It Takes A Region: Opportunities and Challenges for Equity and Sustainability

San Joaquin Valley Regional Equity Summit
May 26, 2010

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Why Regions Matter

- Sweet-spot between local and state/nation/globe
- People and problems move around regionally
- Regional influences on community well-being
- Patterns of disparity across place and population play out regionally
- Community solutions require regional strategies (along with local strategies)
Local Opportunities for Regionalism

- The SJV can:
  - Participate in building a regional commons
  - Increase efficiencies through cross-sector collaborations
  - Become more agile and flexible in response to opportunities and challenges

- The SJV will need to:
  - Build and reward collaborative leadership capacity
  - Embrace three “e’s” of sustainability (economy, environment, equity)
  - Keep hope alive: ¡si se puede!
OK, but, which region?
Problem of scale: ‘Whack a mole’
Model: Local/regional organizing
Healthy Youth/ Healthy Regions

Starting Points

- Regional vitality requires healthy youth
- Youth disparities intertwined with regional equity
- Regional collaboration necessary
Regional Strands

Employment 

Education 

Civic Engagement 

Health 

Youth disparities/opportunities
High School Enrollment and Dropout by Ethnic Group

- **Amador County**
  - Total Dropout: 930
  - Regular Enrollment: 1470
  - Alternative Enrollment: 97

- **El Dorado County**
  - Total Dropout: 745
  - Regular Enrollment: 1380
  - Alternative Enrollment: 185

- **Placer County**
  - Total Dropout: 346
  - Regular Enrollment: 626
  - Alternative Enrollment: 145

- **Sacramento County**
  - Total Dropout: 401
  - Regular Enrollment: 725
  - Alternative Enrollment: 49

- **Sutter County**
  - Total Dropout: 245
  - Regular Enrollment: 453
  - Alternative Enrollment: 32

- **Solano County**
  - Total Dropout: 1256
  - Regular Enrollment: 2153
  - Alternative Enrollment: 148

- **Yolo County**
  - Total Dropout: 602
  - Regular Enrollment: 930
  - Alternative Enrollment: 90

**Percentages**
- Total Dropout: 40%
- Regular Enrollment: 60%
- Alternative Enrollment: 20%
Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions Data Review

May 24, 2010

Education

Opinions & Ideas for the Future of West Sacramento

The youth also discussed their interests in education and their future plans. They highlighted the importance of education in shaping their future and their aspirations. The students emphasized the need for better educational resources and support systems. They also shared their experiences with various educational challenges and how they overcame them. The youth emphasized the role of education in personal development and career opportunities. They expressed their desire for a more inclusive and supportive educational environment. The discussion highlighted the importance of investing in education to ensure a brighter future for the youth of West Sacramento.

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**SJV CHIP**

The goal of SJV CHIP is to reduce the cumulative health impacts of environmental pollution in the communities of the San Joaquin Valley.

**Long-Term Goals**

- Ensure regulatory agencies and elected officials understand health impacts from multiple sources of pollution and adopt enforceable regulations that will reduce cumulative impact.

- Train community members who are empowered to speak out about the effects of multiple pollution sources on their health and communities.

- Support/develop credible, scientific research that documents the cumulative health impact of multiple types and sources of pollution.
San Joaquin Valley: Social Vulnerability Index by Census Block Group

Source: Census 2000.

Social vulnerability index
- High
- High to medium
- Medium
- Medium to low
- Low
- No data

Major roads
- County boundaries

Social vulnerability index was constructed by the following variables:
- Percent Non-White population
- Percent of households that are linguistically isolated
- Percent of population age 25+ that graduate from a high school
- Medium household income

Map created by Ganlin Huang November, 2009.
Take Home Points

- Regionalism can be a potent frame for “equity agenda”

- Need to define: Which region? How relate to other regions? How operationalize regional strategies?

- Regionalism requires visionary and skillful leadership

- SJV can be a leader in regionalism from below
Thank you!

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