



Climate and Jobs: A Community Survey in South Stockton

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Prepared for:

North Valley THRIVE

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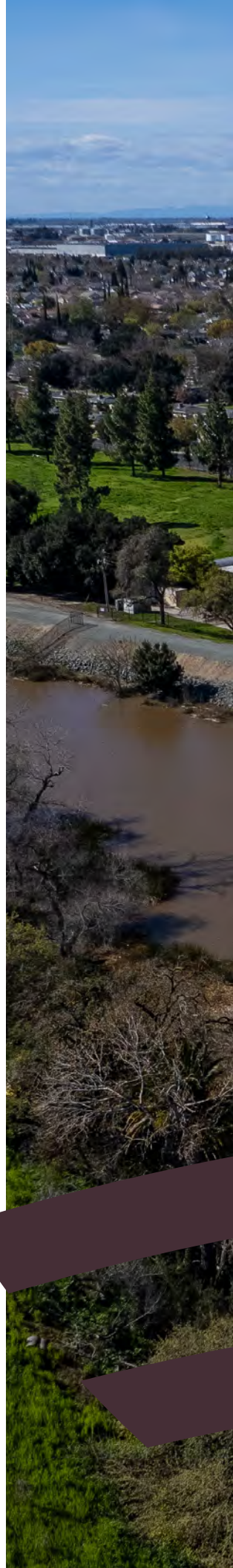
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Executive Summary

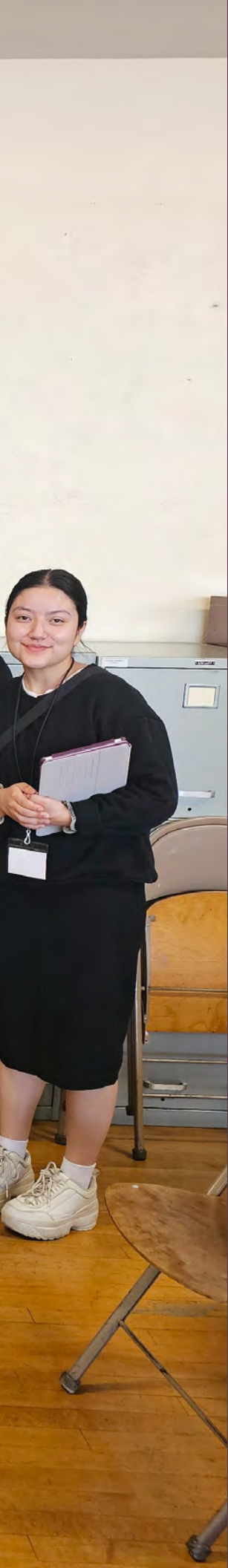
The North San Joaquin Valley (NSJV), encompassing San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Merced counties, is at a pivotal moment in its economic and environmental transformation. The North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision for the region, emphasizing a transition to a high-road economy centered on equity, environmental stewardship, and sustainable growth.¹ This vision aligns closely with California's state-level climate policies, which seek to address climate change while advancing equitable economic opportunities in historically disinvested communities.²

This report, "Climate and Jobs: A Community Survey in South Stockton," builds on the principles and strategies outlined in the North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan.³ It provides critical insights into the preferences, needs, and awareness of residents in frontline communities, particularly regarding climate investments and employment in emerging green industries. These communities, designated as disadvantaged by California's cumulative impact mapping tool (CalEnviroScreen),⁴ offer a unique lens for understanding how climate policies and workforce strategies can intersect to address systemic inequities while fostering sustainable development.

The survey findings reinforce the need for community-centered climate and high-road workforce investments, aligning with North Valley THRIVE's core values of equity, transparency, and systemic change. Respondents expressed strong preferences for job creation, environmental protections, and equitable access to green industry employment, all of which resonate with the cross-cutting strategies and priority sectors outlined in the North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan.

The current report highlights the preferences and awareness of disadvantaged communities in climate investments and employment in emerging green industries. To date, climate investments and green workforce development have largely been influenced by state agencies, lobbying groups, and elected officials.⁵ This study characterizes climate investment and employment priorities of residents living in disadvantaged communities that should drive local, regional, and state decision-making. Meaningfully involving residents from disadvantaged communities in the decisions that directly impact them is a primary principle of environmental justice, often referred to as procedural justice,⁶ and is consistent with just transition perspectives.⁷

By integrating the insights from this report with the strategies of the North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan, stakeholders in South Stockton and the broader NSJV region can ensure that climate, job creation and other related investments not only address pressing environmental challenges but also lay the groundwork toward The High-Road for an Inclusive Vibrant Economy (THRIVE). This collaborative approach underscores the critical role of frontline communities in shaping policies that reflect their needs and aspirations, transforming challenges into opportunities for equitable growth.



Key Finding:

Many workers in South Stockton face Low-Road working conditions, including low wages, job safety, and lack of benefits.

Key Finding:

Most residents support a transition away from a fossil-fuel based economy and many would seek high-road employment in emerging industries.

