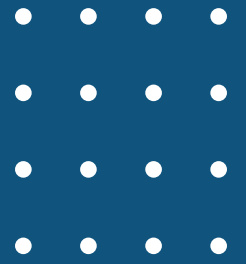


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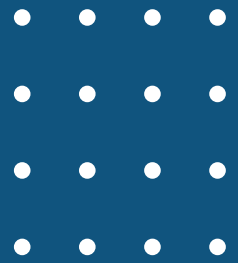
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

North State Planning and Development Collective
www.nspdc.csuchico.edu



Chico State Enterprises
California State University, Chico





Director's Message

JASON SCHWENKLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTH STATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COLLECTIVE

Greetings!

When the Center for Economic Development (CED) and Geographical Information Center (GIC) at California State University, Chico merged under the North State Planning and Development Collective umbrella in 2018, the goal was to combine and leverage the 50+ years of expertise of both departments to better support the University and the region. Working in tandem, we believed we could maximize our ability to help our partners in education, government and the private sector by pairing our GIS and mapping capabilities with the work we were doing in economic development, research and data analysis. It has been incredibly exciting to witness the projects and partnerships that have come to fruition as a result, while also providing a career-advancing training ground for California State University, Chico students.

Managed by a highly-skilled, multi-disciplinary team of economic development, GIS and biological science specialists, analysts and student research assistants, our work over the last year spans a wide variety of sectors including Natural Resources, Conservation, Forest Health, Workforce and Community Development, Resiliency, Agriculture, Climate, Business, Disaster/Emergency Services and Broadband.

This Annual Report serves as a reflection of our unwavering commitment to supporting the economic health of the University's 12-County service region, and a glimpse into the positive impact we can make when we work together. And while it is virtually impossible to capture every project that took place over the last year, it is my hope you'll gain a better understanding of our story within these pages.

We love finding solutions. Please reach out to learn more about how our teams can help.

Jason

jschwenkler@csuchico.edu

ABOUT US

The "Collective" is a division of Chico State Enterprises, a 501c3 non-profit organization of California State University, Chico. Comprised of the Center for Economic Development and Geographical Information Center, you'll find us working within and beyond the University's 12-County service region of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba counties. Our mission is academic, community-focused and service-oriented, pairing GIS mapping services with economic development research, data analysis, planning and implementation with broadband infrastructure support.

During FY 2021-2022, the Collective's activities directly aligned with, and supported, the University's academic mission and strategic priorities of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Civic and Global Engagement; and Resilient and Sustainable Systems. Through a diverse set of research, development and geospatial projects, The Collective connects the University and community in mutually beneficial ways to affect meaningful change in the world around us while striving toward a sustainable, resilient future.



AN OFFICIAL EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER

In 2022, the Center for Economic Development, in partnership with California State University, Fresno and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly, SLO), received its most recent five-year designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an official EDA University Center. This University Center Consortium represents a service territory of 77,000 square miles and 34 counties in California. The CED has held the EDA University Center designation for more than two decades.

WE'RE CONVENING & CONNECTING THE REGION . . .

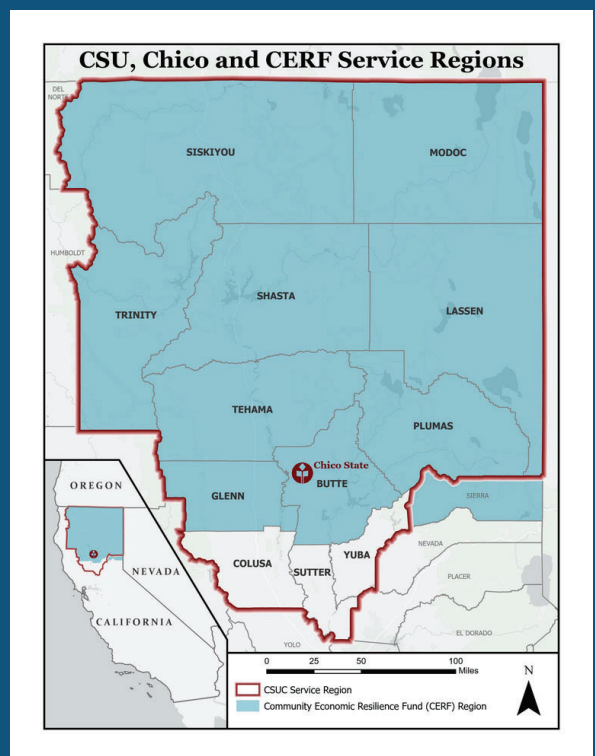
Partnerships and collaboration provide the backbone of every project we're involved in. In 2021–2022, we continued to work with University staff, local government and key stakeholders to inform and plan for smart resources aligned with other current state and federal opportunities, and introduced private investment to potential local projects. The Collective continued coordination with regional tribes for broadband expansion and other economic development initiatives.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FUND (CERF)

