

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports

Agency: Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR)

Action: Request for Information (RFI)

Summary:

[California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment](#) (Fifth Assessment), will develop nine Regional Synthesis Reports (regional reports) to strengthen the understanding of climate impacts at the local level and inform the development of resilience actions across the state. These reports will use the original climate research, datasets, and models produced throughout the Fifth Assessment to synthesize information that meets the needs of regions throughout the state. This Request for Information (RFI) offers the public the opportunity to provide information on the priority themes to address through the regional reports and input on the structure and research approach for developing reports that prioritize community partnerships and engagement.

Dates:

Responses must be received by **May 31, 2023 at 5:00:00 PM PST** to be considered.

OPR will host four listening sessions in May 2023 where participants will be able to provide verbal feedback to this RFI. The listening session dates and registration links are listed below.

Statewide: [Thursday, May 4th at 2:00 pm](#)

California Coast (North, Bay Area, Central): [Wednesday, May 10th at 4:00 pm](#)

Southern California (Los Angeles, Inland Deserts, San Diego): [Thursday, May 11th at 10:00 am](#)

Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada: [Monday, May 15th at 12:00 pm](#)

Submissions:

Written responses are required to be submitted via [this form](#).

If you are unable to access the submission form, responses and/or supplemental attachments can be submitted via email to climateassessment@opr.ca.gov. For emailed responses, please include in the email subject line, "Fifth Assessment Regional Report RFI".

This RFI is only for information and planning purposes and should not be construed as an obligation on the part of OPR. Comments received may be used to inform the scope and development process for each regional report. Respondents are asked to address

the questions listed below. Respondents do not need to address every question and should focus on those where they have views or relevant expertise. Respondents may provide detailed responses and examples. All comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Respondents should only submit information that they wish to make publicly available and should not enclose any information considered confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure. **In responding to this RFI, DO NOT include any information that might be considered proprietary, trade secrets and/or confidential.**

For further information:

Visit: <https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/climate-assessment/>

Email: ClimateAssessment@opr.ca.gov

RFI DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this RFI solicitation is to seek information, suggestions, best practices, and cost estimates for the technical resources needed for updating and editing services for the project, "Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports". This RFI will not result in the award of a contract agreement. It will however result in a list of the necessary deliverables and cost estimates that will then be suggested for the OPR to consider in developing the scope of future research products and processes.

Completion of this RFI shall be performed at no cost to the State. The intent of this RFI is solely for information and planning purposes. A contract will not be awarded as a result of this RFI.

Background:

Worse and more frequent extreme weather events and trends are impacting the state every year, making up-to-date information on climate change imperative to driving sound policy and investment decisions. To keep pace with climate change, [Senate Bill 1320](#) (Stern, 2020) calls on the State to advance action-based science by developing California Climate Change Assessments at least every five years. Key partnerships with government, academic, tribal, and community organizations to generate original research and synthesize existing knowledge on the ways climate change is impacting California's diverse communities are core to this effort.

California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment:

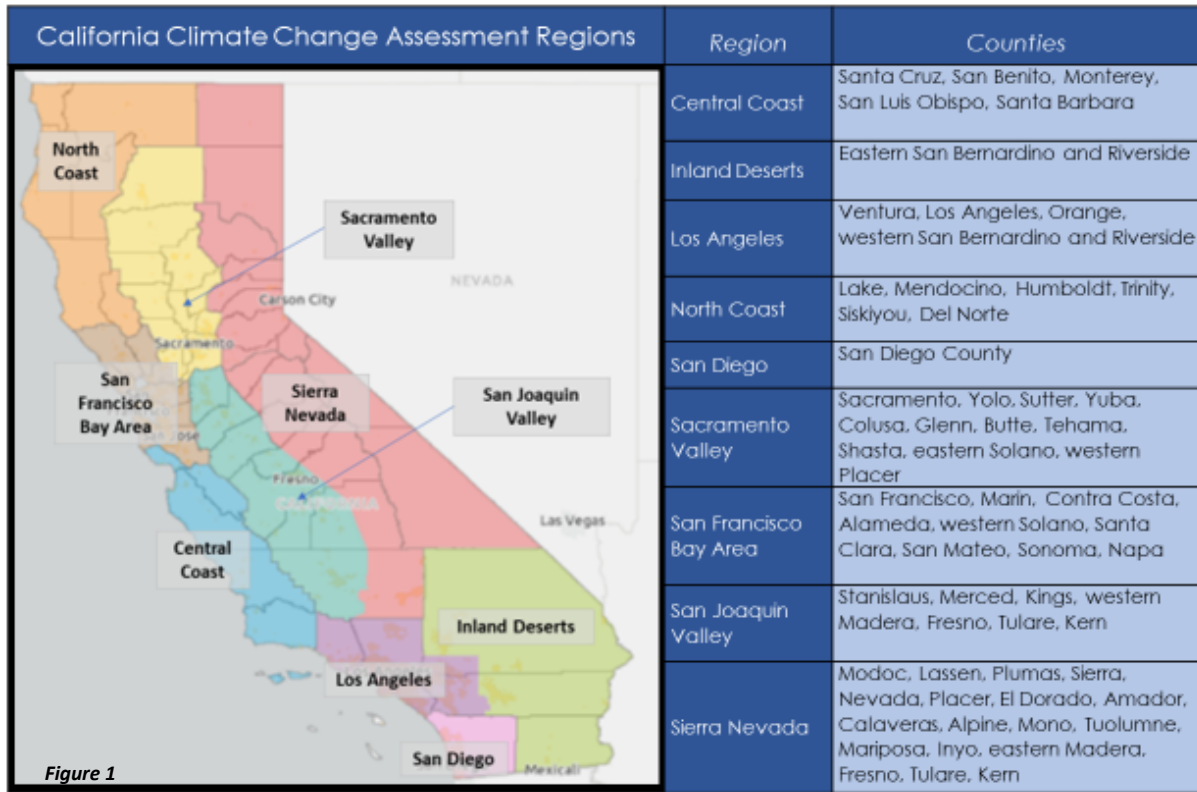
In 2018, [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#) (Fourth Assessment) included reports for nine regions of the state (see Figure 1 below) that synthesized original research and data to highlight the impacts climate change will have at a local level. In addition, the regional reports included descriptions of the regional environments,

