

Overview



An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow. In the background, a range of mountains is visible. The middle ground shows a dense urban area with various buildings. In the foreground, a large baseball stadium with a curved roof is prominent, surrounded by other city buildings and parking lots.

Solving shared challenges requires
integrated regional solutions.



Climate resilience, critical infrastructure, water/ocean health, and housing are challenges that require massive collective effort.

We build partnerships to create cross-sector, multi-jurisdictional solutions.

Our founding partners include the County of San Diego, the San Diego Foundation, and the Brookings Institution.

Our **Government & Agency Council** is comprised of the County, 18 municipalities, SANDAG, MTS, the PORT, and Airport Authority.





Our mission is to unlock the region's potential by cultivating and building partnerships.

Our vision is one of enduring regional collaborations where strong alliances alliances have brought about a thriving region.

Our work is to bring intellectual and financial resources to local government.



BROOKINGS

- The #1 think tank in the world, the Brookings Institution, is our key partner.
- 1st time in over 100-years that Brookings has partnered to stay long term and work across sectors in one region.
- "Over the last century, empires have come and gone, the world order has changed but Brookings has sailed on, not just commenting on events but shaping them." Lord Jonathan Hill, Member, European Commission
- "People who observe Brookings have respected the intellectual integrity, the thoughtful analysis, and the honest debate that [its scholars] participate in and contribute to." Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- "Brookings has a long and proud history of tackling difficult public policy issues and fostering robust public debate." Kara Stein, Commissioner, Securities and Exchange Commission



FOCUS AREAS



Climate Change

Taking action to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and enhance coastal ocean health



Housing

Increasing quality and quantity of housing stock to improve access and affordability