Background

Between April 6 and May 13, 2024, the UC Merced Community and Labor Center and the North Valley Labor Federation (NVLF) surveyed 400 households in South Stockton with a focus on climate change, investments, and employment conditions and preferences. Door-to-door canvassers conducted 80 percent of the surveys in English and 20 percent in Spanish. The North Valley THRIVE program funded the project. The survey is part of a larger study of climate investments, technologies, and jobs in the San Joaquin Valley called the “Valley Plan” and housed at UC Merced. Canvassers implemented the survey in Census Tracts 8.03, 25.03, and 25.04 (see Figure 1).⁸ The findings have a margin of error +/- 5 points.⁹ All three census tracts are designated as disadvantaged by the US EPA’s Justice40 initiative¹⁰ and California’s CalEnviroScreen tool, and all of these tracts are prioritized for climate investments from federal and state revenues (including California’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds¹¹) as described above.¹² According to the U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index, all three census tracts rank high for climate risk and lack of resiliency. Census Tract 25.03 ranks seventh out of 8,057 census tracts in California in terms of climate vulnerability and Census Tract 8.03 is also in the highest vulnerability classification.¹³

Key Finding:

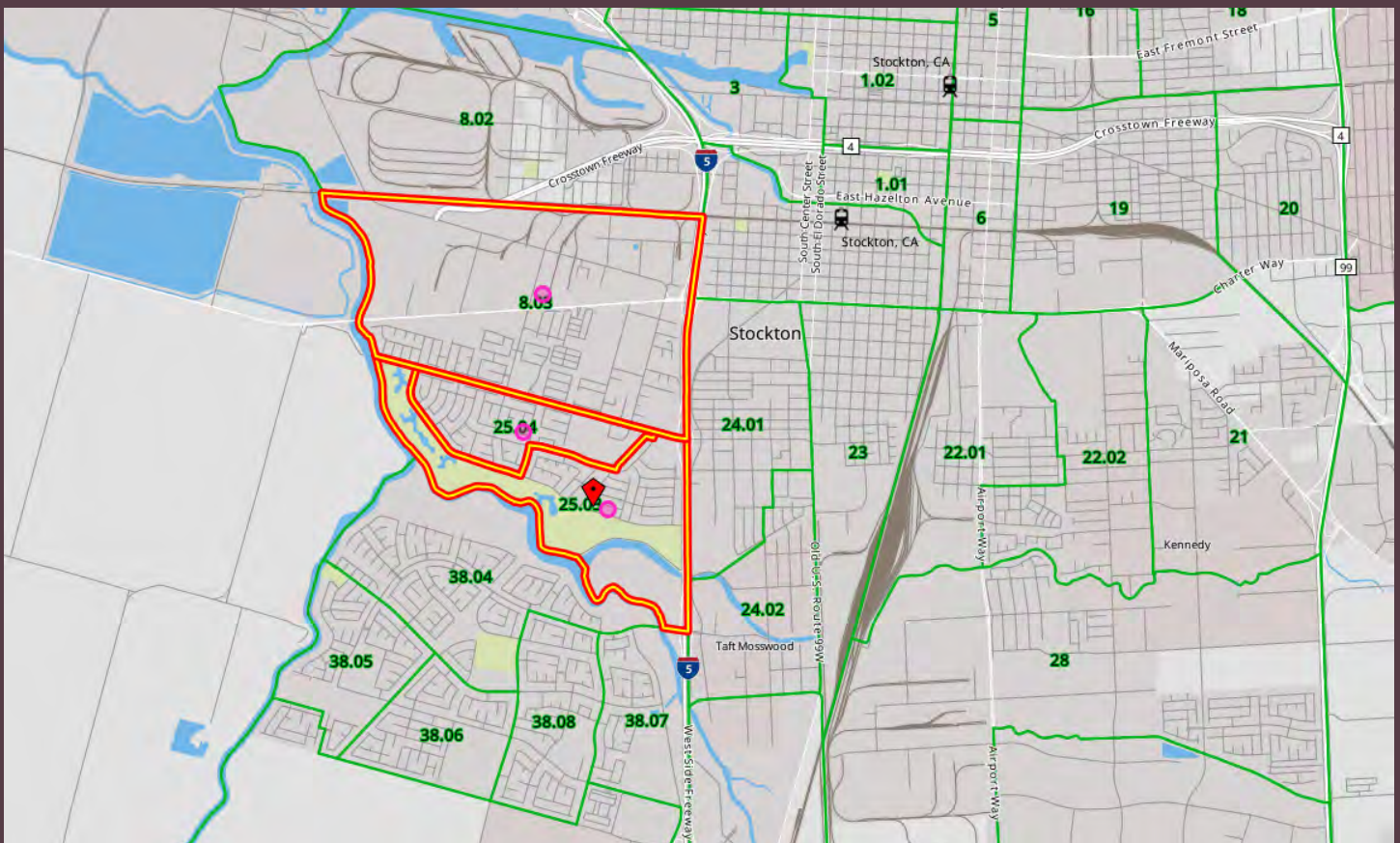
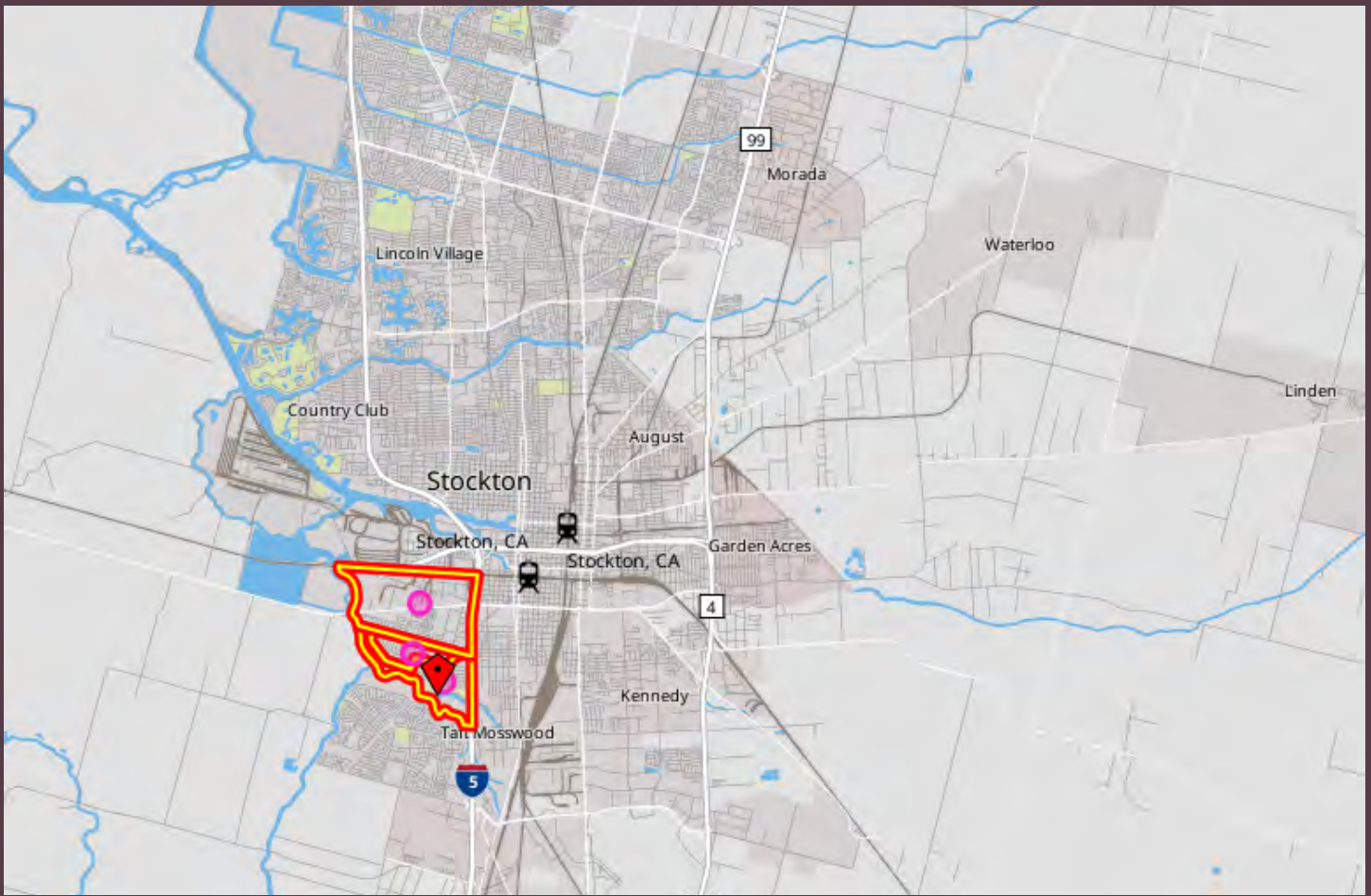
There is a general lack of understanding and knowledge of emerging energy and carbon technologies that are proposed for the Central Valley.

