

Conclusion

This Regional Plan Part 1 represents the culmination of extensive data analysis, community engagement, and partnership-building efforts. The report has surfaced key insights into the region's economic well-being, industry composition, workforce dynamics, public health, and environmental risks, with a particular focus on the experiences of priority communities, including those facing workforce barriers, rural and remote areas with limited access to services, low-income communities in disinvested areas.

Through this process, the collaborative has identified four priority sector nodes - Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Health and Caregiving; Renewable and Resilient Energy; and Working Lands and Blue Economy - that reflect the region's shared economic development priorities and hold the potential for sustainable, inclusive growth. These sector nodes are supported by key underlying infrastructure nodes - housing, broadband, and transportation - that are critical to the region's economic competitiveness and quality of life.

The Redwood Region RISE collaborative is now poised to develop targeted strategies and investments that build on the region's strengths, address its challenges, and create a more equitable, resilient future for all its communities. In Regional Plan Part 2, the collaborative will draw on the data and insights surfaced in this report to craft a roadmap for inclusive and sustainable economic development. This will involve working closely with industry leaders and community partners to identify high-impact projects, prioritize investments, and foster ongoing collaboration and capacity-building.

Central to this effort in Part 2 will be the work of the RRRISE Sector Tables, which bring together industry leaders and community representatives to drive the development of regional strategies and projects. The Sector Tables play a critical role in identifying missing partners for outreach, reviewing data, shortlisting high-alignment projects, assisting with participatory decision-making, and identifying priorities for ongoing sector development. Through the development of sector based and community development strategies, the Collaborative is currently working to identify:

- Key investment areas and workforce development needs to prepare for future disruptions and post-disruption transitions and the emergence of resilient industries, which is one goal of this Regional Roadmap,
- Underutilized synergies within the Redwood Region and with outside markets, with identification of opportunities for intra- and inter-sectoral and public-private cooperation to maximize benefits,
- Ways to effectively utilize the Collaborative regional roadmap, including high-quality job creation targets (pre- and post-disruption) in resilient industries, informed by the needs of disinvested, priority communities in the Redwood Region, and
- Investments that have multipliers and benefits across the Redwood Region, including investments that leverage local, regional, state, federal, and philanthropic dollars to maximize economic benefits, and which reflect the inclusive vision and plan for Redwood Region economic vitality established in the Collaborative regional roadmap.

These strategies will be released August 2024, and comprise the second part of the Roadmap-Regional Plan Part 2.

The Redwood Region has a rich history marked by the resilience and innovation of its diverse communities. From the original stewardship of the land by Indigenous peoples to the boom-and-bust cycles of resource extraction industries, the region has experienced both prosperity and challenges. Today, the Redwood Region faces a critical juncture, with threats such as climate change, worsening economic disparities and disruptions, and workforce barriers. However, the region also possesses unique strengths and opportunities for sustainable, inclusive growth.

As the Redwood Region RISE collaborative moves forward with this work, it will continue to center the voices and needs of priority communities. By leveraging the region's unique assets, fostering cross-sector collaboration, and investing in the infrastructure and workforce of the future, the Redwood Region can emerge as a model for sustainable, inclusive economic development, realizing its vision statement: ***“The Redwood Region is a healing place where everyone belongs, with stable jobs, accessible healthcare, and a thriving natural environment. Together, we work towards a future where anyone can thrive.”***

