



## Technical Advisory Council

### Item 4: Allensworth Project and Partnership Highlights

Oct. 24, 2025

#### Introduction

Allensworth was founded in 1908 as a center for Black innovation and a place of refuge and prosperity for Black families to thrive. Today, Allensworth has about 600 residents and is predominantly Latino/x, including many farmworkers. The community has struggled with high arsenic levels in its drinking water, a lack of economic opportunities, and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather. It has also been a model of innovation and partnership.

This document compiles plans and media coverage of current projects and partnerships to address the economic and environmental issues in Allensworth.

#### Recommended Background Materials

- The [Allensworth Community Plan \(ACP\) Update Executive Summary](#) outlines the 2025 Allensworth Community Plan, which lays the foundation for projects to reinvest in the community. The plan was prepared by the Allensworth Progressive Association (APA). Named for the town's original governing body, the APA was re-established in 1997 as a 501(c)(3) to formalize and invigorate ongoing efforts to preserve Allensworth's historic past and improve its future prospects.
- Building on the vision, values, and priorities in the Allensworth Community Plan, [Sowing a Vision: A Plan for Community Strength and Climate Resilience Grounded in Regenerative Farming Enterprise in Allensworth](#) presents a proposal for a Farm Enterprise – a network of interconnected ventures centered on regenerative agriculture.
- [Allensworth Rising: A Fight for Water](#), a 20-minute video by the Los Angeles Times, documents the lived experience of arsenic contamination of drinking water and Allensworth's partnership with the Gadgil Lab at UC Berkeley to bring safe drinking water to the community.
- [Improving Water Safety in Rural California](#), a short video and article by UC Berkeley, provides an overview of the Gadgil Lab's arsenic-removal processes.

- A long-form blog post published by the Union of Concerned Scientists, [The Future of Resilient Agricultural Communities in California Is Alive in Allensworth](#), is a call to action to support Allensworth's plan to become a regenerative agricultural hub and reform agricultural practices to improve the quality of life of vulnerable communities in the San Joaquin Valley.
- APA quarterly reports celebrate recent community events and implementation of community projects:
  - [January, February, March 2025](#)
  - [April, May, June 2025](#)

### **Additional Background Materials**

- Allensworth hosted two 2023-24 GrizzlyCorps Fellows. The fellows presented their work on sustainable farming and creating an extreme weather resiliency plan through storytelling:
  - [Farming in the Central Valley: Creating a Sustainable Agri-food System in Allensworth](#), Shamik Chandrachood
  - [Storytelling in Allensworth/Nuestras Historias](#), Rashel Cazares-Navarro
- Los Angeles Times coverage of the 2023 flood of Allensworth:
  - March 18: [‘We need to stop the water’: A California town’s frantic fight to save itself](#) By Ian James
  - March 19: [Thousands of Central Valley residents told to leave homes ahead of another rain onslaught](#) By Ian James and Paige St. John
  - March 20: [California town engulfed in floodwater. But residents fear what will happen if they flee](#) By Ian James
  - March 24: [Worry and suspicion reign as once-dry Tulare Lake drowns California farmland](#) By Ian James and Susanne Rust