

Moving from Vulnerability Assessments to Implementable Adaptation Plans

California Adaptation Forum | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm



Moving from Vulnerability Assessments to Implementable Adaptation Plans

- Mindy Craig | BluePoint Planning
- Hayley Padden | BluePoint Planning
- Reema Shakra | Rincon Consultants
- Whitney Wilkinson | County of Santa Barbara

Agenda

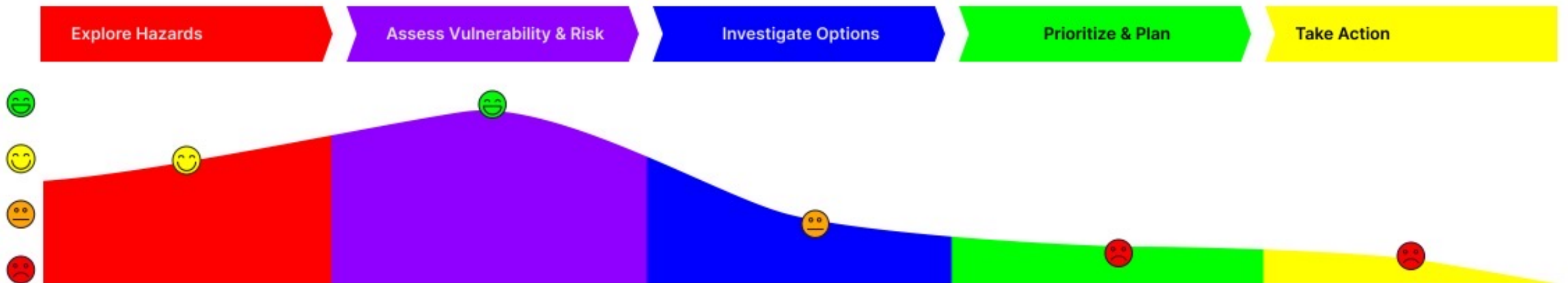
- Introduction (5 minutes)
- Breakout #1 (15 minutes)
- Presentation (30 minutes)
- Breakout #2 (20 minutes)
- Report Back (20 minutes)
- Wrap Up (5 minutes)

Why focus on implementation?

Resilience Journey Map

Persona Combined Last-mile Service Providers & Local Decision Makers

Scenario Doing climate resilience planning/adaptation work/planning



Credit: NOAA Resilience Journey Map

Santa Barbara County Adaptation Plan

- A different approach
- Focused and priority driven
- Shorter plan horizon
- Implementation focused from beginning to end



Adaptation Plan

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This survey was created to help the County understand how climate change is already affecting people, what people are most concerned about, and what risks they are facing. This information will help the County to recognize opportunities and create strategies that work better to protect people and places across the County. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete and a summary of the results will be shared through the County website.



HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT ME?

Climate change is making hazards like extreme heat, drought, flooding, and wildfire more common. Depending on where you live, work, or go to school, this can mean greater risk of flooding to your home or neighborhood, water or power being cut off, getting heat stroke, or having to evacuate because of wildfire.

WHAT ARE THE CLIMATE HAZARDS OF MOST CONCERN?



Sea levels are projected to rise by 2.5 ft by 2060 & 6.6 ft by 2100, flooding beaches and eroding our shores.



Rain is likely to fall in fewer, more intense storms, leading to more frequent and severe flooding and longer periods of drought.



There will be 8x more extreme heat days by 2100, putting people at greater risk of heat-related illnesses.



Annual average air temperature is projected to increase 7.4°F by 2100.

WHAT IS THE ADAPTATION PLAN?

The Santa Barbara County Adaptation Plan will outline strategies to address the impacts of climate change hazards on people and the resources that keep them healthy and safe. This includes things like roads and water pipes, buildings, local businesses, natural areas, and key services like public transit and emergency medical services. The Plan will focus on the most important actions the County can take in the next 5-10 years to help reduce the greatest risks and avoid harm.



Scan Me

WHAT CAN I DO TO GET INVOLVED?

- Sign up for alerts and learn more about how to prepare for emergencies at www.readysbc.org/518/prepare
- Visit www.countyofsb.org/adaptationplan to learn more about the project and sign up for updates
- Scan the QR code or visit www.bit.ly/SBCAdapts to take the survey and share with others

Breakout #1

What are the most common barriers to the implementation of an Adaptation Plan?