Community Wealth

Building power and prosperity for historically disinvested communities

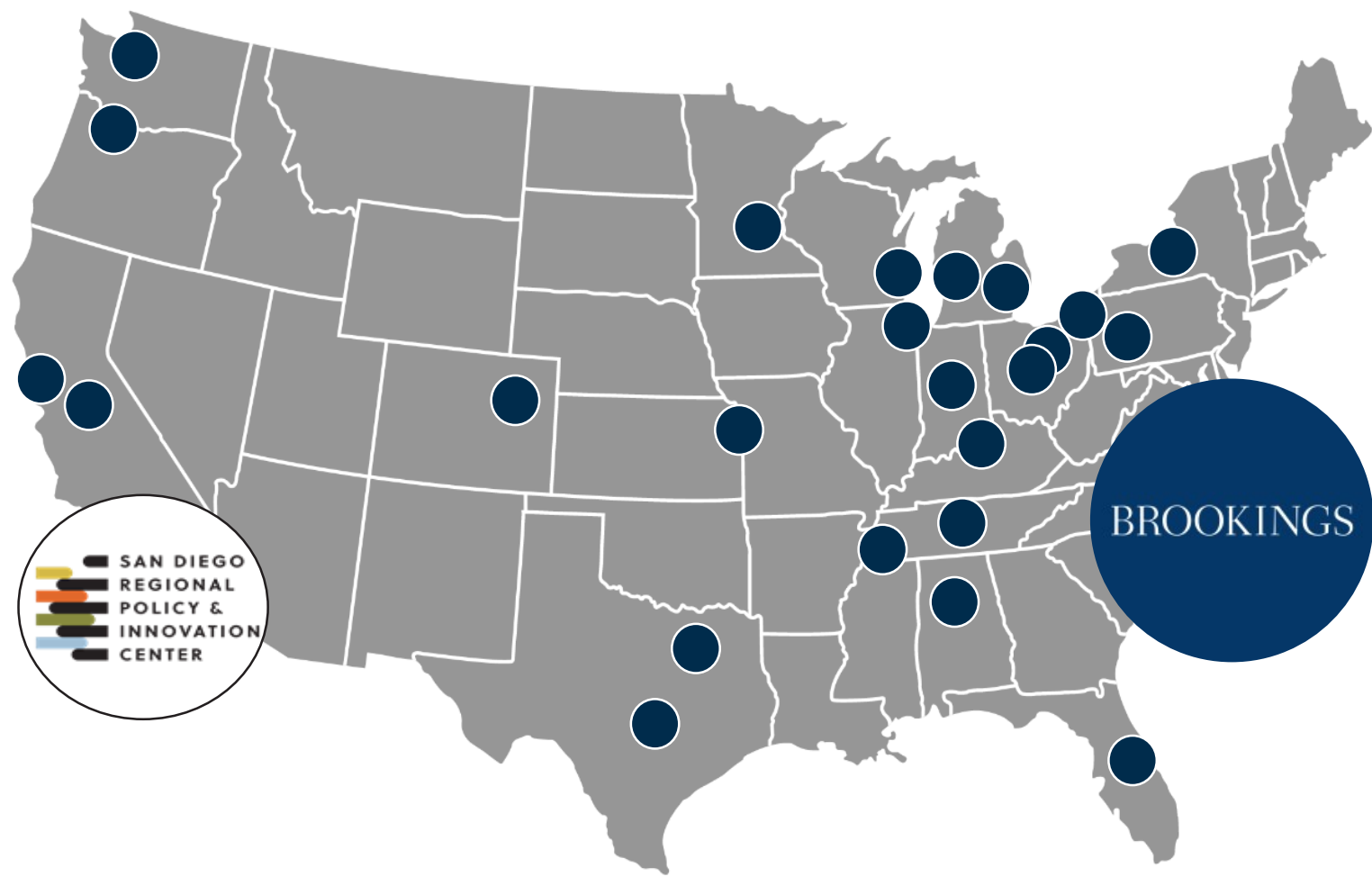


Infrastructure

Increasing and leveraging infrastructure investments for the public good



We draw on **best practices** from across the country to develop new programs, projects, and partnerships for our region.





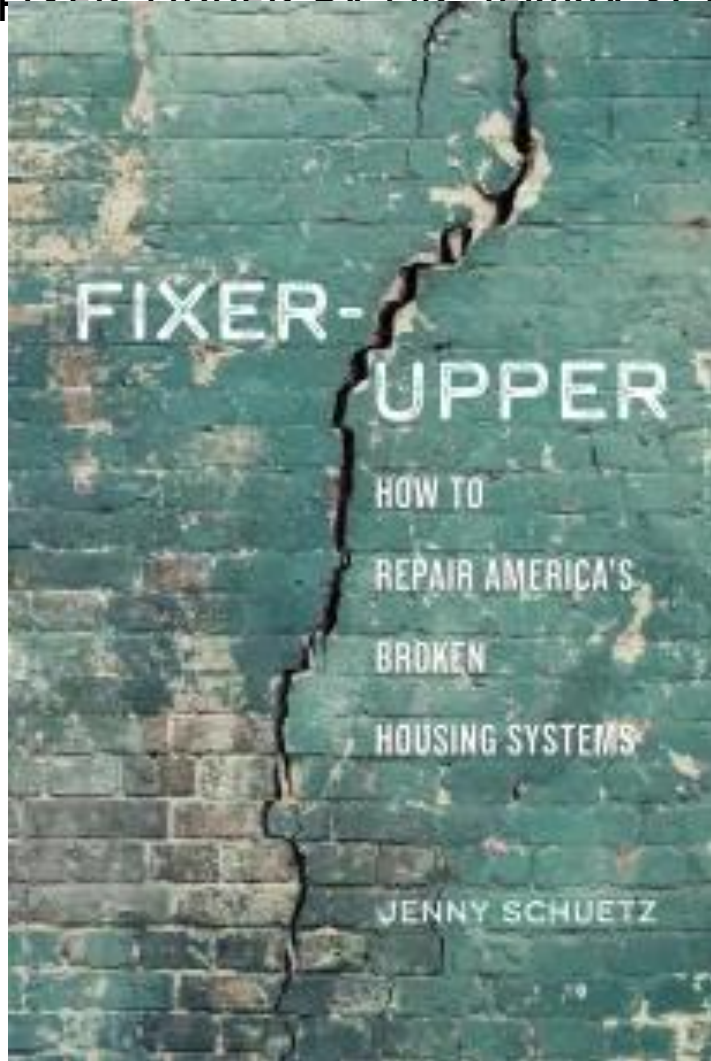
Example of Bringing National Best Practices to CA

In a first of its kind report, the San Diego Regional Policy & Innovation Center and the Brookings Institution are researching climate action plans throughout the country and sharing best practices and strategies to provide regional leaders a process for catalyzing scalable and impactful emission reduction activities.

EXAMPLE PROJECTS

WORKING WITH THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION, BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, THE COUNTY, AND CITIES TO INCREASE HOUSING STOCK (innovative financing models, government land asset mapping, regional policy to expedite permitting and reduce costs, explore alternate housing systems)

FIXER-UPPER BY DR. JENNY SCHUETZ



METROPOLIS

Is There a Way Out of America's Impossible Housing Mess?

