SOCIAL EQUITY COLLABORATIVE FUND

CLIMATE JUSTICE VISION

We believe that those disproportionately impacted by climate change should be empowered, recognized and valued as positive agents for climate justice, and that laws and policies should be developed that benefit all people and their communities. San Diego and Imperial Counties and the greater Baja California region experience climate change in adverse impacts to health and environmental quality and to opportunities in the formal and informal economy. These adverse impacts of climate change exacerbate racist systems that have historically denied and continue to deny people of color access to education, housing and other systems that are required not only to survive but to thrive in a new economy. This funding initiative strives to reduce the pace of climate change and to mitigate its impacts by growing opportunities in the emerging green economy and encouraging community resiliency and innovative solutions.

Climate change not only results in shifting conditions where people live but also forces migration of people. This funding initiative will be grounded in place-based solutions and will center strategies that mitigate gentrification, displacement and environmental impacts. This funding initiative will strive to reduce gentrification in neighborhoods where cleantech and other green economy money flows. We believe residents of the neighborhoods in which elected and appointed officials decide to locate polluting industries should be represented when those decisions are made. We believe that climate justice should emphasize workers’ contribution to the evolution of economic policy, practice, and investment that preserves the affordability of communities. Further, a region’s investment in new high wage jobs arising from the green economy must also include investment in training for the workforce of low and middle range wage earners who previously powered fossil fuel-based jobs.

In the greater Cali-Baja region, the Social Equity Collaborative Fund has joined with The San Diego Foundation and other partners to launch a climate justice funding initiative that connects and amplifies community driven solutions to develop and implement local climate action plans. We are committed to supporting local leaders who are engaged in the work, including through strategies that integrate policy advocacy with community organizing to drive the creation of permanent solutions. We envision governments and communities implementing solutions designed with and by the low-income people of color who most often and deeply experience the adverse impacts of climate change. Above all, we honor and uplift existing practices of care that low income communities of color and native people have practiced for many years and the solutions that they bring forward today.

FINAL October 2019