Common Barriers

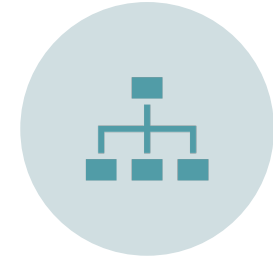
Why it is so hard to get to projects and action...



Staffing Capacity
and Technical
Expertise



Political Priorities



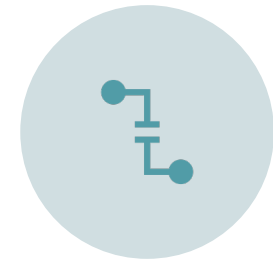
Lack Of Alignment
/Too Many Plans



Limited Funding
Streams

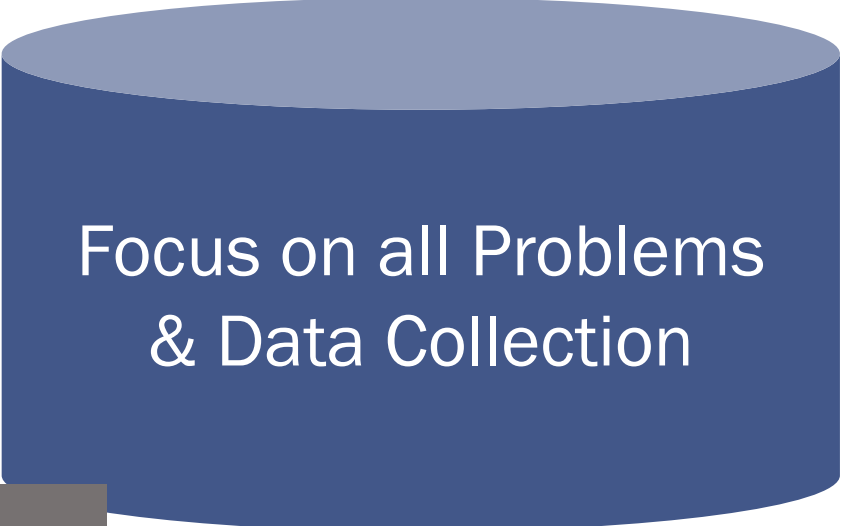
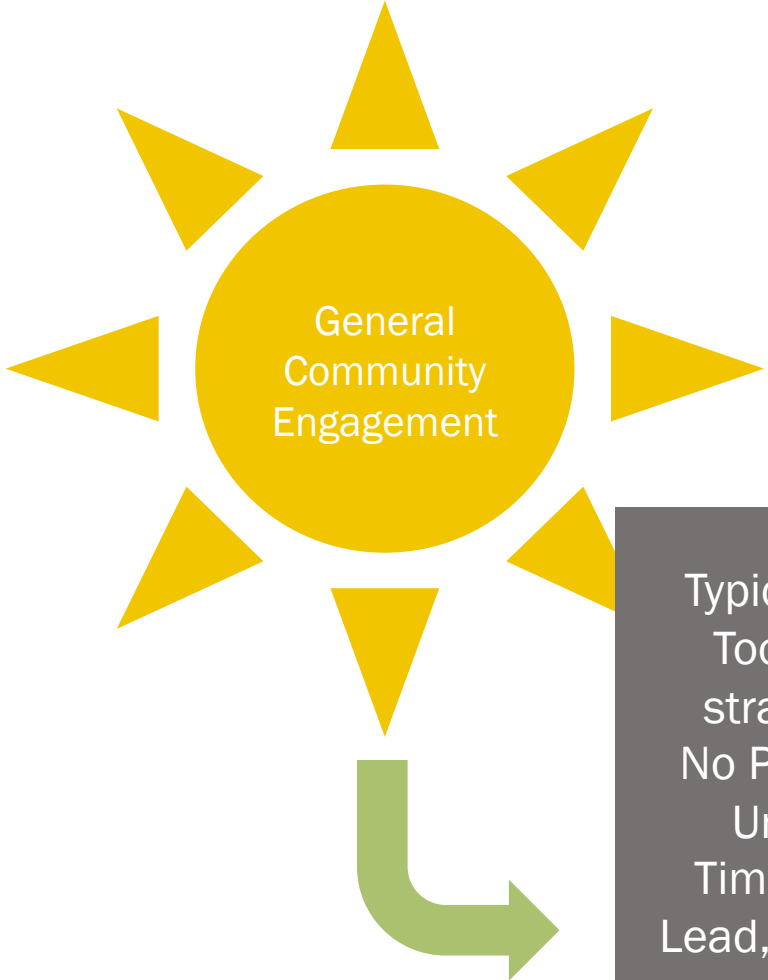


