

California Community Land Trust Network

2023 Conference

October 19-20 • Oakland Museum of California



Indigenous Sovereignty, CLTs, and Conservation Trusts: Intersections and Opportunities

— Thursday, Oct. 19 —

Speakers

Laurel Harkness, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

Sua Iris Hernandez, El Sereno Community Land Trust

Yaynicut Franco, Wukchumni Tribe

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition

Laurel Harkness, Coalition Director

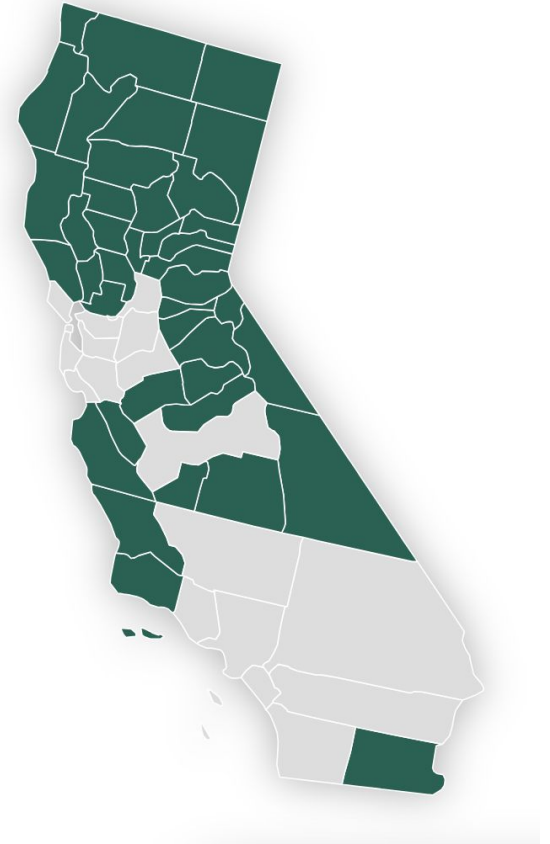


RVCC
Rural Voices for
Conservation
COALITION

Conservation & Housing

Opportunities and Challenges

- 1) Rural in California
- 2) Wildfire
- 3) Conservation and housing efforts
- 4) Stewardship



Wukchumni Tribe

Visalia, CA

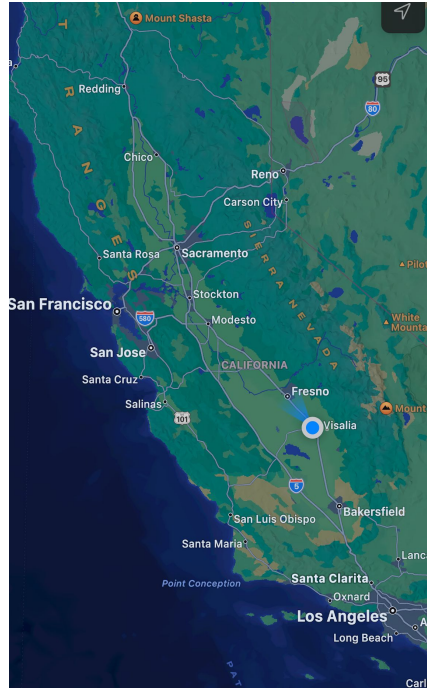
Quaker Oaks Farm

40+ years utilizing land
for ceremonies

Farming since 2020 on $\frac{1}{2}$
acre of land

Adjacent to a village site
and oak preserve

3 acres designated for
Wukchumni ceremonies,
no formal agreement













El Sereno Community Land Trust

Our Place in Community

How we practice the craft of community resource stewardship through mixed conservation, agricultural, and housing efforts

SUA HERNANDEZ - I SUPPORT ESCLT

October 17, 2023





In 2017, the Eastside Cafe was threatened with displacement when the owner sold the entire building to a developer. Members of the ESC launched a campaign that resulted in the successful removal of the property from the speculative market. They did so by successfully raising downpayment funds and partnering with East LA Community Corporation to support the incubation of an entity to hold and steward the property for the common good. The entity founded for this purpose is the El Sereno Community Land Trust



2017

ESC Collectives take control of community cultural arts & economic resource

2023

ESCLT restructures staffing to reflect three pillars of work

Commercial



Housing



Open Space



BALANCING CORE AREAS OF OUR WORK

1

Housing

Navigating the politics of housing & our contribution to organizing power hubs

2

Open Space

Do we develop or conserve? Can we do both?

3

Commercial Space

Who are do we provide opportunities to & how do we plan for sustainability

What it look like in IRL?

Complementing superpowers of organizing – Forging relationships with Organized Tenant Efforts



Ooxor 'Aweeshko – Our home as fertile learning space to establish how we grow



Getting ready to provide sustenance – Setting up a sure footing for those that will provide





In the last three years, we have learned that our place in the community is ensuring sustainable stewardship of safe community spaces to share life, home, sustenance, and self-determination, aka Asset & Property Managers maintaining community resources

Key distinctions

- Disposition is not part of our sustainability plan we commit to steward in perpetuity. In this scenario the property exists in operations almost exclusively; milestone usually cyclical capital improvements.
- Stewardship goes beyond blended asset management practices and includes the residents as active participants in influencing management practices and can accommodate shared ownership and stewardship structures.

Wait, what about the whole perpetuity situation?

- Organizational structure demands flexibility with a strong core to accommodate organization expansions and contractions.
- Its not just about the question now, but what will be asked in the future. While keeping true to our intention of creating autonomous hubs of community resilience and power, establishing strong accounting and assessment foundations is crucial.

Group discussion

- How have you/your community navigated questions about whether to conserve or develop land
- What forms of community-based decision-making and planning are you seeing around housing and land?
- How do livelihoods/jobs figure in to decision making about what to do with land?

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