In Fall of 2022, California State leaders announced the first round of awards for the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF), a new state initiative supporting innovative plans and strategies to diversify local economies and develop sustainable industries that create high-wage and broadly accessible jobs for all Californians.

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment and the North State Planning and Development Collective were awarded \$5 million to serve as Co-Conveners for the North State region, which consists of Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties. CERF is administered by an interagency leadership team that includes the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and the Labor & Workforce Development Agency.

We look forward to bringing regional stakeholders together in the coming year.



... AND COLLABORATING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

K-16 CRADLE TO CAREER PARTNERSHIP

In FY 2021-2022, the Collective entered into an MOU with North State Together, who was awarded \$18.3 million to serve as Convener of the K-16 Collaborative Grant program. The primary strategy of the K-16 Education Collaborative is to support college preparation and early credit, retain students, implement high-tech, high-touch advising, and cultivate inclusive, engaging, and equity-oriented learning environments in education systems across the North State region. This award will enable North State Together to expand the scope of its collective impact work across our entire North State region, adding Lassen, Butte, Sierra, Plumas, and Glenn counties to its original 5-county network and strengthen partnerships with California State University, Chico as well as College of the Siskiyous, Butte-Glenn Community College District, Feather River College, and University of California, Davis.



"Our collaboration with the North State Planning & Development Collective has been invaluable. We look forward to a long-lasting partnership that continues to support student success and strengthens the economic vitality of the region."

*--Dr. Kevin O'Rorke CEO, North State Together
Associate Superintendent, Shasta College*

LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PLANNING FIRE RESILIENCY

Awarded in May, 2022 by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the "Local Capacity Building for Planning Fire Resiliency Project" is led by the North State Planning Collective in conjunction with the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (Chico State Enterprises) and community colleges and tribal partners. The project will develop and pilot new curriculum to train students to plan and complete environmental compliance for fuel reduction projects. The first phase of the project will develop and present curriculum at three campuses: Feather River College in Plumas County, Shasta College in Shasta County, and California State University, Chico. In the second phase of the Project, course participants will prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analyses for a forest health project on at least 300 acres of Maidu Summit Consortium (MSC) land near Lake Almanor, in Plumas County.

LEADING PROJECTS THAT PROTECT & RESTORE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES . . .

SALMONID HABITAT RESTORATION

The Collective, with University and project partners, have led the way in salmonid habitat restoration since 2016, constructing 11 side channel projects at 8 different sites along the Sacramento River. Project partners include the Sacramento River Forum, California Department of Water Resources, River Partners, the Yurok Tribe, Tussing Ecological Sciences and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. In December 2021, the team completed the largest constructed side channel--about 2 miles of habitat for endangered winter run chinook salmonids--on the Sacramento River in Red Bluff.

In FY 2021-22, the Collective/Chico State Enterprises received an additional grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation over five years to help restore 47.3 acres of juvenile salmon habitat and 4.3 acres of spawning habitat along the upper Sacramento River. A Wildlife Conservation Board grant prepared by the Collective will fund stakeholder engagement, design, environmental review and permitting for boat ramp and recreational access improvements at the recently restored side channel at Reading Island in Cottonwood. Partners include Western Shasta RCD, DWR, Bureau of Land Management and Sacramento River Forum.



FOREST HEALTH

The Collective team will be facilitating a community-based reforestation strategy that identifies priority restoration areas across the North Complex footprint and provide guidance on reforestation practices that support biodiversity and are resilient to changing climate. The reforestation strategy is part of the “Forest Health and Feather River Watershed Resilience, Butte County” project—a collaborative effort led by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC) and funded by CALFIRE to improve forest health in the Feather River Watershed in Butte County. The project is a mix of fuels reduction and reforestation treatments on 1,102 acres across a patchwork of private industrial and non-industrial timber lands. Alongside fuels reduction treatments, this project supports community-driven initiatives to increase the rate of prescribed fire.

The Mechoopda Cultural Preservation Enterprise (MCPE) will partner to advise the strategy, engage and educate the community, and demonstrate the development of a site-specific reforestation plan using Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) principles specific to the Maidu region, with opportunity for research on GHG offsets and sequestration for whole-ecosystem forest restoration

“Our partnership with the North State Planning & Development Collective has allowed us to grow exponentially in working to solve wildland management challenges in California and the American West. We are grateful for a partnership that allows us to explore innovative solutions and build strong collaborations throughout the North State.”

*Eli Goodsell, Ecological Reserves Director
Chico State Enterprises*



WE'RE STRENGTHENING AND HONORING TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Collective prepared a State Parks grant for the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserves to implement the Mominak Sa program. The Program pairs outdoor access with programming centered around traditional ecological knowledge and contemporary environmental stewardship careers for tribal youth in Butte County. The University and its Reserve system, the Mechoopda Indian Tribe and Four Winds of Indian Education are key partners.

The Collective also continued its workforce development partnership with the Yurok Tribe, supporting tribal careers in fisheries restoration and tribal leadership in land stewardship.



"The Office of Tribal Relations looks forward to continuing our work with the North State Planning & Development Collective. We are excited to grow our governmental relationships with Northern California Tribes in order to develop meaningful Tribal relations, partnerships and collaboratives."

*Rachel McBride-Praetorius (Yurok)
Director of Tribal Relations, Office of the President
California State University, Chico*

...AND PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE WORKFORCE

The Collective is uniquely aligned with California State University, Chico, and offers extensive opportunities to support student placements and/or employment through paid internships at both the Center for Economic Development and the Geographical Information Center. These internships allow the Collective to bridge the gap between applied and theoretical foundations of Economics, Research, Development and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Through work on real-time projects, students are exposed to a multitude of methods used extensively throughout industry thus preparing them for jobs post-graduation.

In 2021-22, the Collective provided 15 students with paid internship opportunities that prepared them for success. Students were hired as Research Assistants and GIS Assistants, and supported the CED and GIC teams with many of the projects within this report.

The internship program allows the Collective further opportunity for engagement with University departments, including:

Accounting
Agriculture
Business
Communications
Economics
Geography
Natural Sciences
and more!



"My experience working at the North State Planning and Development Collective gave me the opportunity to interact with professionals in my field and to work on real-time projects that allowed me to refine my skills and prepare me for my first job after graduation. I am grateful for the time I spent there."

--Saul Mooradian

Former Intern, Center for Economic Development

WE'RE MAPPING FOR A STRONG, VIABLE FUTURE

HELPING LAND OWNERS WITH IMPORTANT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION DECISIONS THROUGH VEGETATION MAPPING

The Collective was awarded a three-year contract to create a vegetation map for 2.2 million acres in the far northeast corner of California with portions of the map in Siskiyou, Shasta, Lassen, and Modoc counties. The map will assist land managers in several ways including invasive species management, fire management/prescribed burns, restoration, migration corridor connectivity, sustainable agricultural practices, maintaining population goals for fishing and hunting, and protecting and preserving sensitive plant and animal communities.



The Collective conducted its second year of a three-year contract to map several of California State Parks, with the goal to eventually map all 280 parks. The maps help inform land managers in decision making such as invasive species control and fire management. They also help with conservation, restoration, and habitat connectivity goals. Once the mapping is complete, State Parks will be able to quantify their inventory of natural vegetation and educate the public on how to care for these valuable public resources while enjoying them.

CREATING TOOLS FOR ACCURATE, STATEWIDE WATER SYSTEMS

The National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) represents the water drainage network of the United States with features such as rivers, streams, canals, lakes, ponds, coastline, dams, and streamgages. The NHD is the most up-to-date and comprehensive hydrography dataset for the Nation. In 2021-2022, the team at the GIC updated 17,015 square miles of California for the Department of Water Resources for improved hydrography features. Additionally, the team added and updated 202 California Gaging Stations from the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) to the NHD, and began a pilot project to allow users to extract hydrography features from LIDAR. The resulting tools will be open-source, and provided to the User community to promote the creation of hydrography that meets the new USGS standards.

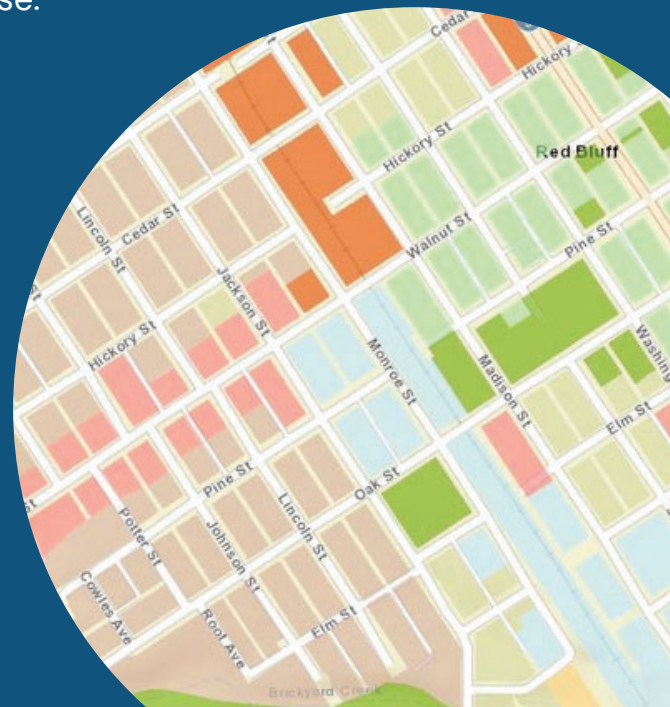
SUPPORTING EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SERVICES

The Collective supports Emergency Operations Centers before and during disasters. In FY 2021-2022 support services included creating routing systems (web-based applications to identify the most accurate and timely routes), baseline GIS data layers for improved addressing, dispatch 911 CAD systems, evacuation routes and other data tracking needs.

State Plan Flood Control (SPFC) Levee Mapping and Habitat Assessment: The GIC team has managed a variety of mapping tasks and habitat assessment services for the State Plan Flood Control (SPFC). The SPFC's primary goal is to improve flood risk management by reducing the chance of flooding, reducing the impact of flooding, and improving public safety, preparation and response.

HELPING COMMUNITIES LEVERAGE THEIR GIS AND MAPPING SOLUTIONS

In FY 2021-2022, the Collective team worked with communities across the state to help them leverage GIS software for best practices.



WE'RE CONDUCTING IMPACTFUL RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS

FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The CED team is providing feasibility study services to the Butte Fire Safe Council, funded by a CalFire Forest Health grant. The study assesses the suitability of a hydrogen biomass feedstock facility in Butte County. CED staff created and administered a biomass feedstock availability and suitability survey and is utilizing GIS analysis to determine possible locations for a proposed hydrogen biomass facility in Butte County.



CAREER PATHWAYS STUDIES

For the past three years, the CED has completed career pathways across four industries and several regions throughout California, linking educational programs to the employment needs of individual industries.

NEEDS ASSESSMENTS AND WORKFORCE STUDIES

In FY 2021-22, the Collective conducted three employer needs assessments for community college districts throughout California, along with two industry workforce studies in the areas of Forestry and Construction/Contracting.

... AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS



In FY 2021-2022, the CED served 40 businesses through five grant-funded Business Technical Assistance Programs. Among these businesses, 22 were women-owned, one was Black/African American-owned, one was Asian-owned, three were Native American or Alaska Native-owned, one was Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander-owned, seven were Latino/Hispanic-owned, three were Veteran-owned, two were owned by a disabled individual, and 19 were located in rural areas.

A TRUSTED, COLLABORATIVE VOICE

The Collective has become a respected voice in Economic Development, Broadband and Geospatial Solutions (GIS) across the state and is often called upon to serve on committees and present at statewide industry events. In FY 2021-22, these included:

Presentations

CAFWD's California Economic Summit (November 9, 2021) Broadband for All Workgroup
Co-Lead for CAFWD Working Group: Regional Advancement and Empowerment
University Center (UC) Economic Development Regional Forum
Forest Management Workforce Development seminars
Forestry Management Advisory meeting hosted by Valley Vison
Forestry Education & Workforce Development Summit hosted by Lake Tahoe
Community College

Committees, Coalitions and Memberships

3CORE, Inc. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Member
American Resilience and Equity Networks Initiative (ARENI)
Butte County Association of Governments GIS Working Group Committee
Butte County Broadband Coordinating Committee
CalOES State Task Force for NG911
California Emerging Technology Fund/Digital Equity Coalition Member
California Local Economic Developers (CALED)
California Resiliency Index Meetings
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Stewardship Network Member
California Middle Mile Network Advisory Committee
Camp Fire Economic & Workforce Strategy Committee
Chamber of Commerce Memberships throughout the North State
CPUC-California Advanced Services Fund Monthly Conference Calls
Environmental Resiliency Collaborative Leadership Committee
GoldenStateNet/Regional Broadband Consortia Meetings
North State Together Advisory Board Member
Northern Rural Communities Development, Inc. Board
Rural Counties of California (RCRC) Broadband Steering Committee
TeamChico Member
Serve as an active data and information resource to local and state elected officials

ENGAGING THE REGION THROUGH IMPACTFUL EVENTS



3RD ANNUAL BROADBAND SUMMIT

JULY 29, 2021

Representatives from across the University's 12-county service region attended this 3rd Annual virtual event. The agenda included Dr. Gayle Hutchinson, President, California State University, Chico; California Public Utilities Commission (Funding Update and Opportunities); CA FWD; Federal Communications Commission update on the Affordable Connectivity Program.

FALL REGIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

OCTOBER 14, 2021

Workforce issues and solutions highlighted our Fall Regional Summit in 2021. Leaders convened to talk about innovative programs and hear an update from the Northern Regional Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC).

22ND ANNUAL ECONOMIC FORECAST CONFERENCE

JANUARY 19, 2022

This virtual event brought together 233 leaders in workforce, education, government and business for a day of keynote presentations and panels focusing on economic trends and solutions for the North State. Economist Dr. Robert Eyer gave his annual Forecast for the region, and a Keynote presentation was given by Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom and Director of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO Biz). Staff coordinated a meeting between Ms. Myers and California State University, Chico President Gayle Hutchinson, and, with University staff, arranged a visit of Chico State's Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering department. Additional tours in the region were coordinated for Ms. Myers, including a site visit to the Town of Paradise and CalPlant in Willows.

FACILITATING BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES WITH BROADBAND MASTER PLAN AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

During FY 2021-22 the Upstate and Northeastern California Connect Broadband Consortia continued to support North State communities with inquiries regarding Broadband policy development and strategy, and works on an ongoing basis with statewide agencies and organizations to find collaborative approaches to expand broadband. As part of a three-year grant-funded project through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), our teams completed master broadband plans for the cities of Alturas, Chester, Corning, Red Bluff, Orland, Susanville, Willows, and Williams, and served as a resource for Dig Smart and Master Broadband policy development for a number of Northern California municipalities.

PROMOTING DIGITAL EQUITY & INCLUSION

In FY 2021-2022, leadership was actively engaged in the statewide Digital Equity Coalition, advocating for equitable access to broadband. Our team developed and maintains an interactive dashboard to track statewide Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment, and promoted ACP throughout the North State through information sharing and an Enrollment Day event.

ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPs)

In FY 2021-2022, four ISP Roundtable meetings were held. These quarterly meetings offered an opportunity to hear from regional providers, and learn how the Consortia can support their broadband deployment efforts across the region.

BROADBAND MAPPING FOR THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The Geographical Information Center has been aiding the CPUC in broadband mapping for more than a decade, including mapping and validating advertised broadband coverage submitted by Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Data generated is used to create statistics about household access to and adoption of high speed internet.



NORTH STATE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COLLECTIVE

Project Development & Resources for
California State University, Chico and Community College Faculty

Regional Community Development

Convening Leaders and Decision Makers

Facilitating Resiliency and Disaster Discussions/Activities

Coordinating Grant Management and Support



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