Key Finding:

Residents prefer that climate investments promote safe jobs with benefits and environmental quality over corporate profits, aligning the interests of working families and environmental justice advocates.



Figure 1. Census Tracts in Survey¹⁴



The Case for Equitable Economic Development

The report begins with two major issues impacting working families in the region - employment conditions and environmental health. The survey included a series of questions that assessed NSJV residents' workplace experiences and environmental health. Table 1 examines working conditions for residents in South Stockton. Nearly half of respondents (46.1%) reported they do not earn enough to meet their basic needs.¹⁵ One in five respondents stated they had been injured at work, and one in three have no access to workers' compensation if they are injured. These low-road forms of employment practices point to needed improvements in workplace standards that should be incorporated in climate subsidies and workforce development initiatives.

Table 1. Which of the following statements apply to your working conditions now or in the recent past?

	Yes	No	Not sure
I'm paid on time	89.2% (355)	8.0% (32)	2.8% (11)
I receive written documentation of my pay	83.9% (333)	13.4% (53)	2.8% (11)
My work hours are consistent	72.7% (288)	23.0% (91)	4.3% (17)
I have compensation if I'm injured on the job	60.3% (240)	34.4% (137)	5.3% (21)
I'm not paid enough to meet my basic needs	46.1% (184)	47.1% (188)	6.8% (27)
My work is covered by a union or association contract	35.0% (139)	55.2% (219)	9.8% (39)
I have been injured on the job	22.7% (90)	75.1% (298)	2.3% (9)
I'm not fully paid for my work	17.9% (71)	79.1% (314)	3.0% (12)

In addition to work-place challenges, residents in environmental justice communities¹⁶ in Stockton face a series of cumulative environmental health issues, especially in relation to air pollution, drinking water quality, lead in housing, heat waves, traffic, and pesticides. Table 2 provides detailed insights on resident perceptions on the most important environmental threats, associated risks, and the urgency for state-level action. Across all threats listed, a significant majority of respondents indicated that government attention is either important or very important. Notably, over 90 percent of respondents identified low water quality and air pollution as critical priorities for government efforts. Additionally, over 80

percent emphasized the urgency of addressing wildfire smoke, excessive heat, pesticide exposure, lead contamination in water or paint, droughts, and climate change.

The survey was carried out in the milder weather season of April and early May before the outbreak of wildfires and extreme heat, which are more common in the summer months into early fall. In a county-wide representative survey of San Joaquin, 58 percent of residents stated that local officials should do more to combat global warming.¹⁷ The residents in the disadvantaged census tracts in this study perceive climate change as much more urgent than the general population of the county, with 80 percent of respondents calling for government action to address extreme heat and climate change.