Lack Of Data and
Proof Of Concept

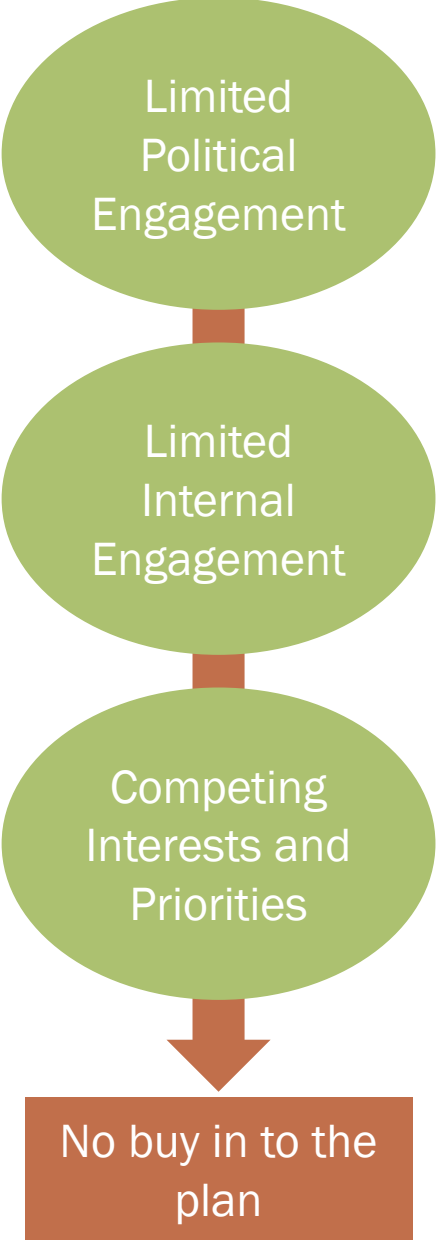


Disconnect Between
Planning and
Implementation

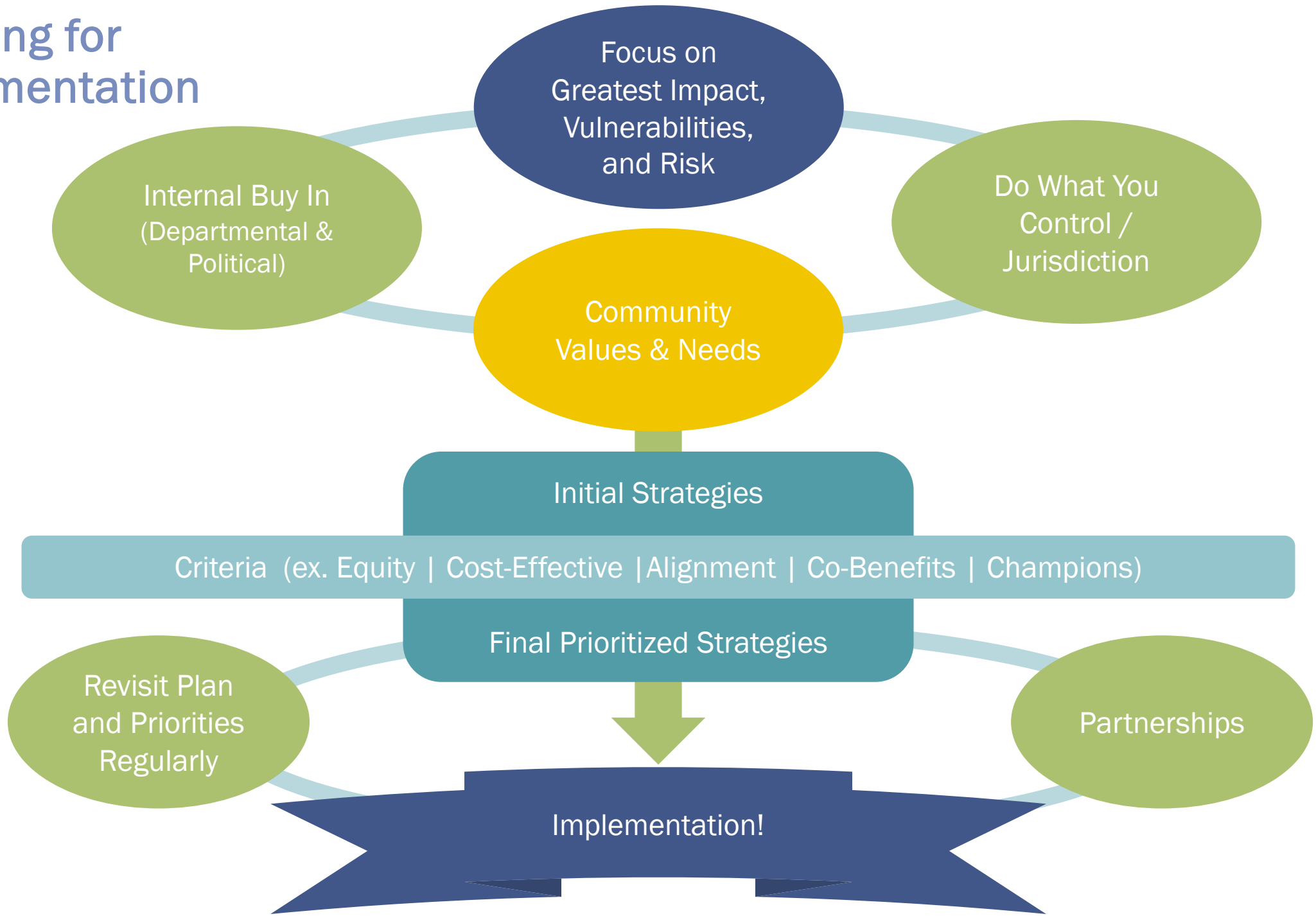
Typical Planning Process



Typical Plan:
Too many strategies,
No Priorities,
Unclear
Timeframe,
Lead, or Funds



Planning for Implementation



Internal Buy-In

- Build both departmental and political
 - Should be budgeted for each stage
 - Don't push to end of process
 - Align with other jurisdictional goals and priorities
- Engage departments at each step
- Establish relationships and trust with an eye to implementation
- Connect current work to the Plan

Santa Barbara County Departments

- Critical partners
- Shaping the Plan

4. Countywide – Water Supply & Infrastructure

Problem Statements: Water Supply Infrastructure

Water pipelines can be damaged by climate hazards, reducing water supply throughout the County. Water pipelines and infrastructure are complex and often lack back-up or redundant systems. Extended drought conditions can increase the cost of water and affect water quality, putting pressure on low-income households, cost-burdened households, and Environmental Justice Communities.

Background: Water Supply Infrastructure

Water service and infrastructure can be at risk from flooding, wildfire, earthquake, sediment build up, landslide and debris flow, and drought. Water pipelines can be damaged by climate hazards, reducing water supply. Water restrictions may be implemented during drought, which limits the amount of water that can be used for agriculture, wastewater treatment, and residential use.

Problem Statement: Groundwater

Water levels in groundwater basins throughout the County have declined in recent years falling as a result of lower-than-average rainfall and in some cases overuse (overdraft.) This can result in reduced water availability, problems with existing wells, higher concentrations of water pollutants, and in some cases, intrusion of seawater into the aquifer. While the County is already working to make the basins more sustainable, the process is slow and requires coordination with many key partners. Cuyama Valley experiences the hottest temperatures in the county and is heavily dependent on groundwater from the Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin. The Cuyama Groundwater



Wilkinson, Whitney

Recommend removal as County does not have direct control over water supply infrastructure.

Reply



Saucedo, JD

Not sure if this is appropriate to mention here or anywhere else, but I've seen this issue come up with local reservoirs multiple times, especially with Twitchell, which I think primarily exists to facilitate recharging local groundwater basins in the area.

