

## Executive Summary

Because California is already experiencing more frequent and severe climate-driven events, including wildfires, drought, and extreme heat, preparing for climate change isn't a distant need, but an immediate challenge whose solutions and strategies need to also support equitable long-term outcomes. The state is meeting the urgency of the moment on adaptation by implementing a comprehensive, coordinated, and science-based approach to climate adaptation, which includes the Climate Change Assessment, the Climate Adaptation Strategy, the Adaptation Planning Guide, and record investments through the FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 state budget. Because the state's climate approach is uniquely multi-faceted, it is important to coordinate across sectors and scales, so the outcomes of these efforts are greater than the sum of their parts.

The [Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program \(ICARP\)](#), established through [Senate Bill 246 \(Wieckowski, 2016\)](#), advances a cohesive and holistic response to the impacts of climate change by coordinating regional and local efforts with state climate adaptation strategies to support comprehensive planning and accelerate implementation. Through its enabling legislation, ICARP is centrally focused on efforts that advance climate equity and support integrated climate strategies, or those strategies that benefit both greenhouse gas reductions and adaptation.

ICARP works to advance these priorities through five core priority areas, in addition to special initiatives, identified by its Technical Advisory Council:

- Actionable Research & Resilience Metrics
- Decision Support Tools & Guidance
- Building Partnerships & Leveraging Resources
- Funding & Financing
- Climate Equity & Vulnerable Communities

This report provides an overview of ICARP's recent efforts to achieve its mission – detailing the program's innovative approaches, documenting key milestones from 2022, and outlining upcoming deliverables for 2023. In 2022, ICARP established several new programs and expanded implementation of its core functions, increasing the program's capacity and impact. Over the course of the year, ICARP's public meetings, webinars, and outreach and engagement connected with over 2,000 unique individuals representing a broad and diverse swath of California's communities (Figure 1).

Through these efforts, ICARP sought to develop innovative, replicable approaches to address known gaps and challenges. Each of ICARP's programmatic

workstreams oversaw processes that can attribute their successful outcomes to innovative processes in 2022 that deliberately embedded equity and inclusion:

- The on-the-ground implementation perspective of the ICARP Technical Advisory Council identified and elevated a shared implementation challenge. ICARP Staff responded to this need by leveraging its interagency coordination groups and partnerships to develop a cross-cutting resource. Supporting access to funding opportunities is an important climate equity strategy.
- Producing actionable climate science requires an understanding of on-the-ground needs. Engaging impacted communities and community representatives, who have unique perspectives and expertise, to contribute to the scope and prioritization of research topics can lead to more actionable results. Early engagement and strategic partnerships are essential to integrating these unique and valuable perspectives.
- Leveraging complex planning processes to develop and implement a vision for a resilient community requires a collaborative, multi-sector approach, technical expertise and capacity. ICARP's Plan Alignment Guides provide a flexible approach, collaboration tools, and best practices to support entities in navigating any stage of this process. Most importantly, the Plan Alignment Guides emphasize the importance of meaningful engagement and partnership with vulnerable communities so adaptation action prioritizes those most exposed to climate risk and who face the greatest barriers to recovering from climate impacts.
- Extensive public engagement identified ways ICARP's grant programs could add unique value by supporting integrated climate planning and implementation. This feedback also informed the development of more inclusive and equitable programs that reduce barriers for applicants, center the needs of vulnerable communities, prioritize support for disadvantaged communities and tribes, encourage shared decision-making, support capacity-building, and export successes in case studies to scale up solutions.

Looking ahead to 2023, ICARP will continue to deliver on its priorities through the continuation and evolution of several strategic initiatives and implementing new efforts directed by legislation and the budget. The program will continue to foster partnerships and relationships with scientists, state and federal agencies, tribes, businesses, local governments, and community groups so California can thrive in the face of climate change.