

# California's Roadmap to Resiliency

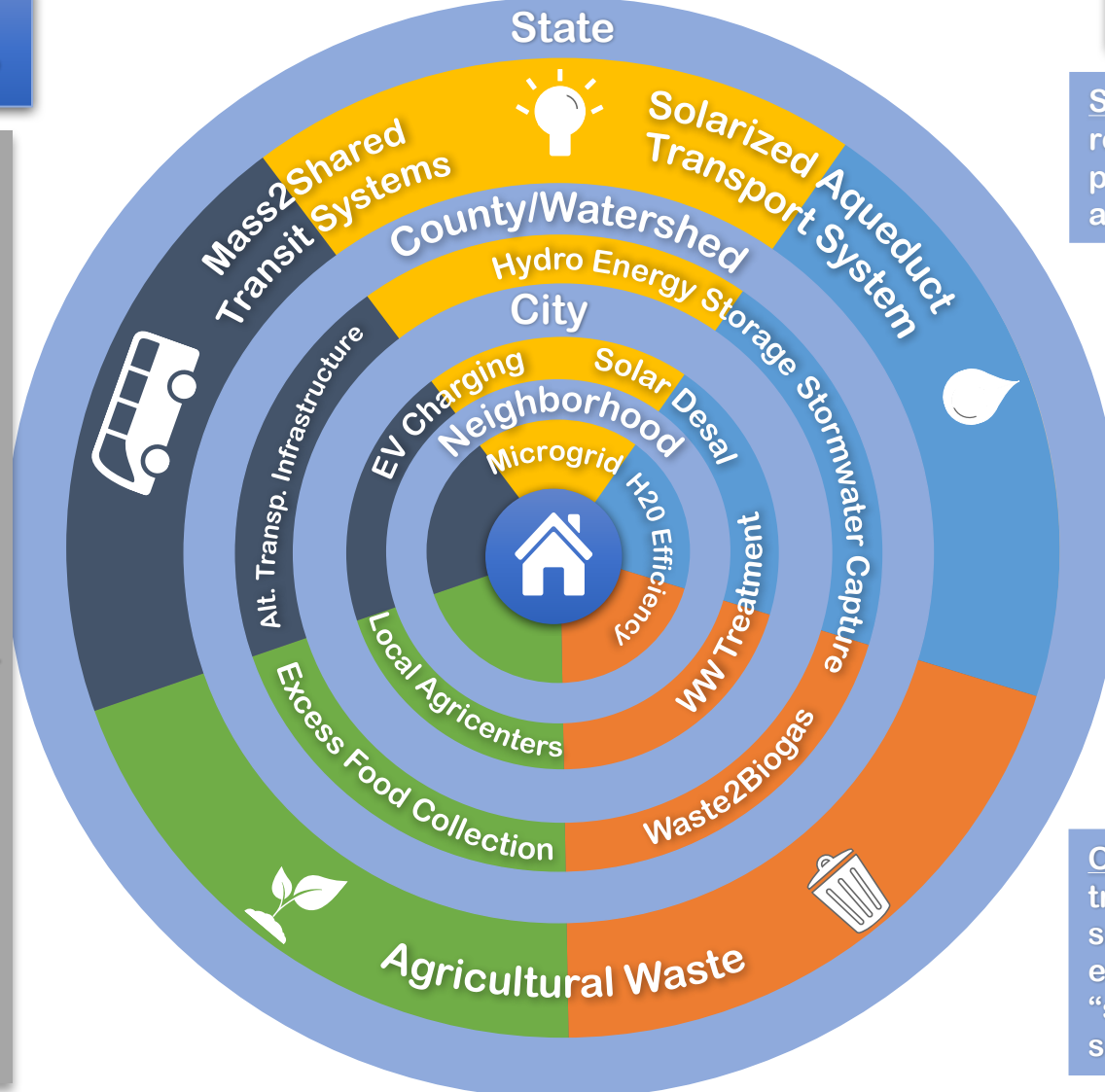
Based on "Resilient Community: A Concept and Vision for Community Action, City Planning and State Policy for the 21st Century," by Lorenzo Kristov

## WHAT DEFINES COMMUNITY RESILIENCE?

*Resilience for a community or city is the ability to maintain essential quality of life functions and services for its residents following a severe disruptive event or sequence of events. (For example – the recent Thomas Fires and subsequent landslides.)*

*Resilience is also needed to withstand disruptions that unfold over time, like the erosion of local jobs, declining tax revenues due to a gradual loss of local businesses, or the closing of a major employer. Resilience policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century needs to consider risks of economic and political volatility as well as climate and ecosystem instability.*

*Resilience is fundamentally a local capacity, as people will always have to deal with immediate impacts. Nevertheless, strategies and policies for building resilient communities must be both bottom-up and top-down.*



## How do we get there?

**STATE LEVEL.** State government must formally recognize “resilient communities” as a central policy goal, and provide legislation, funding and a structure to build resilience in all communities.

**MULTI-COUNTY / WATERSHED SYSTEM.** Many concerns of a city should be addressed within a larger geographic area. Regional efforts and joint projects can benefit from synergies and efficiencies of pooling ideas and resources.

**CITY LEVEL.** All the functions and essential life services a city government provides. The city level is where government and citizens come together to address important quality of life matters: housing, mobility, local business, infrastructure, public space, safety, emergency preparedness, recreation, etc.

**OUR NEIGHBORHOODS.** Our homes, sidewalks, trees, streets, businesses, gathering/interaction spaces, community gardens and libraries. The emphasis at this level is to develop a collective “sense of place” or neighborhood identity, and a sense of community.

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