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**ASPIRE**  
*Aligning State Policy To  
Implement Regional Equity*

# **ASPIRE: PREVIEW Report**

June 1, 2003

Civic Entrepreneur Summit

- To share what we've learned about regional equity interests and activities across the state
- To help create a state regional equity agenda with cross-sector support and multi-regional appeal

# Why Regional Equity?

Regional Equity is a relatively recent concept addressing a long-standing economic goal: individual economic opportunity and equitable community development.

## A brief history of regional equity. . .

1. Irvine Foundation: Sustainable Communities Program (1995 – 2000)
2. PolicyLink  
President Angela Glover Blackwell; Founded 1999
3. Pastor, Dreier, Grigsby, Lopez-Garza  
*Regions that Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together* (1999)
4. Treasurer Angelides, *Double Bottom Line* (1999)
5. Speaker's Commission on Regionalism (2000)

- The Hewlett Foundation
- The Ford Foundation – support indicated
- Intellectual partnership with The Funder's Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

## How the work is done. . .

- A vision and values based approach enables us to build a broad based constituency for state policies
- Our technique for achieving this agenda is Civic Dialogue – bring disparate groups together to explore common interests
- We build linkage relationships with state policymakers who can potentially take a lead on regional equity issues

- PolicyLink's work in California
  - STPP
  - MALDEF
  - Housing California: creating a permanent housing trust fund

## Bay Area (12/5/02)

- Land Use/housing

## Los Angeles (5/15/03)

- Restoration Economy/housing
- Parks/Beaches/Open Space
- Changing the rules for infrastructure investment

## San Diego (5/16/03)

- Housing/Schools/Infrastructure Investment
- Lowering the voter threshold to 55% for local financing of infrastructure investment



- One size does NOT fit all
- Framing ideas
  - Community reinvestment as economic strategy: the Restoration Economy (Denise Fairchild, CDTC)
  - Smart Growth without Displacement
  - Community Redevelopment measured against a broad set of “community benefit” indicators

- **Lessons Learned**

- Some in the business community are slow to buy-in to regional equity, but the concept of sustainability rings true to many others
- Equity is a principle that **MUST** be applied to all Smart Growth decisions (from Smart Growth Caucus) and in a regional context, not just around local projects

*Crafting a statewide agenda for regional equity depends on creating a free-flowing exchange of information between regional coalitions and state policymakers.*

## **Five Year Goals**

- A legislative regional equity caucus
- Explicit regional equity policies: statutes and funding principles (following the mode of environmental justice)
- Active, engaged, broad-based regional equity coalition

## **Mid-Term Goals (3 - 5 years)**

- Build a body of knowledge and champions for regional equity work statewide

## Short-Term Term Goals

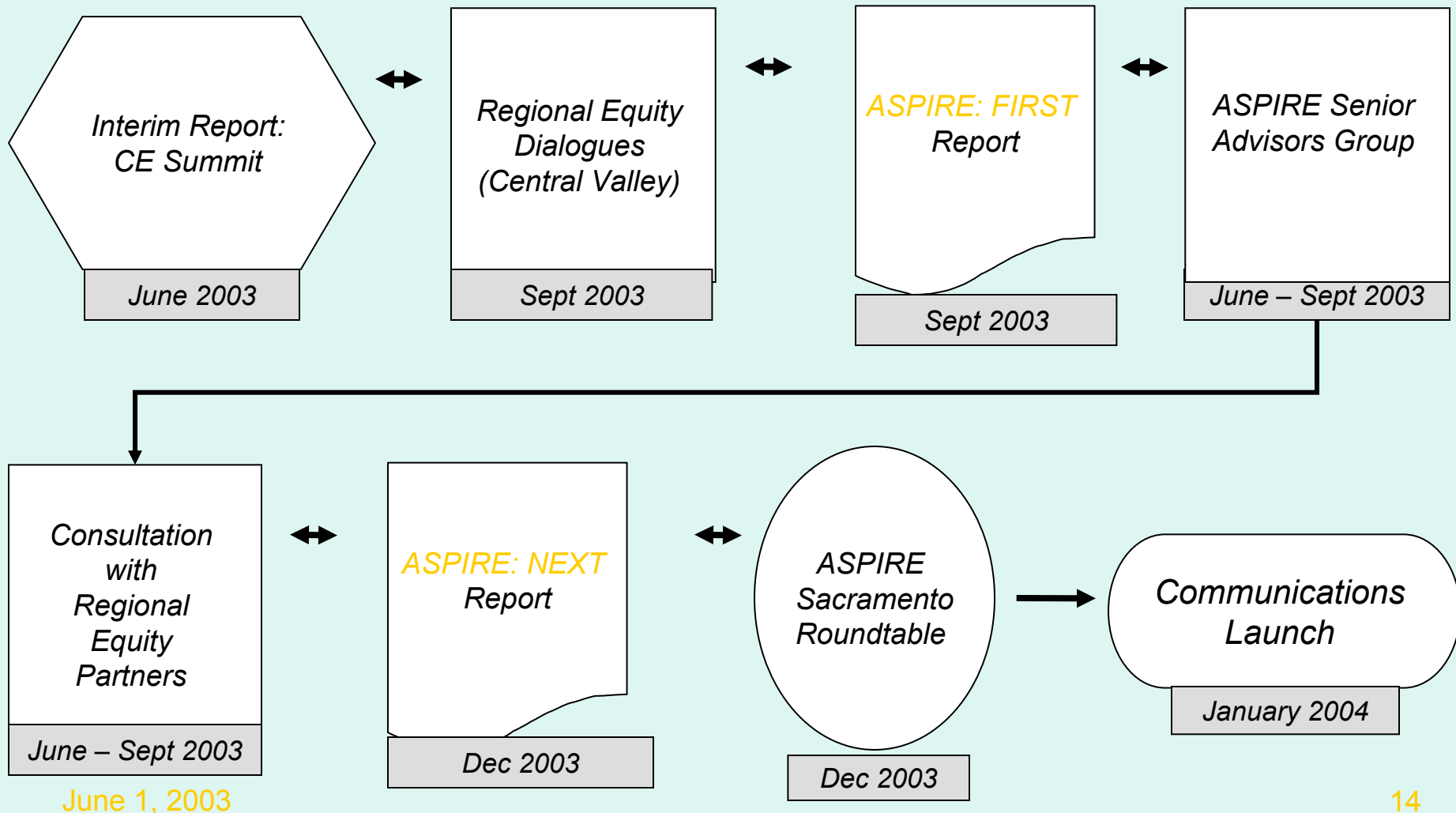
July/August, 2003: *ASPIRE: FIRST* report

September/October, 2003: Regional Equity Dialogues

November/December, 2003: Select State Policies that are “ripe for change”

January, 2004: *ASPIRE: NEXT* report

## Work Plan: 2003



# How to Engage?

Participate in crafting the *ASPIRE: FIRST* Report

Co-Host a Regional Equity Dialogues in YOUR region

Plan on attending the Regional Equity Roundtable  
(December, 2003)

Contribute to the *ASPIRE: NEXT* Report  
(January, 2003)