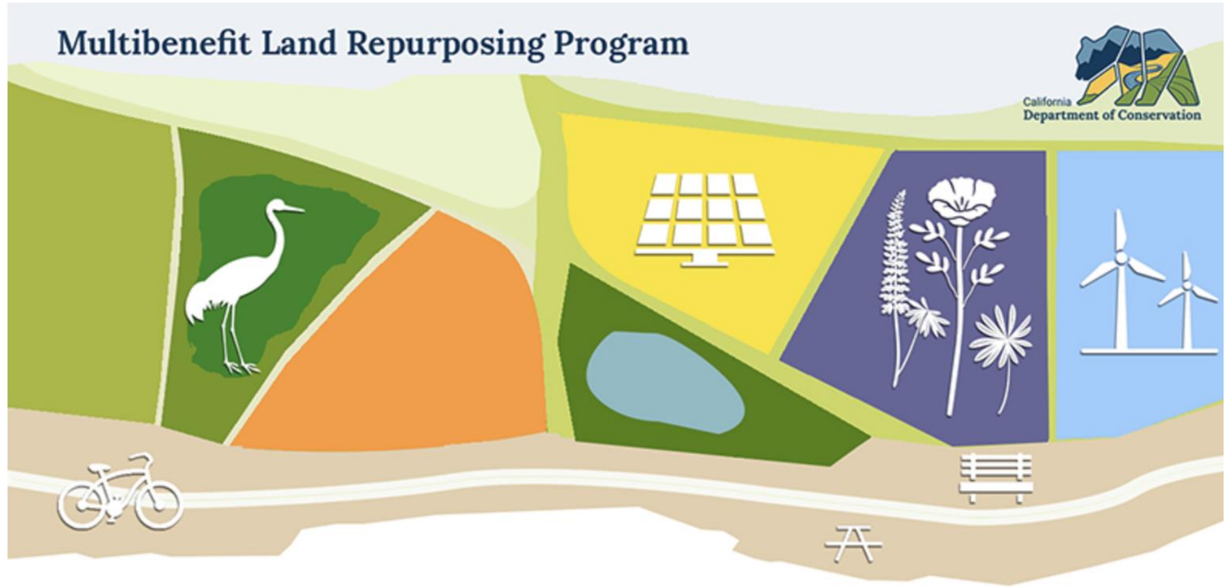
- While SGMA is being implemented, DACs will continue to bear the brunt of present/past groundwater management choices
- Demand reduction
- Retiring/repurposing agricultural land

What is “Just Transition”?

- has been around since the 1980s
- In recent years, the concept has gained traction with reference to meeting climate goals by ensuring the whole of society – all communities, all workers, all social groups – are brought along in the pivot to a net-zero future.
- “Just Transition” a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy that centers communities most impacted by extractive economies.

Current Land Transition Investments

- State investments and local efforts are underway to invest in land transition/repurposing
  - Multibenefit Land Reproposing Program
  - LandFlex
  - GSA land fallowing programs
  - Community Economic Resilience Fund
- Anticipate Federal funding