information on the human impacts of climate change, such as on infrastructure and public health, and details about the cascading or compounding impacts of climate change. Each of these reports was authored by a team consisting of one coordinating lead author, multiple lead authors, contributing authors, and an advisory group of practitioners and scientists. The primary audience for the regional reports were local, regional, and State decision-makers, planners, and researchers.

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment:

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment) is currently underway to produce new research on the impacts of climate change to the state's natural, built, and social systems and adaptation responses toward resilient outcomes. This includes:

- New data and scenarios projecting the impacts of climate change in California;
- Original research that addresses California-specific research needs and questions related to climate change;
- A Tribal Research Program to integrate tribal expertise, Traditional knowledge(s), and input from California Native American tribes throughout the Fifth Assessment process;
- A suite of regional, topical, and statewide synthesis reports that summarize this leading-edge research to meet the needs and context of regions across the state; and,
- An equity-centered engagement process to ensure this information drives climate action on the ground.



Purpose:

The purpose of this RFI is to seek input on a research framework and process that can be applied to each regional report of California’s Fifth Climate Change Assessment. This includes:

- A. A collaborative structure for authorship and development of the regional reports that incorporates diverse perspectives and expertise, including from community, tribal, environmental justice, local government, private sector, and research groups
- B. General themes that should be addressed throughout all of the regional reports
- C. Priority local, ecological, social, or infrastructural issues for specific regions
- D. An administrative process for managing logistical and reporting requirements

Responses to this RFI can address all or a selection of the four areas for input listed above.

Respondents should focus on the specific California Climate Assessment region (Figure 1) for which they hold expertise or existing partnerships. While past Climate Assessments have been developed primarily by academic groups and researchers, respondents should prioritize identifying potential partnerships with academic and non-academic partners for the development of the regional reports.

Request for Information: Key Questions

Please limit responses to the questions in each section to 500 words.

A. Collaborative Structure:

The Fifth Assessment team is accepting input on the expertise and partnerships needed to develop a suite of reports that inform regional and local vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and community resilience efforts. These partnerships should adopt the Strategic Growth Council's [Research Engagement Model](#) (formerly Climate Change Research Model) to achieve community-led actionable research that informs equitable approaches to building resilience.

1. Considering the Fifth Assessment priorities to include diverse expertise and perspectives in the development of the regional reports, what expertise are needed to inform the scope of each regional report? Please include the types of organizations, communities or individuals that can provide these expertise, where applicable.
2. Does your organization have experience managing large teams that include non-academic partners, including but not limited to tribal and local community partners? If yes, what collaborative structure does your organization utilize to incorporate diverse expertise?
3. What geographies does your organization serve? Please note whether the geographies match or overlap with one or multiple California Climate Assessment regions (per Figure 1).
4. Community engagement is critical to informing all Fifth Assessment processes and research. Please describe any additional methods or opportunities to bring diverse expertise and perspectives into the scoping and development of each regional report.

B. Regional Themes:

The Fifth Assessment will address various themes, such as impacts on built, natural and social systems, equity and environmental justice with a focus on vulnerable communities, integration of traditional knowledge(s), fiscal and economic impacts from climate change, governance, and monitoring and evaluation. The regional reports will synthesize this information to help inform regional and local vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and community resilience efforts.

1. What additional general themes are important to address throughout the regional reports?
2. How should each regional report use Fifth Assessment downscaled global climate change projections and modeling on wildfire, hydrology, and sea level rise?
3. What other data or knowledge(s) are needed to inform each regional report?

C. Local Issues:

While the regional reports will address common themes, each report can also elevate issues unique to its region.

1. What local issues should be considered for a given region, based on the California Climate Assessment regions in Figure 1?
2. How should the Fifth Assessment regional reports consider trans-boundary issues (e.g., watersheds, critical infrastructure, and other natural, built, or cultural features spanning multiple regions)?
3. What informational resources about the risks of climate change, natural hazards, extreme weather events, and vulnerabilities are currently lacking for this region?

D. Administration:

Development of the Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports will occur between early 2024 – mid-2026. This will include community engagement, research, report writing, review, and final presentations. Please describe a reasonable approach for conducting this process for a specific Climate Assessment region. This may include anticipated timelines, key milestones, budget considerations, author team structures and/or other logistical considerations.

Other Recommendations:

In addition to the outlined sections above, we invite respondents to raise and suggest solutions to any other potential limitations/barriers to the Fifth Assessment's regional reports not captured.