The first step, according to economist Jenny Schuetz, is recognizing there is more than one housing crisis.

BY HENRY GRABAR

FEB 18, 2022 • 5:45 AM



REVITALIZING SAN DIEGO'S COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY & PROMOTING SUSTAINBLE FOOD

The San Diego commercial fishing industry is a small but iconic part of the region's waterfront. The PIC team is working with partners including the Fishermen's Working Group, the Food Systems Alliance, Scripps to design infrastructure projects to strengthen the local fishing industry and enable the growth of new industries, and create quality jobs, including restorative aquaculture and ocean technology innovation sector opportunities.

Current Status

- Developing a new annual food festival (Local Fish, Global Flavor) to showcase local catch, reach new markets, create jobs and opportunities to elevate aspiring local restauranters.
- Pursuing federal funding for restorative aquaculture and ocean technology innovation to protect our coasts and water quality.



ATTRACTING INNOVATIVE COMPANIES TO UPGRADE SAN DIEGO'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Through an *Infrastructure Launchpad*, PIC seeks to attract world-class companies with solutions (real assets, not apps) to address critical local public infrastructure needs. The Launchpad will pilot company systems and install improved materials, technologies, and/or services that result in quality jobs to the region and have measurable climate and socio-economic benefits for under-resourced areas.

Current Status

- Research on regional infrastructure needs, gaps, and “weak links”
- Engagement with Port, municipalities, companies, and local incubators
- Active discussions with companies
- Launchpad framework design in progress



SUPPORTING WATER & ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

This project creates new entry points for retrofitting aging, multi-family buildings with climate-smart water and energy efficiency upgrades and to create quality jobs through accessing and leveraging federal funding.

Current Status

- Data gathering on relief programs & other sources
- Research to understand where residents are struggling and would benefit most from direct financial savings, improved air quality, and lower heat/ health impacts
- Developing recommendations and design options for new retrofit programs and federal funding proposals

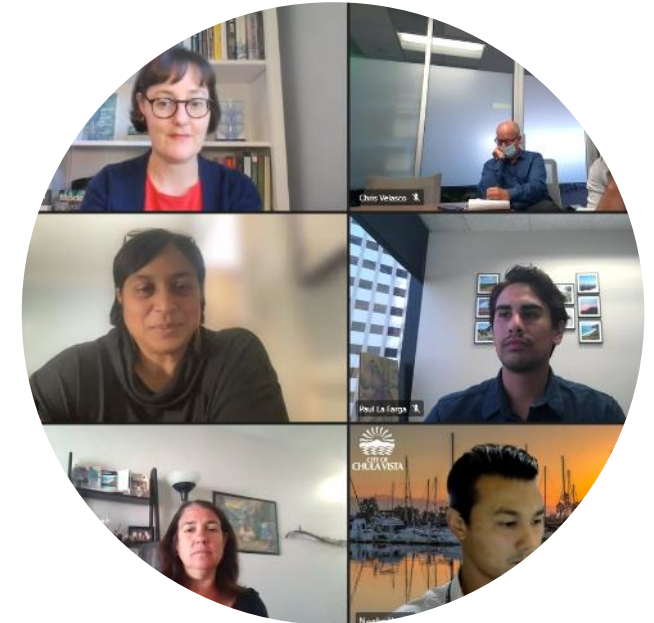


FIXING BOTTLENECKS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFILL PROJECTS

The challenge of upgrading water and sewer infrastructure to accommodate additional density can be a real barrier to affordable housing development. Up-front infrastructure costs can bottleneck project financing, slowing down development (sometimes by years) and reducing the total number of units built. These issues are most likely to be a barrier where maintenance has lagged. Our goal is to increase the quality and quantity of housing stock.

Current Status

- Brookings Institution researching solutions
- Explore how EPA State Revolving Loan Funds can be structured to address bottlenecks and accelerate/expand affordable housing supply and provide resources and jobs



ALIGNING WATER & BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE & FLOOD RISK

Our team is exploring new green stormwater infrastructure projects to enable more strategic broadband expansion to underserved areas (reduce the digital divide) and improve flood and fire risk monitoring and protections throughout the region.

Current Status

- Developing pilot location opportunities list
- Interfacing with key decision-makers to align existing capital plans, identify federal funding, and project pipelines



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OUR TEAM



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