- Continuity with Core Team – CCVA to Adaptation
- Current projects survey
- Key milestone small group discussions
- One-on-one meetings
- Ongoing review and feedback

Doing What You Control

So you can manage the scope of implementation!



Focus resources within your jurisdiction



Conduct a critical analysis of issues



Identify your partners or agencies who do have oversight



Communicate with the stakeholders

From Vulnerability to Problem Statement

C	D	R	S	T
High-Risk Asset(s)	Top Hazards	County Jurisdiction	County Department(s)	Key Partner(s)
<i>CCVA Score of V5 ONLY</i>	<i>List</i>			
Bridges (North County)	Landslide and Debris Flow	Direct	Public Works	
Bus routes (North County)	Wildfire	Close Partnership		SBCAG, Santa Maria Area Transit, Santa Ynez VALley Transit, Breeze Bus, Clea Air Express,
Airport (Public-noncommercial)	Inland Flooding	Limited/None		
Homes, residential structures, and residential opportunity sites (North County)	Wildfire	Direct	Fire, OEM	Planning and B&S, SBC Fire Safe Council, Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program, Wildfire Resilience Group
Single access roads (Cuyama Valley)	Wildfire	Direct	Transportation, Fire	Property owners
Homes, residential structures, and residential opportunity sites (Cuyama Valley)	Inland Flooding	Direct	County Flood Control, P&D	

Community Values and Needs

Foundation for an implementable plan



Community goals foundational entire effort



Integrated with technical analysis



Balance engagement from all voices



Engage based on what people know



Create advocates to influence political will



Institutionalize community engagement

Community Involvement is a Long-Term Need

Consultants should not be the primary voice!

- Build and sustain relationships overtime
 - Community Based Organizations
 - State and Federal Agencies
 - Tribal Governments
 - Utilities
 - And more...



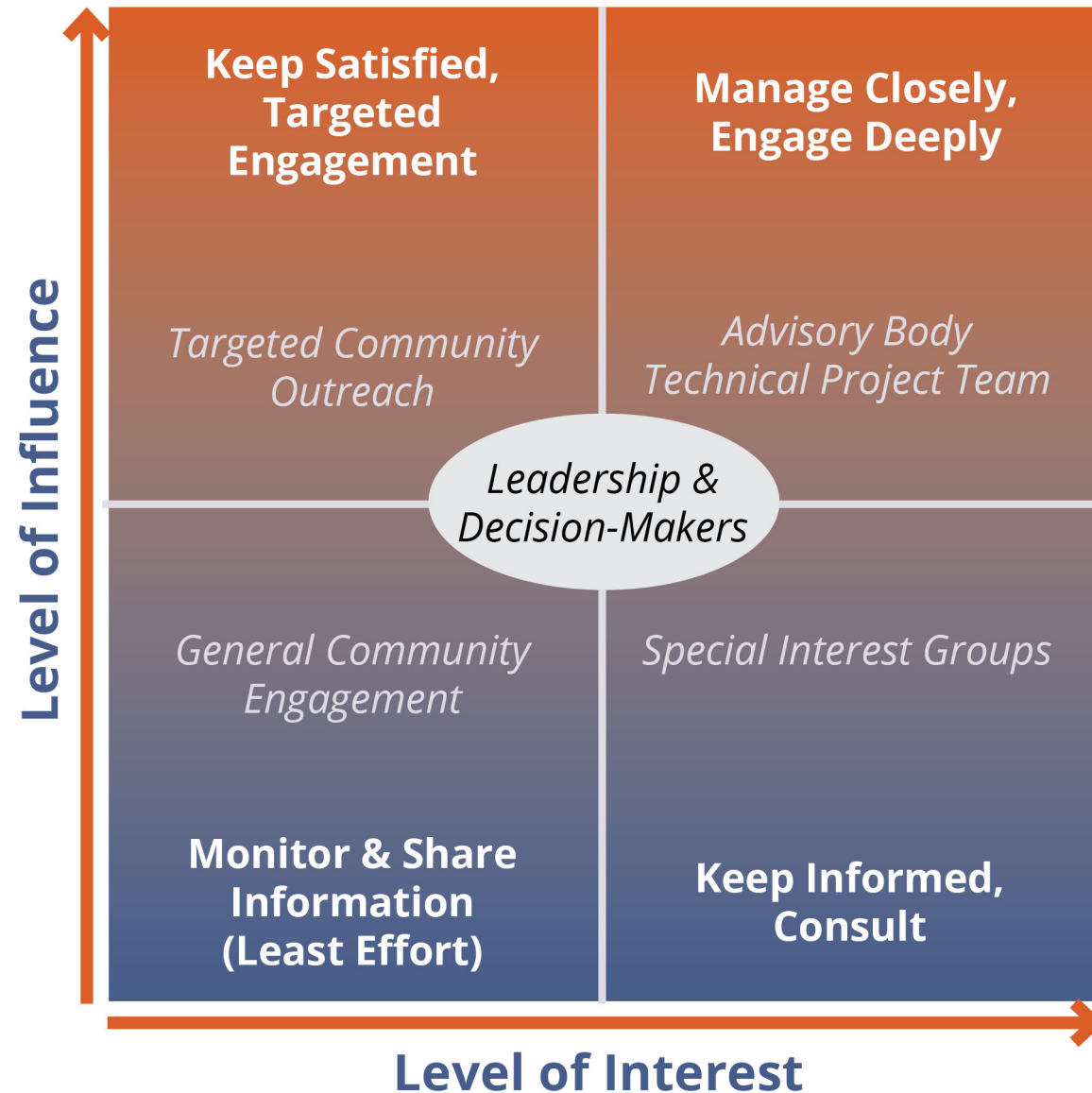
**CLIMATE ADAPTATION
PLAN &
EA+OC OUTREACH**