Table 2. How important is it for the government to deal with the following environmental issues in your community within the next two years?

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Quality of drinking water	77.3% (307)	14.6% (58)	4.0% (16)	4.0% (16)
Air pollution in general	70.2% (278)	21.0% (83)	5.6% (22)	3.2% (13)
Air pollution from wildfire smoke	67.7% (268)	19.2% (76)	8.1% (32)	5.0% (20)
Excessive heat	58.1% (230)	22.0% (87)	12.6% (50)	7.3% (29)
Pesticide exposure	61.1% (242)	20.7% (82)	10.6% (42)	7.6% (30)
Lead in water or paint	69.9% (277)	18.2% (72)	5.8% (23)	6.1% (24)
Droughts	58.6% (232)	26.3% (104)	8.6% (34)	6.6% (26)
Climate change	56.4% (224)	24.7% (98)	12.3% (49)	6.6% (26)
Flooding	51.6% (204)	23.3% (92)	15.4% (61)	9.6% (38)
Noise pollution	40.0% (158)	24.1% (95)	18.7% (74)	17.2% (68)





Climate Investments

Having a good understanding of major energy and carbon capture technologies as well as climate investments supports residents' participation in decision-making and identification of the potential risks and benefits of proposed projects. Table 3 examines the public's awareness of many new green energy and carbon capture technologies. A large majority of respondents reported familiarity with solar and wind-generated energy. 52% of respondents were also familiar with hydrogen energy. The San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) recently received its first five Hydrogen Fuel Cell (zero emission) power public buses for the wider Stockton region.¹⁸ The Port of Stockton also plans on delivering hydrogen by mid-2025 as a local hub.¹⁹ The publicity of hydrogen power in the region may have made larger segments of the population more familiar with its uses than in many other communities. Another 55 percent of respondents were aware of biofuels. Roughly only one in five persons is aware of newer carbon and methane capturing technologies.²⁰ San Joaquin County is home to one of the first commercial Direct Air Capture (DAC) facilities in the United States, which opened in Tracy in 2023.²¹ The Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) sector has targeted the entire San Joaquin Valley for the establishment of dozens of new facilities.²² Given this comparatively limited familiarity, more state and local investment in community outreach, including funding of community and labor organizations, would provide opportunities for more public deliberation on the potential benefits and job opportunities of CCS as well as the risks they pose for already heavily-polluted San Joaquin Valley communities.



Table 3. Are you familiar with these new energy and carbon capture technologies?

Energy/Carbon Technology	Yes	No
Solar power	95.7% (381)	4.3% (17)
Wind power	69.3% (275)	30.7% (122)
Biofuels	54.8% (216)	45.2% (178)
Hydrogen energy	52.4% (208)	47.6% (189)
Carbon capture and sequestration	22.5% (89)	77.5% (307)
Direct air capture of carbon	21.4% (85)	78.6% (312)
Dairy digestors	21.2% (84)	78.8% (312)
Biomass carbon removal and storage	20.5% (81)	79.5% (315)



There is some evidence of residents’ concern with the climate crisis as 73 percent of respondents in Table 4 report that it is important or very important that the state of California invest in moving away from fossil fuels. These kinds of preferences for alternatives to a carbon-based economy are a core component in shaping a transition to high-road green jobs.²³

Table 4 How important is it that the government invest in moving away from fossil fuels?

Level of Importance	Freq.	Percent
Very important	150	37.6%
Important	143	35.8%
Somewhat Important	73	18.3%
Not at all important	33	8.3%
Total	399	100%

Because of the way that state and federal climate funds prioritize disadvantaged communities, it is critical that potential recipients in these regions are aware of these programs. Table 5 captures residents’ knowledge of special state and federal funds to improve environmental quality and workforce development in their respective census tracts. All three census tracts are eligible for priority funding from the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and the Federal Government’s Justice40 initiative. Only a third of respondents were aware of these types of funding opportunities. As stated above, public participation in environmental and workforce development decision-making is a key environmental justice principle and often required by state law for new projects and investments.²⁴ More effort by local policymakers on involving community and labor on how these funds are distributed would help raise greater awareness about GGRF and Justice40 and create pathways for more participatory decision-making. These efforts could include funding trusted messengers such as community-based organizations and labor unions to work with local institutions to identify how to best apply governments’ climate funds, similar to participatory budgeting processes.²⁵

Table 5. The State and Federal government have set aside money to improve the environment and create jobs in communities like yours, is that something you were aware of?

	Freq.	Percent
Yes	127	32%
No	270	68%
Total	397	100%

Once people residing in environmental justice communities become aware of governmental climate funds that qualify for their respective neighborhoods, the spending preferences of those populations should be considered. Table 6 queries frontline residents on how they would like to see GGRF invested in their respective communities. 94 percent of respondents reported it is important or very important for the funds to be used for job creation and job training. There was similar support to reduce air pollution,

and 90 percent stated it was important or very important to protect residents from extreme heat. 97 percent favored investing in more access to clean drinking water. Well over 80 percent of respondents favored more recreational space and flood control, slightly lower than the number who favored jobs and a clean and healthy environment. These preferences indicate robust local level support for the US EPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to extend the workforce development components of their respective climate funding programs, especially around job training and job creation.

