California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

Call for Editorial Board Leadership

The California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) seeks joint applications from University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) representatives for funded roles to lead an Editorial Board as a part of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment, Assessment). The Editorial Board Leadership (Lead and Deputy Lead Editors or other structure as proposed) will recruit and compensate Associate Editors to form an Editorial Board, with approval from LCI. The Editorial Board will support expert review of Fifth Assessment research products, provide feedback to authors on language and formatting, and advise the framework of a Statewide Summary Report.

Please sign up for the [Climate Change Assessment Email List](#) for updates and announcements or email climateassessment@opr.ca.gov with any questions.

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Application Process

Prospective Editorial Board Leadership teams should apply using one application, including a Lead Editor and Deputy Lead Editor or an equivalent alternative team structure. Please send the following to climateassessment@opr.ca.gov by **March 24, 2025**, with the subject line "**Editorial Board Leadership Application**":

- **A resume or biosketch** (no more than five pages) for each co-applicant that includes education/training, professional experience, and a relevant subset of publications, funded projects, and/or synergistic activities
- Statement of qualifications (up to three pages, 12 pt. font) including a description of:
  - Applicable expertise and demonstrated qualifications (see Qualifications).
  - Availability & capacity to meet project deadlines (see Anticipated Timeline).
  - Description of intended Editorial Board structure (see Editor Roles, Responsibilities, & Time Commitment)
  - Proposed general budget allocations for Editorial Board processes (see Budget Details). Detailed budget and budget justification shall be submitted during the contracting process.

Scope and Purpose of the Editorial Board

The Fifth Assessment builds on new downscaled climate data and projections which are incorporated throughout the Assessment. The Assessment's original research includes 15 Core Climate Research Program (CCRP) projects which fill gaps in the climate change literature, 18 Tribal Research Grant Program (TRGP) projects, and a suite of eight Energy-related research grants. The Fifth Assessment also features nine Regional Synthesis Reports describing impacts and adaptation efforts at a regional scale and four Topical Synthesis Reports describing climate impacts within specific issue areas, including a Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report. Six additional state-led Topical Reports are being provided by State agencies. A Statewide Summary Report will feature key takeaways from the above products.

The Editorial Board will ensure that the content, style, and framing of these Fifth Assessment products are appropriate and cohesive, with guidance from LCI. The Editorial Board will support expert review of Assessment products, facilitated by the California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEE), by screening compiled comments from expert reviewers and ensuring that comments are appropriately incorporated by each author team. In partnership with the state leadership team, the Editorial Board will concurrently provide feedback to author teams on language and formatting, including appropriate framing and tone; language appropriate for key audiences; and more. The Editorial Board will additionally be asked to advise the framework, development, and final editing of the Statewide Summary Report.

The Editorial Board will edit:

- 15 Core Climate Research Program (CCRP) projects

- Up to 18 Tribal Research Grant Program (TRGP) projects
- Up to five Energy-related research reports
- Nine Regional Synthesis Reports
- The Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report
- Three Statewide Topical Synthesis Reports
- The Statewide Summary Report

The products edited by the Editorial Board are subject to change. The Editorial Board will work with the Tribal Research Program leadership to determine appropriate editing processes for materials that uplift tribal expertise and data in ways that meaningfully honor tribal data sovereignty.

Anticipated Timeline (subject to change)

Action Item	Key Dates
Call for Editorial Board Leadership	Closes March 24, 2025
LCI selects Editorial Board Leadership	April 2025
Contracting process	Q2 2025
Select Associate Editors	June 2025
Associate Editors approve Expert Reviewers	Starting July 2025
Statewide Summary Report development	Q3 2025 – Q4 2025
CCRP review & editing	Q3 2025 – Q1 2026
Energy reports review & editing	Q3 2025 – Q4 2025
TRGP review & editing	Q4 2025 – TBC 2026
Regional Synthesis Report review & editing	Q4 2025
Topical Synthesis Report review & editing	Q4 2025 – Q1 2026
Statewide Summary Report editing	Q1 2026
Fifth Assessment Rollout	Q2 2026

Qualifications

Required

- General understanding of climate science, including mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
- Proven ability to coordinate the editing or review of a high volume of research products (several dozen at a time)
- Experience with literature review and translating complex scientific information into plain language suitable for a general audience
- Affiliation with a California State University or University of California
- Demonstrated cultural competence
- Strong Emotional Intelligence – ability to inspire and lead large groups towards common goals
- Discretion & Judgement – ability to maintain confidentiality around sensitive topics and work effectively to reconcile and harmonize disparate approaches and perspectives

- Experience with hiring and supervisory processes, including managing matrixed teams

Editorial Board Leadership must act as independent reviewers and must recuse themselves from discussion of any Fifth Assessment research products or reports with which they have prior involvement.

Preferred
- Direct experience working with under-resourced, rural, and Tribal communities in California
- Experience with editorial oversight as part of a peer review process in academic journals
- Experience conducting original research and/or literature reviews in climate science or relevant to the themes in Appendix A

Editorial Leadership Roles, Responsibilities, and Time Commitment
NOTE: The application should include a description of the proposed Editorial Board structure and how it satisfies the below responsibilities. LCI will consider alternative staffing structures on a case-by-case basis. Responsibilities are subject to change as determined by the selected project team and LCI.