Equity Advisory and Outreach Committee
Whitney Wilkinson, Project Manager
April 4, 2023

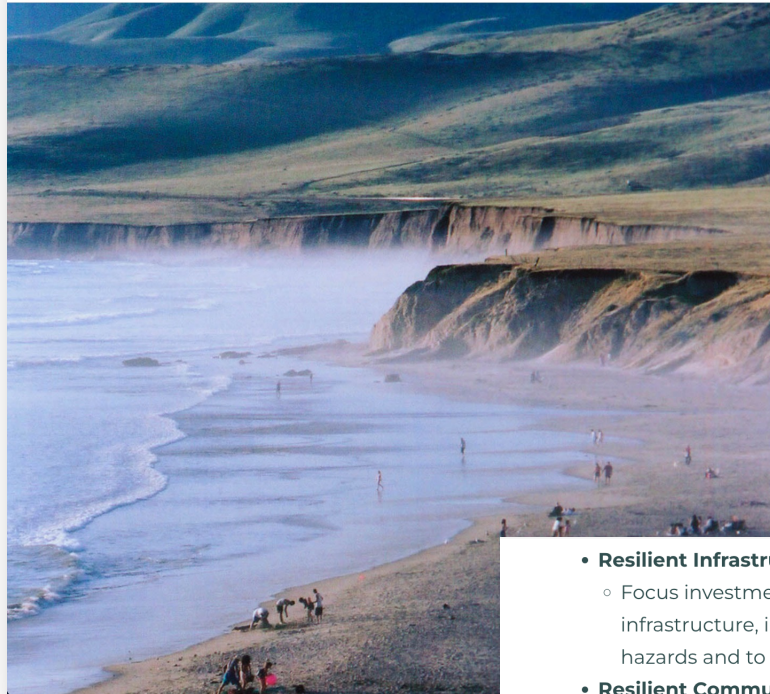
 **one
CLIMATE**
One County. One Future.

Strategic Stakeholder & Community Engagement

Map influence & interest for each effort



Developing Community Vision & Goals



County of Santa Barbara Adaptation Plan

How is Santa Barbara preparing for a
changing climate?

County of Santa Barbara

- **Resilient Infrastructure**
 - Focus investments on climate-proofing county-owned and managed critical infrastructure, including County facilities and services, to protect from climate hazards and to operate and recover essential services quickly.
- **Resilient Community**
 - Encourage and support community cohesion and a sense of community to improve resilience, particularly for isolated regions and frontline community members.
- **Resilient Mobility**
 - Expand the number and quality of resilient mobility options throughout the County to provide a robust transportation network that is connected and accessible.
- **Resilient Environment**
 - Advance and implement solutions that limit the impacts of climate on our natural environment, protecting ecosystems and supporting access, recreation, and the natural beauty of the region.
- **Resilient Region**
 - Collaborate with partners, landowners, and other state and regional agencies in and around the County to align and spur resilience efforts beyond the County's jurisdiction.