Table 6. How important do you think it is for the state of California to use the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund in the following areas in your community

Area	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Increasing access to clean drinking water	84.9% (337)	12.6% (50)	2.0% (8)	0.5% (2)
Job training	70.4% (281)	24.1% (96)	4.3% (17)	1.3% (5)
Job creation	73.7% (294)	20.8% (83)	4.3% (17)	1.3% (5)
Reducing air pollution	70.0% (277)	23.7% (94)	5.3% (21)	1.0% (4)
Protections from extreme heat	61.7% (246)	28.1% (112)	8.8% (35)	1.5% (6)
Creating more parks and recreational space	62.6% (249)	24.1% (96)	10.6% (42)	2.8% (11)
Flood control	57.8% (230)	24.9% (99)	12.6% (50)	4.8% (19)





Employment and Jobs in the Net Zero Transition

The new carbon capture and sequestration industries provide both opportunities and risks to nearby communities. Table 7 shows strong support for protecting both workers and the environment in climate change related industries. Any public investment in renewable energy sectors—such as solar, hydrogen, and turbines—and in carbon capture, removal, and storage industries should be coupled with strong labor standards. Many of the carbon capture and storage projects in the San Joaquin Valley are proposed for communities with already high levels of pollution and climate risk, including a lack of climate action plans. The results of this survey suggests that residents in these disadvantaged Stockton communities value worker health and a clean environment.

Table 7 How important is it that the government protects the environment and workers when it comes to industries related to climate change?

Level of Importance	Freq.	Percent
Very important	241	60.4%
Important	123	30.8%
Somewhat Important	28	7.0%
Not at all important	7	1.8%
Total	399	100%

For new development projects to receive community support (such as renewable energy installations or carbon capture technologies), the local priorities of nearby residents should be incorporated into the initial planning stages. Table 8 presents resident preferences for the types of benefits new industries or developments should bring to South Stockton, including those associated with the green economy. There is strong support for new developments that generate local high-road employment opportunities while avoiding pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In other words, working conditions (e.g. job safety, wages, benefits) were the highest preference, followed closely by local quality of life issues. Residents would like projects to provide locally relevant services and increase the local tax base. Table 8 provides evidence of community acceptance of projects that promote high-road job growth and a clean and healthy environment. Such perspectives align with Just Transition principles,²⁶ whereby

decarbonization efforts include high road employment opportunities, training, compensation for displaced workers in traditional fossil-fuel based industries, and overall community benefits.²⁷ Such an interest in safe jobs and a clean environment also aligns the concerns of labor and environmental justice advocates.



Table 8. How important are the following factors when deciding to support a new project or development incoming to your community?

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
Safety of jobs created	77.7% (307)	18.2% (72)	3.0% (12)	1.0% (4)
Quality of jobs created (wages and benefits)	77.2% (308)	18.0% (72)	3.5% (14)	1.3% (5)
Accessibility of jobs to local residents	74.7% (295)	20.0% (79)	4.6% (18)	0.8% (3)
Services or benefits to local residents	67.3% (267)	25.4% (101)	6.8% (27)	0.5% (2)
Number of jobs created	69.9% (279)	22.6% (90)	5.5% (22)	2.0% (8)
Does not increase local safety risks such as fires, leaks, or explosions	71.6% (285)	20.4% (81)	6.3% (25)	1.8% (7)
Does not increase water pollution	67.8% (270)	23.9% (95)	6.5% (26)	1.8% (7)
Environmental benefits	61.7% (245)	29.5% (117)	6.3% (25)	2.5% (10)
Does not increase air pollution	62.8% (250)	26.9% (107)	6.8% (27)	3.5% (14)
Does not increase greenhouse gas emissions	59.8% (238)	28.6% (114)	8.3% (33)	3.3% (13)
Does not emit odors	59.8% (238)	28.4% (113)	8.3% (33)	3.5% (14)
Does not increase local traffic and congestion	54.9% (218)	29.2% (116)	10.3% (41)	5.5% (22)
Amount of local tax revenue generated	52.9% (210)	30.2% (120)	11.8% (47)	5.0% (20)
Does not create noise pollution	54.4% (216)	28.7% (114)	10.6% (42)	6.3% (25)

National and state legislation provides billions of dollars in appropriations to corporations working on carbon capture technologies and renewable energy initiatives. Table 9 illustrates ranked preferences for the beneficiaries of government subsidies for climate initiatives. Respondents overwhelmingly preferred using climate funds for initiatives and activities that improved the environment and created high quality jobs over those that increased corporate profits. This is a critical perspective from working-class residents living in disadvantaged communities as privately held companies receive substantial

taxpayer subsidies to implement green development projects through the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Residents in frontline communities prefer public subsidies to advance environmental and health benefits as well as high-road job creation rather than ensure the profitability of private corporations.

Table 9. Government funding to help California address climate change may lead to multiple outcomes. Please rank the following three outcomes from least to most important in your opinion.

	Most important	Important	Less important
Creating good jobs	38.6% (146)	53.2% (201)	8.2% (31)
Improving public health and the environment	51.9% (196)	39.4% (149)	8.7% (33)
Increasing corporate profits	9.5% (36)	7.4% (28)	83.1% (314)

Figure 2 depicts the sectors employing current residents. The most mentioned employment sector was warehousing, an industry that has expanded rapidly in the NSJV in the past five years.

Figure 2 (word cloud). What kind of work do you usually do when you are working or what kind of work are you looking for?





Great Jobs

What do you want to do?



What are you good at?
getting? great work?



What do you like to do?
time for all
participate

Knowledge of workers' willingness to change current employment provides critical information to hasten the transition to green workforce development with high-road jobs. Tables 10 through 13 provide useful insights from workers in frontline communities on practices that can accelerate the workforce transition to a less carbon intensive economy. Climate investment programs that integrate workforce development components should address opportunities and barriers identified by respondents to institutionalize high road employment policies in priority economic sectors and industries. In Table 10, one in three respondents would be interested in finding a different type of job in the future. When considering only the currently employed, 41 percent of respondents are open to a different form of employment.

Table 10. If you are currently working or looking for work, what is your plan for the future? To keep your job or change it?

Future plan	Freq.	Percent
Stay in current job long-term	158	39.6%
Interested in doing something different in the future	133	33.3%
Not sure	32	8.0%
Not applicable (not looking for work)	76	19.1%
Total	399	100%

Beyond willingness to change current employment, the survey also explored a series of incentives that might push one to consider different job opportunities. Table 11 provides information on what drives residents to consider alternative employment options. Respondents ranked higher wages, improved retirement and health benefits, upward mobility, and new skills as the most influential factors in potential

job shifts. Two thirds of respondents would be motivated to change employment for a unionized job. In other major Central Valley cities, such as Fresno, labor union membership is associated with a greater willingness to participate in local climate and air pollution initiatives via capacity-building activities.²⁸ Notably, nearly half of respondents in the climate vulnerable census tracts expressed an interest in a “job that addresses climate change,” which is consistent with the results in Table 13 where over two thirds of respondents reported at least some interest in a new job that focused on transitioning the economy away from fossil fuels.



Table 11. On this scale of motivation, how much would these reasons make you consider changing your career (or become employed if not currently working)?

	Very much motivated	Motivated	Somewhat motivated	Not motivated
Potential for promotions and advancement	70.6% (278)	18.3% (72)	4.1% (16)	7.1% (28)
Better retirement benefits	72.8% (287)	16.0% (63)	4.1% (16)	7.1% (28)
Higher wages	73.2% (289)	13.7% (54)	4.6% (18)	8.6% (34)
Better health insurance	69.5% (274)	16.0% (63)	5.1% (20)	9.4% (37)
Learn new skills	63.5% (251)	21.3% (84)	8.1% (32)	7.1% (28)
More consistent work hours	53.4% (211)	22.0% (87)	8.1% (32)	16.5% (65)
Few hours or only having to work one job	48.4% (191)	21.5% (85)	10.1% (40)	20.0% (79)
Believing in the organization’s mission	47.1% (186)	22.8% (90)	14.4% (57)	15.7% (62)
A job that addresses climate change	47.8% (188)	21.6% (85)	14.2% (56)	16.3% (64)
Working in a union job	42.3% (166)	22.2% (87)	15.8% (62)	19.6% (77)

The study also examined the barriers to seeking alternative employment options. Table 12 finds one of the largest obstacles to changing employment is the difficulty of finding a new job.

Table 12. Barriers that might prevent you from exploring other careers

	Yes	No
Difficulty of finding a new job	43.1% (170)	56.9% (224)
Not interested in finding a new job	37.6% (148)	62.4% (246)
Time or money to go back to school	31.0% (122)	69.0% (272)
Time or money for job training	26.1% (103)	73.9% (291)
Lack of childcare	24.6% (97)	75.4% (297)
Other	14.5% (57)	85.5% (337)

Table 13. How interested would you be in working in a job that helps transition away from fossil fuels or addresses the impact of climate change?

Level of interest	Freq.	Percent
Very interested	72	18.0%
Interested	79	19.8%
Somewhat interested	122	30.6%
Not at all interested	126	31.6%
Total	399	100%

Community engagement often begins by residents attending a municipal, workplace, or neighborhood gathering about a pressing issue. This may be the starting point for the development of community and worker-based local policy development and implementation. Table 14 asks residents about their interest in engaging in various local issues by attending a community meeting. The highest ranked concerns centered around the high cost of living, with 54 percent stating they would be interested in attending a local gathering to discuss housing issues and the cost of utilities. Over half of the residents surveyed rented residential properties. An equally high priority for community engagement is the quality of the drinking water. The next grouping of priority issues motivating one to attend a local meeting include health care access, air pollution, and low wages. Respondents equally weighed economic and environmental issues in these environmental justice communities. The findings demonstrate the intersectionality of concerns and how effective community engagement around wages and climate/environment also needs to simultaneously address other pressing economic needs around the cost of living.

Table 14. Would you be interested in attending a community meeting to talk about how to improve the following issues in your neighborhood?

Issue	Yes	No
Housing/rental costs	54% (216)	46% (184)
Cost of utility/energy bills	53.5% (214)	46.5% (186)
Water quality	52.5% (210)	47.5% (190)
Access to health/care medical attention	47.5% (190)	52.5% (210)
Air pollution	47% (188)	53% (212)
Low wages	45.75% (183)	54.25% (217)
Increase climate change education in public schools	41.25% (165)	58.75% (235)
Protection from extreme heat	38% (152)	62% (248)
Pesticide risks	37.25% (149)	62.75% (251)
More parks and recreational spaces	37.25% (149)	62.75% (251)
Protection from flooding	34.75% (139)	65.25% (261)
Adaptation to climate change	32% (128)	68% (272)
Immigration reform	9.25% (37)	90.75% (363)

Finally, Figure 3 reflects opinions on obstacles to attending meetings to address local concerns. Residents most frequently replied to the open-ended question by stating “time” was the largest impediment followed by access to transportation, childcare, and work schedule. This is valuable information for state officials, union organizers, and community-based organizations in terms of developing strategies to maximize public participation in meetings and workshops on workforce development and environmental issues.