Lead Editor
- Must be affiliated with a UC/CSU
- Oversee all administrative logistics and tasks, including invoicing and subcontracting
- Coordinate with LCI to recruit and select Associate Editors
- Oversee project management, including coordinating with CIEE and Assessment authors, tracking progress, ensuring alignment with state priorities, and meeting Assessment timelines
- Lead a process to formally determine whether each report passes expert review and merits inclusion in the Assessment
- Act as authority for disputes between authors, reviewers, and/or editors
- Oversee and participate in Editorial Board support of the Statewide Summary Report
- Participate in meetings with LCI no less frequently than quarterly and remain accessible to LCI throughout the project's duration
- Attend Editorial Board meetings

Deputy Lead Editor
- Support administrative logistics and tasks, including invoicing and subcontracting
- Coordinate with LCI to recruit and select Associate Editors
- Support project management, including coordinating with CIEE and Assessment authors, tracking progress, ensuring alignment with state priorities, and meeting Assessment timelines
- Manage Associate Editors, organize Editorial Board meetings, and field process questions

- Participate in process to formally determine whether each report passes expert review and merits inclusion in the Assessment
- Oversee and participate in Editorial Board support activities for the Statewide Summary Report
- Participate in meetings with LCI no less frequently than quarterly and remain accessible to LCI throughout the project's duration
- Be available to address various issues on an ad-hoc basis
- Attend Editorial Board meetings

Associate Editor

NOTE: Associate Editors will be selected later by the Editorial Board Leadership in collaboration with LCI.

- Approve suggested expert reviewers for ~1-4 assigned Fifth Assessment products matching the Associate Editor's subject matter expertise
- Revise consolidated reviewer comments for the assigned Fifth Assessment products
- Concurrently provide feedback to authors of the assigned Fifth Assessment products on language and formatting; including appropriate framing and tone; language appropriate for key audiences; and more.
- Support incorporation of findings from assigned reports into the Statewide Summary Report, as appropriate
- Present recommendations to the Editorial Board for assigned reports
- Participate in process to formally determine whether each report passes expert review and merits inclusion in the Assessment
- Attend Editorial Board meetings

Budget Details

LCI will work with the selected Editorial Leadership through the Model Agreement (STD 213 Form) to finalize the budget for the overall Editorial Board during the contracting process.

- The Budget may not exceed $225,000.
- Assume 35% Indirect Cost Rate.
- Up to $50,000 may be used for non-UC/CSU subaward participation.
- Honoraria may be used to compensate Associate Editors.
- Budget should include appropriate detail for the following, as relevant: personnel, subcontractors, consultants, travel, materials, and other fees and services, indirect cost rate, as determined necessary.

Example Budget Breakdown

Category	#	Rate	Timeframe	Total Cost
Lead Editor	1	$175/hr	Avg 10 hrs/week for 32 weeks	$56,000
Deputy Editor	1	$150/hr	Avg 15 hrs/week for 32 weeks	$60,000

Associates	50	$1000/report		$50,000
Indirect Cost Rate		35%		$58,100
TOTAL				**$224,100**

This budget example is not prescriptive. We encourage alternative budget proposals that align with the requirements above and meet the needs of the applying Editorial Board team structure.

Appendix A: Key Themes & Topic Areas

The Fifth Assessment has identified 26 Climate Research Topics which constitute gaps in the state's research portfolio and which the Assessment's original research seeks to address. In addition, the Fifth Assessment's original research and synthesis reports address the following themes:

Climate Related Events & Trends

- Temperature
- Precipitation
- Snowpack
- Extreme Storm Events
- Clouds, Wind, Humidity, Dust
- Extreme Heat
- Drought
- Flooding
- Wildfire
- Sea Level Rise
- Groundwater Rise
- Ocean Acidification, Warming & Hypoxia
- Landslides
- Air Quality (e.g., wildfire smoke, dust, extreme heat impacts to air quality)
- Cascading & Compounding impacts

Natural, Built, and Social Systems

- Indigenous Knowledges
- Cultural & Tribal Cultural Resources
- Impacts to California Native American Tribes
- Racial Equity & Climate Justice
- Water (surface & groundwater)
- Biodiversity & Habitat
- Ocean & Coastal Issues
- Agriculture
- Open Space, Parks, and Conservation (non-developed natural spaces that are not agricultural lands)
- Transportation
- Energy Systems (natural/fossil gas, electricity, transportation fuel)
- Buildings
- Water Storage & Conveyance Systems
- Wastewater & Stormwater Systems
- Housing
- Telecommunications
- Emergency systems
- Emergency Capacity & Mobility
- Public Health
- Land Use
- Finance and Insurance
- Economics
- Labor & Workforce
- Public Health
- Policy & Governance
- Communications/Capacity-Building
- Human Displacement & Migration
- Education