Criteria & Prioritizing Strategies

- Develop criteria with input from internal audience and community members and stakeholders
- Use criteria and engagement to focus on impactful solutions
- Communicate goal to do what is implementable
- Don't create a laundry list

Criteria

- **Value**
 - The strategy must be a good value, be cost-effective, and/or leverage available funding sources (current or future), using order of magnitude assessment. The strategy should be financially feasible.
- **Equity**
 - The strategy reduces environmental injustices and systemic disparities experienced by frontline communities and ensures equitable distribution of project benefits and burdens.
- **Champion**
 - The strategy has a plausible champion identified – a person, agency, department, or partner organization that will lead the implementation and bring the strategy to fruition.
- **Community Co-benefits**
 - The strategy creates community co-benefits that improve human health and well-being, community resilience, quality of life, and supports a prosperous and just economy, and/or aligns with other long-term planning priorities.
- **Alignment**
 - The strategy aligns with other long-term planning priorities.

Develop Strategies

Be as specific as possible

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION							
Problem statement	<i>This is the problem statement that the strategy is responding to. This should come out of the vulnerability assessment and should include community goals.</i>						
Strategy name	<i>This is the name of the strategy – try to keep it to a few words.</i>						
Strategy summary	<i>This is a short description of what the strategy does.</i>						
Hazard(s) addressed	<i>Identify which hazard this strategy responds to.</i>						
Strategy type	Operational <i>(Strategies to enact operational and governance related improvements)</i>	Programmatic <i>(Strategies to expand or create new programs, activities, and initiatives)</i>	Plans, Regulations, and Policy Development <i>(Strategies to develop or revise policies, plans, regulations, and guidelines)</i>		Capital Improvement/ Infrastructure Projects <i>(Strategies designed to address physical and functional deficiencies and needs in the built environment)</i>	Education/ Outreach/ Coordination <i>(Strategies related to initiating or expanding partnerships and relationships, communicating and sharing information, and building awareness)</i>	Evaluation <i>(Strategies to improve feedback, input, data and information or conduct further or new analysis)</i>
Process/ implementation mechanism	Long Range Planning <i>(e.g., master plans, climate action plans)</i>	Land Use Planning <i>(e.g., general plan, specific plan)</i>	Capital Planning <i>(e.g., capital improvement plan)</i>	Operations <i>(e.g., annual budgeting)</i>	Emergency & Hazards Planning <i>(e.g., hazard mitigation plans)</i>	Project Planning and Design <i>(e.g., private and public development projects)</i>	New Initiatives <i>(e.g., legislation, ballot measure)</i>
Responsible agency	<i>Which department has the proper authority, capacity, and knowledge to implement the strategy.</i>						
Partners	<i>Internal or external stakeholders who have some decision making authority, political influence, policy or regulation authority, or who can assist with implementation.</i>						

Bring it all together

Long-Term Values & Vision,
Supporting Priority Actions
& Projects



Actionable and Purpose-Driven Partnerships



Achieve what is outside of your control



Convene multi-jurisdiction groups to drive projects



Use political and community support to influence when possible



Secure funding

Small Groups from All Sectors



Breakout #2

How would using these approaches effect the barriers?

Common Barriers

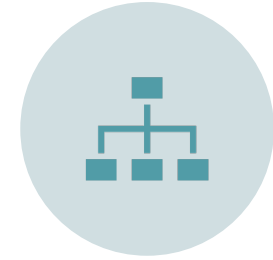
Why it is so hard to get to projects and action...



