

## **Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program**

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# **Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program**

## **Round 1 Final Program Guidelines**

**FY 2022–2023**



# Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP)

*Administered by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR)*

## What is the Regional Resilience Grant Program?

The Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) is a new grant program that funds planning and implementation projects that strengthen climate change resilience at a regional scale. The RRGP funds projects led by partnerships that involve multiple jurisdictions working together to address the most significant climate change risks in their regions, especially in communities that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. These impacts could include but are not limited to wildfires, rising sea levels, droughts, floods, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.

## What is climate resilience?

ICARP defines climate resilience as the capacity of any entity, whether an individual, community, organization, or natural system; to prepare for disruptions, recover from shocks and stresses, and adapt and grow from a disruptive experience.

## Who is eligible to apply?

To apply for the grant, eligible applicants should form regional partnerships that involve two or more jurisdictions working together to address their region's shared climate risks. The organization types that are eligible to partner and apply are:

- California Native American tribes
- Public entities
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Academic Institutions

## What is the award amount?

The RRGP plans to allocate a minimum of 51% of grant funds to projects that directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Additionally, at least 10% of the funds will be dedicated to supporting California Native American tribes. The funding range for planning projects is \$150,000 to \$650,000. The funding range for implementation projects is \$650,000 to \$3,000,000.

## How does the RRGP define a region?

RRGP does not align with any one definition of region that other programs or initiatives may use. Applicants can self-identify their project's region defined by shared natural and built environment systems and highest priority climate risks, supported by a regional scale partnership.



## Table of Contents

<b>1. About the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (RRGP) .</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. Navigating these Guidelines.....	5
1.2. Background.....	6
1.3. Summary.....	7
1.4. Program Contact.....	7
1.5. Funding Availability.....	7
1.6. Goals.....	9
1.7. Timeline.....	11
1.8. Questions.....	12
1.9. Errors.....	13
<b>2. Before Applying.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1. Applicant Eligibility.....	14
2.2. Comparing RRGP Grant Types.....	16
2.3. Project Eligibility.....	17
<b>3. Preparing and Submitting an Application.....</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1. Application Support.....	21
3.2. Application Components & Scoring Criteria.....	22
<b>4. After Applying.....</b>	<b>33</b>
4.1. Confirmation of Application Submission.....	33
4.2. Changing or Withdrawing an Application/Proposal.....	33
4.3. Minor Errors/Immaterial Defect.....	33
4.4. Public Records Act.....	33
4.5. Application Review Process and Scoring.....	33
<b>5. Unselected Applications.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>6. Selected Applications.....</b>	<b>37</b>
6.1. Responsibilities and Grant Agreement.....	37
6.2. No Agreement Until Signed or Approved.....	38
6.3. Disbursement and Accounting Funds.....	38
6.4. Program Expectations.....	38
6.5. Optional Program Help/Technical Assistance.....	41
<b>7. Appendices.....</b>	<b>43</b>



Appendix A. Examples of Climate Risks Proposals May Address and Potential Benefits ..... 43

Appendix B. Examples of Multi-Risk, Multi-Jurisdiction Projects.....50

Appendix C. Related Climate Statewide Plans & Grants ..... 53

Appendix D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources.....54

Appendix E. Distinguishing RRGP from Related State Grant Programs..... 57

Appendix F. California Climate Adaptation Strategy Regions.....58

Appendix I. Glossary and Acronyms..... 61



# 1. About the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (RRGP)

## 1.1. Navigating these Guidelines

These Guidelines are a step-by-step guide for learning more about, applying for, and participating in the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (RRGP). They include hyperlinks to relevant sections *within* the document and links to *external* resources that may help applicants. Green double-underlined text denotes internal hyperlinks to sections within the document, whereas blue single-underlined text denotes hyperlinks to external information.

This document includes information on the RRGPs two available grant types:

**P** Planning Grants

**I** Implementation Grants

All information in this document applies to both grant types unless specifically stated otherwise. If a section header has an icon next to it, the icon emphasizes that the section only applies to the specified grant type. Information related to planning grants is represented by a circle inscribed with the letter “P,” and information related to implementation grants is represented by a circle inscribed with the letter “I.” The text is final if there is a discrepancy between the icons and the text. Please read all relevant sections.

### Example Header for Planning Grants **P**

Information that only applies to Planning Grants

### Example Header for Implementation Grants **I**

Information that only applies to Implementation Grants

Appendix G: Glossary and Acronyms also defines relevant terms used throughout the guidelines. The goal is to ensure that applicants with different levels of experience applying to grants are able to effectively participate in the process. For information on how to reach RRGPs staff throughout the application process for help before applications are due, see Section 1.4. Program Contact.



## 1.2. Background

### About the RRGP

Through [Senate Bill \(SB\) 170](#), during Fiscal Year 2021-22, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), received \$25 million to develop this program. The RRGP operates through OPR's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) and will help address local, regional, and tribal climate resilience needs by supporting climate resilient planning and implementation projects at the regional scale. The RRGP will help regions advance resilience through three major activities: planning, project implementation, and capacity building. The RRGP will award funds based on project type (planning and implementation) and consider respective capacity-building efforts within each project type. The RRGP aims to award funds to projects that encourage diverse regional-scale partnerships and collaboration.

### Climate Adaptation & Climate Resiliency

Although climate resilience and adaptation are often discussed together, ICARP, guided by public input,<sup>1</sup> has outlined the following distinctions between these two terms. Adapting to climate change refers to natural or human systems adjusting to a new or changing environment. Resilience describes the capacity of any entity, whether an individual, community, organization, or natural system; to prepare for disruptions, recover from shocks and stresses, and adapt and grow from a disruptive experience. California communities are experiencing more frequent, prolonged, and severe impacts of climate change, including extreme heat events, flooding, wildfires, drought, extreme weather events, and sea level rise. Preparing for these changes is referred to as climate adaptation while implementing adaptive measures builds climate resiliency.

