

San Joaquin Valley Region

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program offering capacity building support for local governments to address climate change. A team of 48 AmeriCorps members serve in 9 regions across California creating lasting local impact.



CivicSpark SJV Region Projects

Business Energy Tune-Up Capacity Building

- Support Business Energy Tune Up program in Fresno County, providing outreach and education to business owners, support for engagement in rebate and incentive programs and follow-up post upgrade.
- *Beneficiaries: City of Fresno, County of Fresno*

Merced County Climate Action Plan

- Support development of content and completion of the Merced County Climate Action Plan.
- *Beneficiary: Merced County*

Urban Forestry in the Central Valley

- Support development of a core constituency who supports urban forestry by educating elected officials, staff and community leaders and increase urban forestry expansion and management capacity through technical support and training.
- *Beneficiaries: Kings River Conservation District*

SJV Energy Management

- Provide technical assistance on building energy use for local governments in the Central Valley through initial benchmarking in EPA EnergyStart Portfolio Manager, then developing readiness reports to guide decision making and providing support for council policy making and peer information exchanged.
- *Beneficiaries: Madera County, Kern County, County of Fresno, City of Fresno*

RWJF Complete Streets for the Central Valley

- Support adoption of complete streets policies in the Central Valley through workshop development and technical assistance.
- *Beneficiaries: Fresno COG, King COG, Stanislaus County*

Regional Partner

The Office of Community & Economic Development The Office of Community & Economic Development at Fresno State connects the university to the community throughout the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley. The office connects the community to the resources of Fresno State, through data, research, industry insights, and connections to collaborators, investors, researchers, affiliates, and new markets.



Meet Our Team



Don Pauley, Regional Supervisor Don Pauley managed small cities in Minnesota and California for 38 years before retiring as City Manager from the City of Kingsburg, California in 2013. He brings management and leadership experience in small cities in the Central San Joaquin Valley to his Encore Fellowship as the San Joaquin Valley Regional Supervisor with the Local Government Commission and CivicSpark.



Jennifer Alvarez Jennifer attended California State University Stanislaus in Turlock, finishing with a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with a concentration in ecology. While in school Jennifer worked on a multiple research projects including studying the genetic composition and physiological characteristics of the aspen tree population, and compiling a scientific review of ecosystem services found in urban areas.



Andrew Kopp Andrew Kopp is a graduate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studied Urban and Regional Planning. He has experience working on a long-range bicycle plan, neighborhood plan, and small area design interventions from start to finish.



Zenia Montero Zenia Montero graduated with honors from the University of California in Los Angeles in 2012, majoring in Political Science with a concentration in American Politics. In the fall of 2011, she was a legal intern at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where she applied her knowledge of federal environmental laws and regulations.



Misael Palacios Misael Palacios is from Fairfield, CA and a recent graduate from California State University, Sacramento. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Prior to CivicSpark, Misael interned with Greenwise in Sacramento on their Better Building Challenge program, increasing building energy efficiency.



Jessie Rudd Before joining CivicSpark, Jessie spent three years traveling and working in diverse communities in Southeast Asia, Australia, Canada and Central America. Jessie is a graduate of University of California, Santa Cruz where she obtained a BA from their interdisciplinary environmental studies department with a concentration in law and policy.



Tommy Ta Tommy Ta received a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences at University of California Riverside, and a Master's degree at Chapman University in the same discipline. With an interest in sustainability, Tommy hopes to bring his skills and knowledge to help the San Joaquin Valley deal with problems of water resources, energy consumption, and air quality issues.