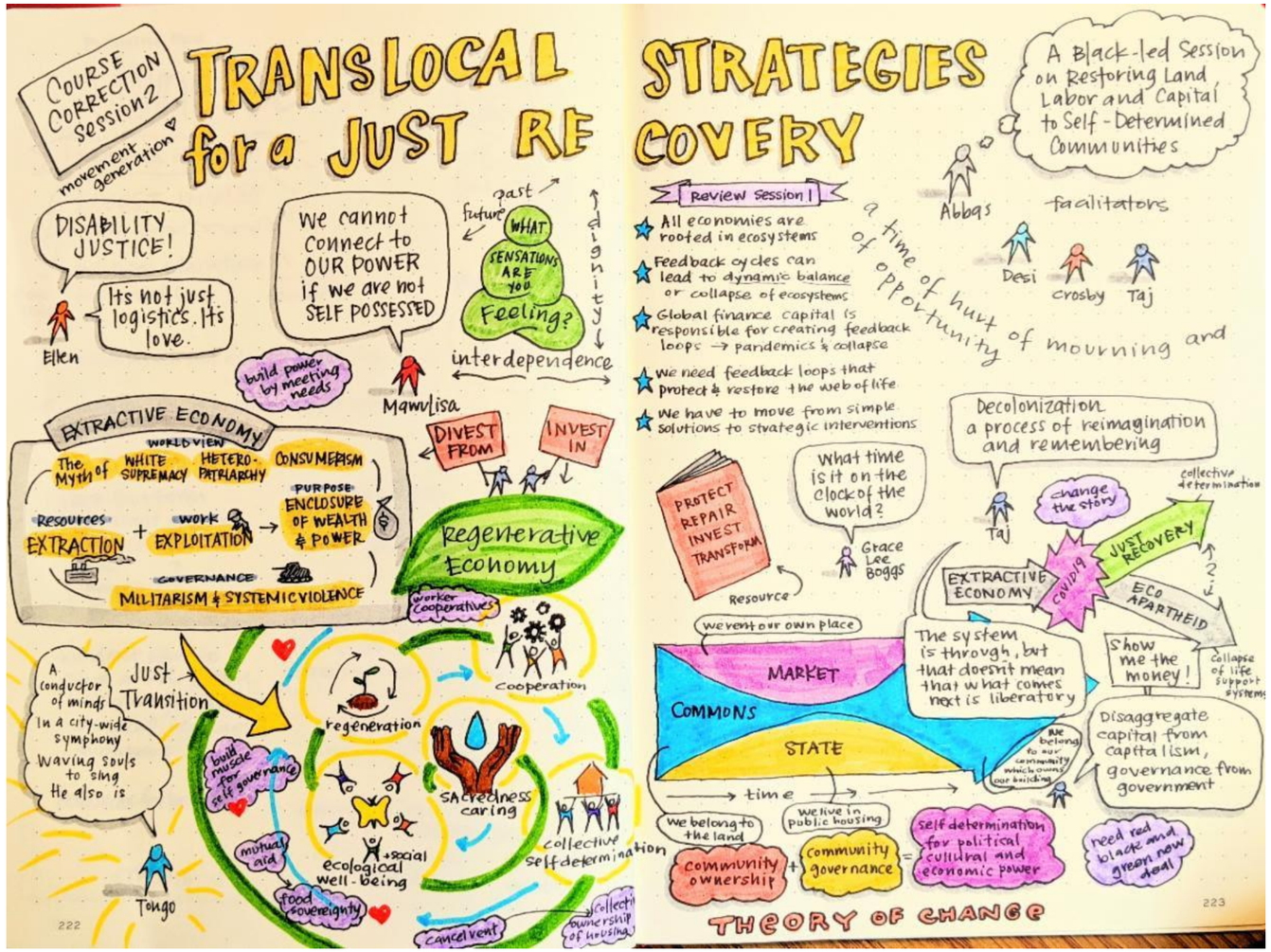


What's missing?

- Understand the socioeconomic impacts and opportunities connected to land transition/retirement for frontline communities
  - Programs built around their visions for land transition
- Investments/efforts in workforce development, transition, training and recovery programs
  - Programs/Initiatives built around farmworker priorities

Community Priorities

- Buffer Zones
- Climate Resilience Centers
- Green Space
- Community Land Trusts
- Affordable Housing
- Regenerative Economies
- Community Solar
- Co-Ops
- Land Back



Policy Recommendations

- Active communication between state agencies
  - Eg CRCs, TCC, and MLRP working in conjunction
- Any land transition/retirement/fallowing funding must at minimum include
  - funding for a Displaced Workers Fund (support available regardless of citizenship status)
  - Funding for community engagement in land transition programs
    - Grants, transportation, translation, etc
  - Prioritize transition of land in and around frontline communities
- Focus on large and industrial agricultural land retirement
- Prioritize permanent land transition
- Zoning changes (depending on county)
- Changes in General Plans and Land Use Policy

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

THANK YOU

NEXT SPEAKER:

