Glossary of Key Terms

Note: Many of these terms do not have universally recognized, commonly held definitions. We are providing our best interpretations, and we welcome feedback for improving these definitions.

Equity - Systems and processes designed to ensure just and fair access to resources and opportunities in order to promote an inclusionary society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. (Adapted from PolicyLink Equity Manifesto)

Displacement - Exclusionary residential displacement from gentrification occurs when any household is not permitted to move into a dwelling, by a change in conditions or community relations, which affect that dwelling or its immediate surroundings, which: a) is beyond the household’s reasonable ability to control or prevent; b) occur despite the household’s being able to meet all previously-imposed conditions of occupancy; c) differs significantly and in a spatially concentrated fashion from changes in the housing market as a whole; and d) makes occupancy by that household impossible, hazardous or unaffordable. (Adapted from Marcuse 1986)

Gentrification - A profit-driven race and class remake of urban, working class communities of color that have suffered from a history of disinvestment and abandonment. The process is characterized by declines in the number of low-income people of color in neighborhoods that begin to cater to higher-income residents and business owners willing to pay higher rents. Gentrification happens in areas where commercial and residential land is cheap, relative to other areas in the city and region, and where the potential to turn a profit is great. (Adapted from Causa Justa :: Just Cause, 2015)

Community Benefits Agreement - A Community Benefits Agreement, or “CBA,” is a legally enforceable contract, signed by community groups and a developer, setting forth a range of community benefits that the developer agrees to provide as part of a development project. A CBA is the result of a negotiation process between the developer and organized representatives of affected communities, in which the developer agrees to shape the development in a certain way or to provide specified community benefits. In exchange, the community groups promise to support the proposed project before government bodies that provide the necessary permits and subsidies. (From Good Jobs First).

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - A public financing mechanism whereby a local government earmarks all future incremental property tax revenues, beyond a defined baseline year, in a specific geographic district for a particular public purpose. In 2011, California abolished the use of TIF for redevelopment, and subsequently created limited TIF vehicles - Enhanced Infrastructure Finance Districts (EIFD) and Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities (CRIA).

Affordable Housing - We limit our definition to housing developed with public subsidies and public financing that enables rents or sale price to be not more than 30% of household income (for gross housing costs, including utilities) for households earning 60% or less of Area Median Income.

Green Infrastructure - An interrelated network of parks, greenways, parkways, bike paths, wetlands, and urban forests that have been designed and restored or engineered to perform natural
functions such as storm surge buffering, stormwater retention and filtration, heat island mitigation, carbon sequestration, and provide space for recreation. (Adapted from The Trust for Public Land)

**Multi-Benefit Project and Program** - We define multiple benefit projects beyond environmental benefits to include projects that provide economic, environmental, health, and social benefits to communities. These benefits may include, but are not limited to: community stabilization and affordable housing; convenient access to living wage jobs, health care and educational or training services, affordable transportation, and nature; reductions in air pollution, water pollution, consumption of natural resources, or consumption of energy. (Adapted from CCI Urban Greening Program Guidelines)

**Open Space** - Land that is publicly accessible and has been designed for leisure, play, or sport. Open space can also be classified as land that has been set aside for the protection and/or enhancement of the natural environment. Uses of open space are categorized as active or passive. **Passive open space** is used for sitting and relaxing. **Active open space** is used for sports, exercise, or active play. (From City of New York)

**Urban Forestry** - Management of urban trees and associated resources to sustain urban forest cover, health, and numerous socioeconomic and ecosystem services. (Adapted from the US Department of Agriculture)

**Green Alley** - Expansion of single-purpose infrastructure of alleys and convert underutilized alleyways into community assets and resources for environmental, economic and social benefits.

**Greenway** - A corridor of undeveloped land preserved for recreational use, or environmental protection serving as a buffer against detrimental land uses. (Adapted from Merriam Webster)

**Best Management Practice (Stormwater)** - Specific practices or actions used to reduce or control impacts to water bodies from nonpoint sources of pollution, most commonly by reducing the loading of pollutants from such sources into stormwater and waterways. BMPs can be applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants to receiving waters. (Adapted from USDA Forest Service)

**Low-Impact Development (LID)** - Low Impact Development (LID) is a leading stormwater management strategy that seeks to mitigate the impacts of runoff and stormwater pollution as close to its source as possible. Urban runoff discharged from municipal storm drain systems is one of the principal causes of water quality impacts in most urban areas. It can contain pollutants such as trash and debris, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, sediments, nutrients, metals, and toxic chemicals that can negatively affect the ocean, rivers, plant and animal life, and public health. LID comprises a set of site design approaches and best management practices (or BMPs) that are designed to address runoff and pollution at the source. These LID practices can effectively remove nutrients, bacteria, and metals while reducing the volume and intensity of stormwater flows.
Prop 1 - A California voter initiative approved in 2014 generating $7.12 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, such as public water system improvements, surface and groundwater storage, drinking water protection, water recycling and advanced water treatment technology, water supply management and conveyance, wastewater treatment, drought relief, emergency water supplies, and ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration.

Measure A - A new permanent annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of development for parks, open space, and recreation in Los Angeles County, approved by voters in 2016. Measure A is expected to generate an estimated $94 million annually. (http://rposd.lacounty.gov/2016-ballot-measure/)

Measure M - A new permanent half cent sales tax and extension of existing half cent sales tax for transportation and mobility investments in Los Angeles County, approved by voters in 2016. Measure M is expected to generate an estimated $860 million annually. (http://theplan.metro.net/)

Measure H - A new quarter cent sales tax over the next 10 years for the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, approved by voters in 2017. Measure H is expected to generate an estimated $355 million annually. (http://homeless.lacounty.gov/measure-h/)

Senate Bill 3 (SB 3) - A bill passed by the California legislature in 2017 authorizing a bond measure for the November 2018 statewide ballot to invest $4 billion in affordable housing projects, including $1 billion for veteran homeownership assistance.

Senate Bill 5 (SB 5) - A bill passed by the California legislature in 2017 authorizing a bond measure for the June 2018 statewide ballot to invest $4 billion in parks, drought, water, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access projects.

Cap-and-Trade - California’s market based regulation that is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from multiple sources. Cap-and-trade sets a firm limit or cap on GHGs and creates a market for parties to obtain allowances for GHG emissions, including an initial public auction and a secondary market.

California Climate Investments (CCI) - Also known as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), CCI programs are funded from revenues from cap and trade public auctions of GHG emissions allowances. CCI programs are designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state and also deliver major economic, environmental, and public health benefits. CCI invests in affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are made in disadvantaged and low-income communities.