Figure 3 (word cloud). What is the biggest obstacle that might prevent you from attending a local community meeting?



To achieve substantive levels of community outreach and engagement for climate investments and workforce development, broad-based issues of pollution, health care, housing and utility costs, and low wages should be incorporated into community meetings and economic development initiatives. Economic development depends in large part upon public, tax-payer funded subsidies, and these issues are squarely in the public interest. The key question is, "how do such public investments advance the public good?"

Conclusion

This report on the climate and job survey that was conducted in South Stockton underscores the critical importance of aligning local community needs with broader regional and state-level strategies for equitable and sustainable development. The survey findings reveal strong community interest in climate-friendly and high-road employment opportunities, investments in environmental health, and equitable access to clean technologies. These priorities resonate with the guiding principles and strategic goals outlined in the North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan.

The North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan emphasizes transitioning the North San Joaquin Valley into a high-road economy by addressing systemic inequities, fostering sustainable industries, and centering community voices in decision-making. This survey complements that vision by identifying the needs and aspirations of South Stockton's frontline communities, which are at the forefront of climate risk and economic disinvestment. The North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan provides a framework to assist in ensuring that climate investments deliver meaningful economic and environmental benefits to communities like South Stockton.

The path forward requires a collaborative approach, bridging the insights from this survey with the strategies of the North Valley THRIVE Strategic Plan and related policies. By ensuring that disinvested communities have a seat at the table, stakeholders can create climate and workforce initiatives that are not only equitable, but also transformative. Together, these efforts can advance the priorities identified by residents in South Stockton and help establish the North San Joaquin Valley as a model for inclusive and sustainable economic development.



Appendix

Note: Please refer to each table's associated endnote for source of Census data estimates.

Table A1 Distribution of Surveys²⁹

Tract Number	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
8.03	5,845	46.61%	173	43.25%
25.03	2,300	18.34%	105	26.25%
25.04	4,396	35.05%	122	30.50%
Total	12,541	100%	400	100%

Table A2 Age Distribution of Respondents³⁰

Census Age Scale	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Age Scale	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
18-24	1,305	15.01%	18-25	69	17.56%
25-39	2,750	31.62%	26-40	110	27.99%
40-54	2,329	26.78%	41-55	109	27.74%
55-64	1,224	14.07%	56-65	66	16.79%
65 and Over	1,089	12.52%	Over 65	39	9.92%
Total	8,697	100.00%		393	100.00%



Table A3 Race or Ethnicity of identification³¹

	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
African American/Black	1452	11.58%	121	27.75%
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	2447	19.51%	49	11.24%
Latino/a/x	7495	59.76%	199	45.64%
Native American	32	0.26%	18	4.13%
White/European American	600	4.78%	31	7.11%
Middle Eastern/Arab American*			0	0.00%
Other**	515	4.11%	18	4.13%
Total	12,541	100.00%	436	100.00%
*Census data includes Middle Eastern/Arab American with "white"				
** For Census data, Other includes (Some Other Race alone and Two or More Races)				

Table A4 Gender Identification³²

Gender category	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
Female	6,374	50.83%	230	58.23%
Male	6,167	49.17%	161	40.76%
Nonbinary*			3	0.76%
Other*			1	0.25%
Total	12,541	100.00%	395	100.00%

*Census data does not track Nonbinary or Other genders

Table A5 Immigration Status³³

Status	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
Citizen	10,710	85.40%	326	82.95%
Not a U.S. Citizen*	1,831	14.60%	46	11.70%
Permanent Resident			30	7.63%
Refugee, asylee, or temporary protective status			3	0.76%
DACA			4	1.02%
Undocumented			9	2.29%
Prefer not to say			21	5.34%
Total	12,541	100.00%	393	100.00%

*For the survey data, Not a U.S. Citizen includes all categories but Citizen and Prefer not to say.

Table A6 Highest degree of education completed³⁴

Degree*	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
No schooling**			4	1.02%
Some schooling but no high school	1,252	14.40%	32	8.14%
Some high school	912	10.49%	41	10.43%
High school graduate	3,902	44.87%	129	32.82%
Some college	1,311	15.07%	118	30.03%
Associate Degree	545	6.27%	27	6.87%
Bachelor's degree	665	7.65%	30	7.63%
Graduate degree or Professional School	110	1.26%	12	3.05%
Total	8,697	100.00%	393	100.00%

*This data is for the population 18 and over.

**Census data does not include a No schooling category; however, Census data includes a Less than 9th grade category that is reported as Some schooling but no high school in this table

Table A7 Household annual income in 2023³⁵

Income category	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
\$ 0-24,999	390	12.49%	117	32.32%
\$ 25,000-49,999	686	21.97%	106	29.28%
\$50,000-74,999	440	14.09%	71	19.61%
\$75,000-124,999	843	27.00%	47	12.98%
\$125,000 or higher*	763	24.44%	21	5.80%
\$125,000-174,999			15	4.14%
\$175,000 or higher			6	1.66%
Total	3,122	100.00%	362	100.00%

*Census categories of \$125,000 to \$149,999, \$150,000 to \$199,000, and \$200,000 were aggregated, as was the \$125,000-174,999 and \$175,000 or higher survey categories, to facilitate comparison with this \$125,000 or higher category. Further, Census income population estimates are based on a five-year average of the period from 2018-2022.