Staffing Capacity
and Technical
Expertise



Political Priorities



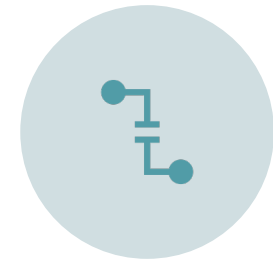
Lack Of Alignment
/Too Many Plans



Limited Funding
Streams

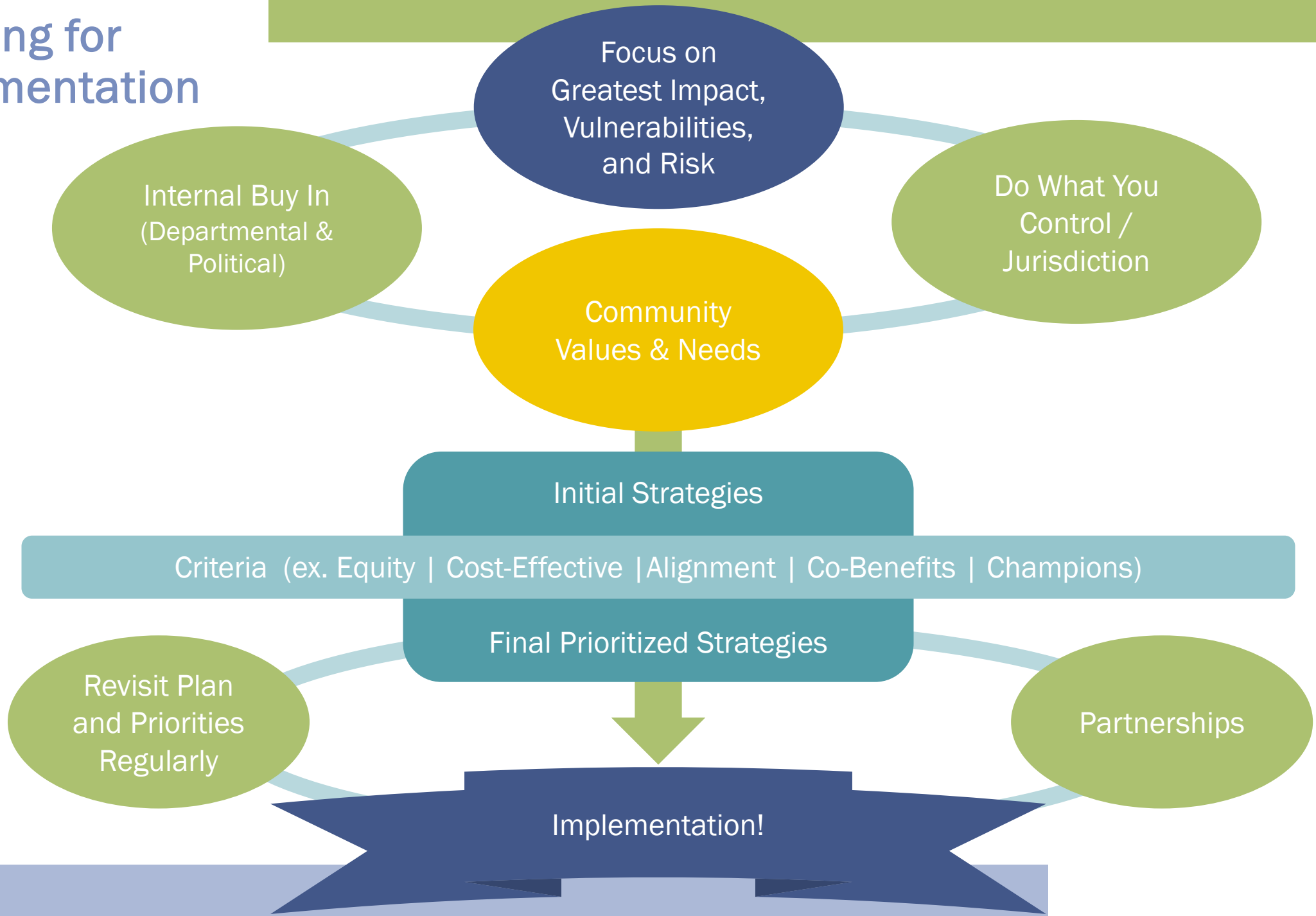


Lack Of Data and
Proof Of Concept



Disconnect Between
Planning and
Implementation

Planning for Implementation



Directions

1. Introduce yourselves
2. Pick 2 barriers to Implementation
3. Discuss how would this approach help
4. What is missing or could be improved?
5. Prepare to report back 2-3 ideas from the discussion

Moving from Vulnerability Assessments to Implementable Adaptation Plans

California Adaptation Forum | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm