



CSO
Strategic
Taskforce

Los Angeles County

Eugene Shirley's notes on strategy

EMAIL

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Dear CSO Strategic Taskforce Members and Friends,

I'm writing to update you on recent, exciting progress and sketch out Taskforce strategy, objectives and calendar for the first months of 2020.

Strategy: With the generous help of many, we have continued Taskforce-related brainstorming that was launched at our last meeting and continued subsequently. We look forward to discussing strategy matters with you further at our next general meeting and soliciting your input.

Let me bring you up to speed on three galvanizing opportunities we're seizing and have underway:

- Program opportunity: PANDO DAYS: If you received our save-the-date announcement for the PANDO DAYS Sneak Preview event in February, note that the date has **changed to Feb. 16** in order to accommodate exciting new opportunities (a new PDF announcement is attached for your convenience).

As a reminder: [PANDO DAYS](#) is a four-part series of events conceived by the Taskforce and focused on the work of CSOs in higher ed, responding to the need of the County to stimulate implementation of its new sustainability plan. PANDO DAYS now involves 11 Southland colleges from 6 cities -- with each of the colleges focused on developing an ingenious initiative or campaign that relates to a specific sustainability goal, and is unprecedented in bringing so many higher educational institutions together for collaborative work to meet a regional objective for the common good.

The development model we've used in creating this project is important because it

highlights a key way in which the Taskforce can be effective: by conceiving big, bold ideas that respond to pressing needs; and then by offering the domain expertise, networks and other support that's needed to bring these ideas to life – with Pando providing the working engine. In this way, PANDO DAYS can be considered a prototype initiative of a type of work the Taskforce can do to support Southland resiliency.

- Infrastructure opportunity: We have recently brought on board a data and programming specialist to help create the back-end infrastructure we need to identify, track, map, and assess our work within the County related to Countywide sustainability goals.

The system will help us track the relationships between specific initiatives and the County's sustainability plan (including relationships between the plan and other visionary statements, such as the UN's SDGs, Pope Francis's integral ecology, John Cobb's ecological civilization, etc.); map critical relationships among ideas, people and organizations; and assess for on-the-ground effectiveness. We'll be reaching out to some of you for insight and advice as we pull our model together. The system will be ready for prototype testing in Q2 2020.

- Accelerator opportunity: We are continuing to move forward with plans for a residential research park focused on a deep and integrated view of sustainability ("integral ecology") at the 7 ½ acre site of the Maryknoll Sisters in Monrovia. The aim is to create a physical campus for demonstration, education, and acceleration of project-oriented and values-driven initiatives focused on a resilient Southland.

The opportunity is unique for a number of reasons, including residential and makerspace potential to support projects and research, including land-based work. Collaborative work is already underway with a number of higher educational institutions.

We will set up a special Taskforce tour of the location in the late spring.

In sum, our strategy for Taskforce development is to provide members important opportunities to advance their own sustainability work and collaborate in meeting County goals; to achieve this more effectively through sophisticated back-end infrastructure; with the physical support of a research campus for showcasing best-practices and accelerate innovation. The Taskforce should have an aggressive membership program and model of financial sustainability. Further ideas and details for Taskforce strategic development will be discussed at our next meeting.

EUGENE SHIRLEY