José Armando Munguía

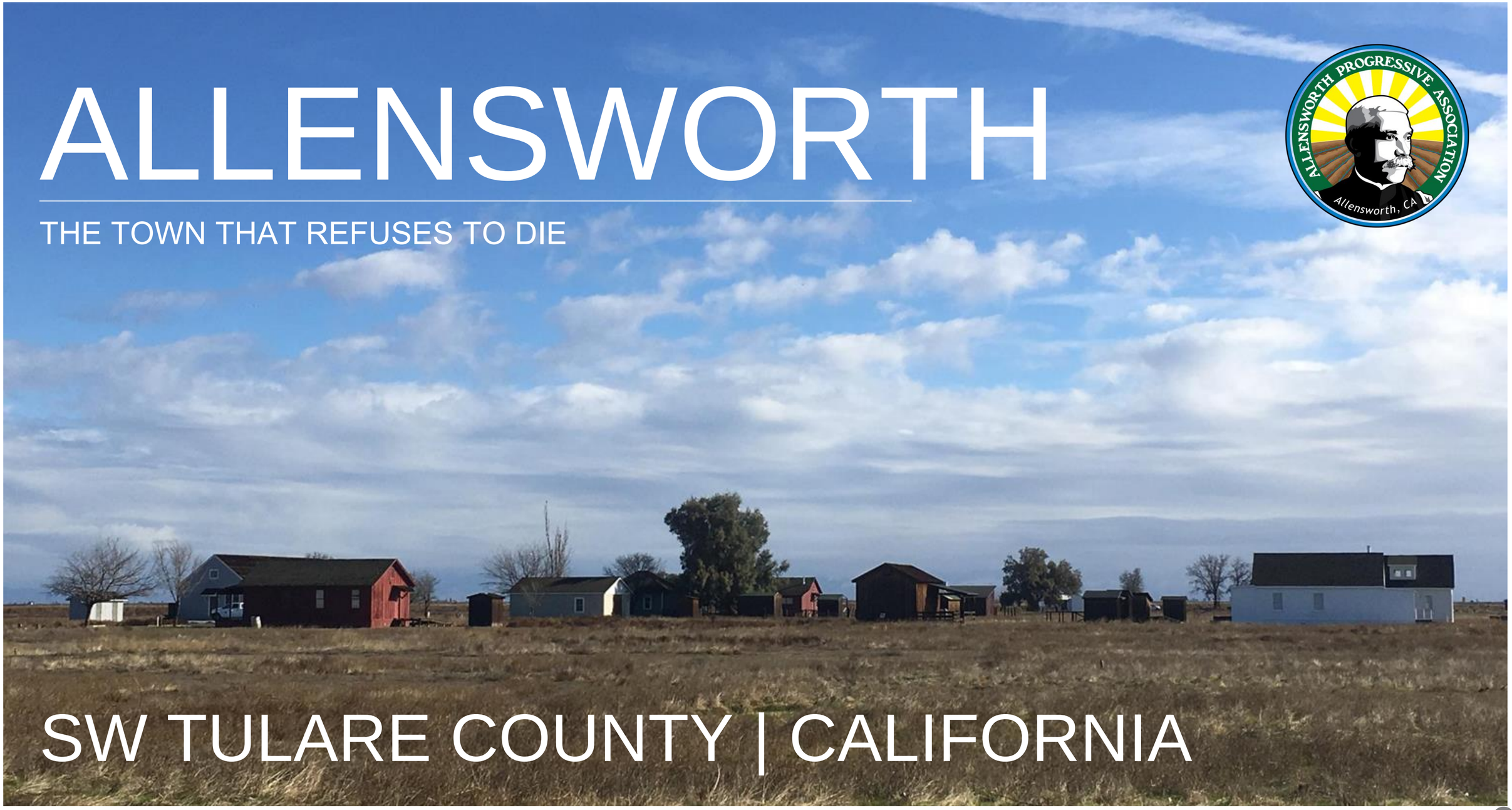
03 | Allensworth: The town that refuses to die

California Adaptation Forum

AUGUST 2, 2023

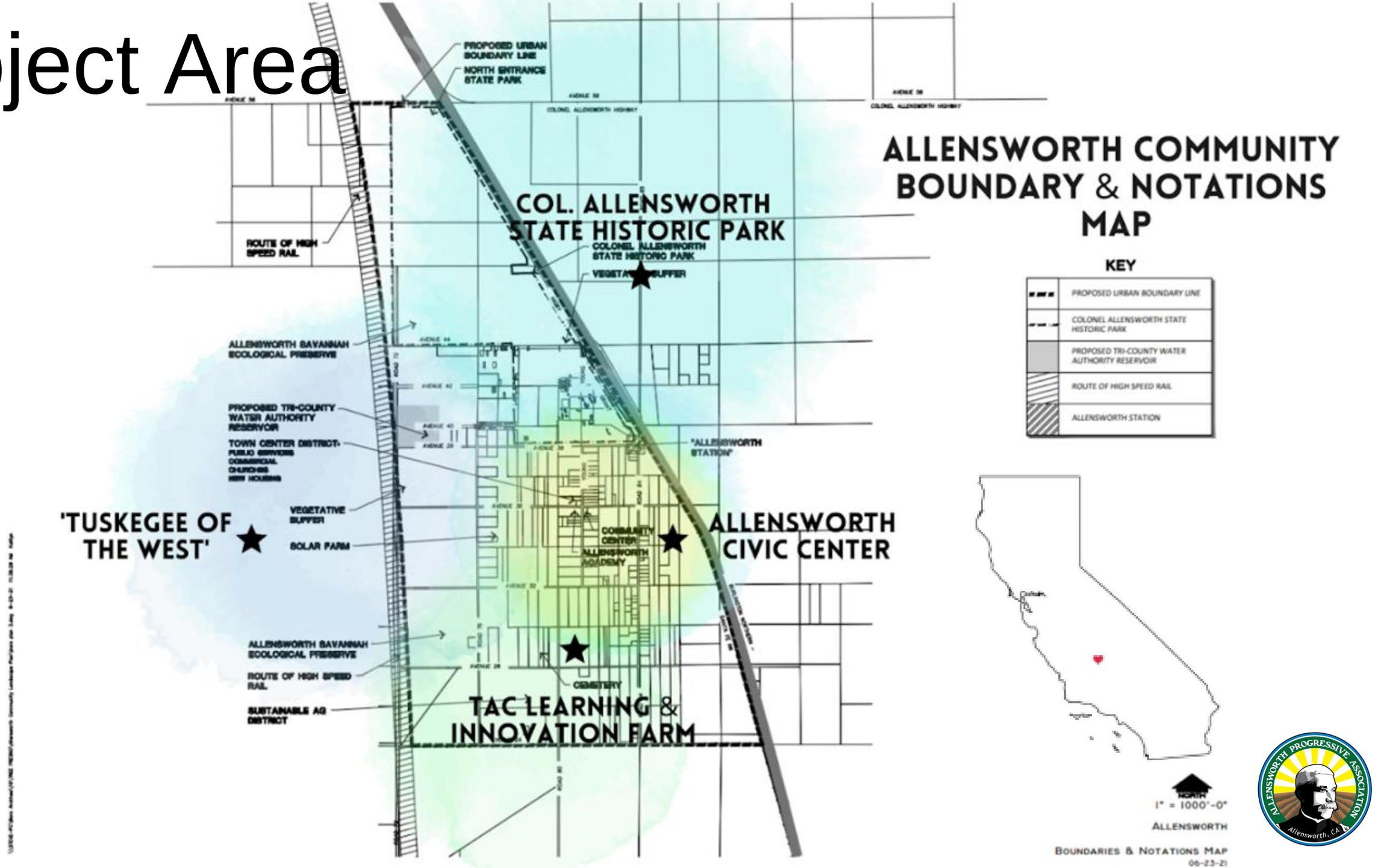
ALLENSWORTH

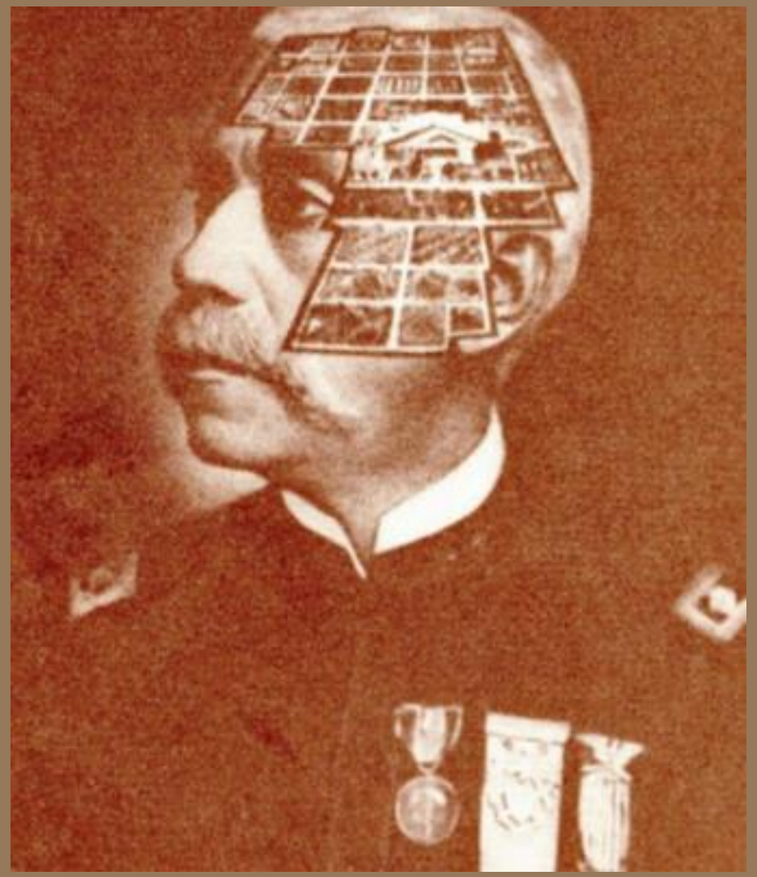
THE TOWN THAT REFUSES TO DIE



SW TULARE COUNTY | CALIFORNIA

Project Area

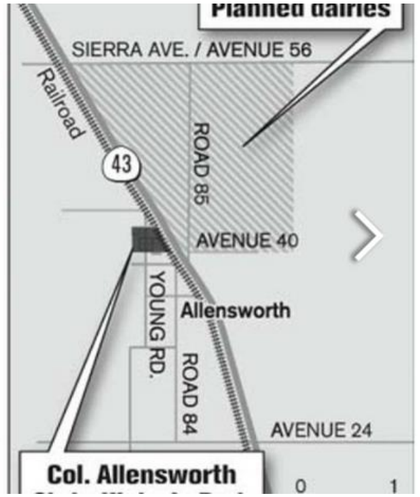




Allensworth History

- **Founded in 1908 by retired army chaplain Col. Allen Allensworth and Professor William Alexander Payne**
- **900-acres on the shoreline of Tulare Lakebed in the southern Central Valley of California**
- **"Tuskegee of the West"**
  - **Self-government**
  - **Self-sufficiency**
  - **Community resilience**

The Town That Refuses To Die



COL. ALLENSWORTH STATE HISTORIC PARK ESTABLISHED

- **Established in 1974**
- **Original buildings restored & reconstructed**
- **Nettie Morrison establishes Friends of Allensworth**
- **Nettie Morrison establishes annual park events celebrating history & culture**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS

- **2007 - 2 proposed neighboring mega-dairies threaten historic park & living community**
- **Nettie Morrison rallies residents to advocate against the intrusion & win!**
- **Legislation passed establishing a 2.5-mile buffer zone around Col. Allensworth State Historic Park**

NOURISHING THE SPIRIT OF ALLENSWORTH

- **Moved to Allensworth in 1979**
- **Nettie Morrison, unofficial 'Mayor of Allensworth'**
- **Establishes community food commodities program**
- **Raised funds to save & move Allensworth Christian Church**

Building A Solidarity Economy

On Allensworth's Horizon

TAC Regenerative Farm

Farmer's Market

Modern Waste Water Treatment

Resiliency Center

Solar Farm

Green K-14 School Facilities

Nature & Community Trail

Community Forest

Elderly & Veteran Housing

Ecotourism

The Future of Allensworth is Bright!

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION — Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

THANK YOU

NEXT SPEAKER:
Anna Gurevitz

04 | K-12 Education and Citizen Science

California Adaptation Forum

AUGUST 2, 2023

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

SeeN

SocioEnvironmental and
Education Network

Monitoring by one community expert

SEEN

Passive monitoring by many community members

SEEN

Active monitoring by many community members

SEEN


NEED SPACE
NU AQUA
PLATINUM SERIES
1(888) 621-0460
nuaquasystems.com

SEEN

Working with Youth

Working with Youth

SEEN

Working with Youth

Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

THANK YOU

NEXT:
Q&A and Activity

AUGUST 2, 2023

California Adaptation Forum

05 | Q&A, Activity, and Discussion

After he presentations, we work on the activity in groups.

The presenters will walk around the tables, and you can ask them questions.

Feel free to move around.

Occupy space and give space.

05 | Q&A, Activity, and Discussion

Use jamboard (https://tinyurl.com/4jcmbxhf) or pen and paper to communicate your perspectives and priorities about cropland repurposing.

Draw, write, or use your imagination.

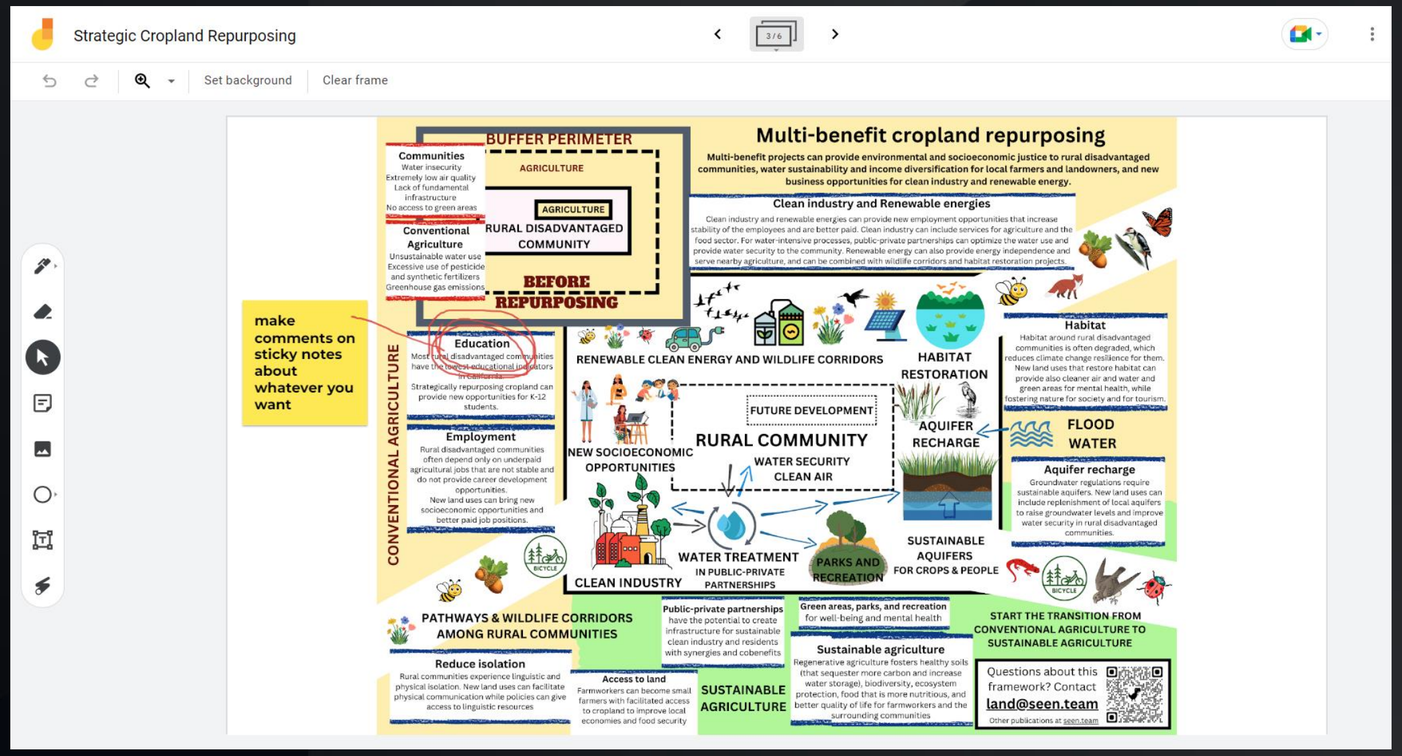
Start now if you want. You will have 20 minutes to do/finish it after the talks.

Then, we can discuss it.

05 | Q&A, Activity, and Discussion

Jamboard https://tinyurl.com/4jcmbxhf

Make comments on sticky notes.



Union of Concerned Scientists

LEADERSHIP COUNSEL FOR JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY

ALLENSWORTH PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION — Allensworth, CA

SEEN
SocioEnvironmental and Education Network

Strategic Cropland Repurposing for Socioenvironmental Justice:

Science, Policy, and Community Power

AUGUST 2, 2023

California Adaptation Forum