Table A8 Is this address owned or rented by the residents?³⁶

Situation	Census Population Estimate	Census Population Percent	Survey Freq.	Survey Percent
Owned	6,549	53.08%	168	42.75%
Rented	5,790	46.92%	214	54.45%
Not sure*			11	2.80%
Total	12,339	100.00%	393	100.00%

*Census data does not report the number "Not sure".

Endnotes

- 1 For more information about the statewide high road initiative, see <https://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/labor-management-partnerships/high-road-training-partnerships/>.
- 2 For more information on California climate policies, see <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/research/climate/climate-policy-dashboard/>.
- 3 For further details about North Valley THRIVE see: NorthValleyTHRIVE.org
- 4 For more on CalEnviroScreen, see <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.
- 5 See more on green jobs initiatives across the state at https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/green/Green_California.html.
- 6 Raphael, C., & Matsuoka, M. (2024). *Ground Truths: Community-Engaged Research for Environmental Justice*. University of California Press.
- 7 See Zabin, C. (2020). Putting California on the high road: A jobs and Climate Action Plan for 2030. UC Berkeley Labor Center; and Cha, J. M. (2024). *A Just Transition for All: Workers and Communities for a Carbon-Free Future*. MIT Press. Farrell, Caroline. 2012. "A Just Transition: Lessons Learned from the Environmental Justice Movement." *Duke Forum for Law and Social Change* 4 (45): 1–19.
- 8 For details of the distribution of surveys completed by census tract, see Appendix Table A1.
- 9 The response rate was 14.1 percent.
- 10 For more on Justice40, see <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/justice40-epa>.
- 11 For more on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriations, see <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/california-climate-investments/california-climate-investments-funded-programs>.
- 12 Census Tracts 8.03 and 25.03 are designated as "disadvantaged" in CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0, and tract 25.04 in CalEnviroScreen Version 3.0.
- 13 See, <https://climatevulnerabilityindex.org/>
- 14 Images from: U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). San Joaquin County, California Census Tracts 8.03, 25.03, and 25.04. Retrieved 12/6/2024 from <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>. LODES 8.3.
- 15 According to the Real Cost Measure in 2021 for San Joaquin County as a whole, 34% of San Joaquin County households do not receive enough income to meet their basic needs. *The Real Cost Measure in California 2023*. United Ways of California. June 2023. <https://unitedwaysca.org/realcost>.
N.B. Demographic analysis are calculated for 2014–2021.
- 16 Environmental justice communities are areas that experience a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens.
- 17 Yale Climate Opinion Maps, 2023, <http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>
- 18 For more on this, see <https://sanjoaquinrtd.com/wp-content/uploads/rtd-pdf/2024/10/Press-Release-20241025-RTD-Unveils-Five-New-Hydrogen-Buses.pdf>.
- 19 This project was legally challenged in September of 2024 by the Sierra Club and the Center for Biological Diversity. For details of the legal challenge see: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-challenges-california-dirty-hydrogen-project-2024-09-18/>. For a description of the proposed project see: <https://bayotech.us/stockton-bayogaas-hydrogen-hub/>.
- 20 In a wider representative phone-based survey of the entire Delta region of Stockton, Antioch, Lodi, and Rio Vista, roughly 27 percent of respondents were familiar with Carbon Capture and Storage Technologies. See, "Updating Views of Carbon Removal and Storage in the San Joaquin Delta Key Findings from Voter Surveys and In-Depth Interviews with Stakeholders in the San Joaquin Delta region, November 2023 to June 2024." Livermore Lab Foundation

2024.

21 https://www.ttownmedia.com/tracy_press/heirloom-s-direct-air-capture-facility-opens-in-tracy-to-fight-climate-change/article_8b89bc00-83e7-11ee-8529-772f0b377702.html

22 For example, see <https://www.chevron.com/worldwide/united-states/san-joaquin-valley/kern-river-eastridge-ccs-new>.

23 See, Hess, David. 2012. *Good Green Jobs in a Global Economy*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

24 See Environmental Justice Principles from the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, Washington D.C.

25 For more on participatory budgeting and participatory democracy, see <https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/about-pb/> and <https://www.peoplepowered.org/about/participatory-democracy>.

26 For more on Just Transition, see <https://jtalliance.org/what-is-just-transition/>; and Vachon, Todd. 2023. *Clean Air and Good Jobs: U.S. Labor and the Struggle for Climate Justice*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

27 Brostrom, Ingrid, Edward Flores, Rodrigo Alatríste-Díaz, Keila Luna, Eliana Fonsah, Karina Juarez, Jacqueline Guerrero, Andres Arias Murillo, Evelyn Arana, and Paul Almeida. 2024. "HRTP: Kern Strategic Workforce Development Report." UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

28 See, Almeida, Paul, Luis Rubén González, Edward Orozco Flores, Venise Curry, and Ana Padilla. 2023. "The Building Blocks of Community Participation in Local Climate Meetings." *Npj Climate Action* 2. doi: 10.1038/s44168-023-00071-4; and Almeida, Paul D. 2022. *Climate Action: Community and Labor Organizations Build Capacity for Environmental Change*. Fact Sheet (June). Merced, CA: UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

29 U.S. Census Bureau. "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

30 U.S. Census Bureau. "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

31 U.S. Census Bureau. "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

32 U.S. Census Bureau. "ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP05, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

33 U.S. Census Bureau. "Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B05001, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

34 U.S. Census Bureau. "Selected Social Characteristics in the United States." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP02, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

35 U.S. Census Bureau. "Household Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B19001, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.

36 a U.S. Census Bureau. "Total Population in Occupied Housing Units by Tenure." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25008, 2022. Accessed on December 6, 2024.