### Program Development and Community Engagement Process

The RRGP reflects legislative requirements on how to use and manage RRGP funds. The RRGP also reflects community feedback gathered from public listening sessions, workshops, interviews and online surveys that staff held from June 2022 through March 2023. Over 396 people representing community-based organizations, advocacy groups, state, regional, and federal agencies; local governments; and California Native American tribes participated in this community engagement process and provided input.

The RRGP team posted a draft of these guidelines on the [RRGP webpage](#) on January 17, 2023 and presented them at public workshops to solicit public comments over 45 days through March 3, 2023. Staff reviewed and incorporated public comments on the Round 1 Draft Guidelines submitted during those public workshops and via email into the Round 1 Final Guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability. Staff will host public application

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<sup>1</sup> Learn more by reviewing [Planning and Investing for a Resilient California: A Guidebook for State Agencies](#) and the [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#).



workshops to provide more information and resources to interested applicants. See Section [1.7. Timeline](#) below for those dates.

### 1.3. Summary

- **Who Administers the RRGP:** OPR
- **Funding Ranges:**
  - Planning grants between \$150,000 and \$650,000
  - Implementation grants between \$650,000 and \$3M
- **Project Lengths:** 12- to 30-month period
- **Grant Availability Types:** Competitive and Set-aside<sup>2</sup>
- **Match Funding Required:** No
- **Disbursement Type:** Cost reimbursement only (no advance pay)

### 1.4. Program Contact

Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Telephone: [\(916\) 720-4439](tel:(916)720-4439)

E-mail: [icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov](mailto:icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov)

For more information on the RRGP and to see the latest news, visit the [RRGP website](#) and sign up to [join the RRGP listserv](#).

### 1.5. Funding Availability

Funding is available on a competitive basis and through set-asides. Applicants should submit no more than one application per grant type. Awarded projects should be completed no later than 12-30 months after the start of the grant agreement and OPR issues a Notice to Proceed. See Section [1.7. Timeline](#) for information on the expected grant project start and expiration dates.

#### Award Amount by Project Type

Applicants can request the amount of funding needed to carry out the work described in their proposal for the proposed grant term within the 12- to 30-month limit. Minimum and maximum award amounts vary by project type (see the table below). RRGP staff may adjust the minimum and maximum award amounts based on demand or unique circumstances. Minimum and maximum awards ranges are as follows:

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<sup>2</sup> For more information, see the “Competitive Funding” and “Set-Aside Funding” definitions in [Appendix G. Glossary and Acronyms](#).



Project Type	Minimum Award Amount	Maximum Award Amount
Planning <b>P</b>	\$150,000	\$650,000
Implementation <b>I</b>	\$650,000	\$3,000,000

## Set-Aside + Funding Goals

### Set-Asides

Recognizing the disparate impacts of climate change, ICARP prioritizes actions that promote equity, foster community resilience, and protect the most vulnerable communities.<sup>3</sup> To ensure the RRGD distributes funds equitably, the program will administer grants competitively and by funding set-asides.

- **Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).** The RRGD intends to allocate at least 51% of grant funds overall to projects that directly benefit disadvantaged communities.

To qualify for the DAC set-aside, the application must demonstrate both of the following:

- Disadvantaged communities make up at least 51% of the project applicants' combined jurisdiction by Census tracts or population
- The project directly benefits disadvantaged communities

Projects should use either of the following tools to identify disadvantaged communities in their region (see [Appendix D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#) for additional resources on identifying under-resourced and DACs):

- Defined as disadvantaged by the California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEPA (see the [CalEPA's Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)); or
  - Census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's, [HUD's, list of income limits](#) adopted pursuant to [Section 50093 of the California Health and Safety Code](#); or
  - Census tracts with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average
- **California Native American Tribes.** At least 10% of funds will support projects with at least one applicant that is a California Native American tribe. Tribal applications beyond the 10% goal will be considered within the DAC set-aside goal or among the competitive applications (see [Competitive Funding](#)).

<sup>3</sup> For more information, visit [ICARP's Vision and Principles webpage](#).





To meet these goals, applications that qualify for these set-asides will have a separate review process. If OPR does not receive enough eligible applications to award all set-aside funding, OPR reserves the right to release unused set-aside funds for DAC and California Native American Tribes to the general, competitive grant funding pool.

### Funding Goals

In addition to the set-aside funding, the RRGP includes the following funding goals.

- **Regional Diversity.** While the program provides applicants the flexibility to self-identify their region and regional-scale partnerships, to achieve regional diversity, RRGP intends to fund at least one planning and no more than one implementation project from each of the nine geographic regions defined by the California Climate Adaptation Strategy (see [Appendix F. California Climate Adaptation Strategy Regions](#)).
- **Planning Grant Partnership Structures.** Specific to planning grants, the RRGP intends to support the establishment of at least one tribal and at least one rural regional partnership structure.

## 1.6. Goals

The RRGP's goals are to support regional planning needs, provide communities with resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and help implement climate-resilient projects across the state. Additionally, the RRGP aims to advance ICARP's statutory mission to develop a cohesive, equitable, and integrated<sup>4</sup> response to the impacts of climate change by directly funding local, regional, and tribal adaptation planning efforts across California [SB 246 (Wieckowski, 2015)].

The ICARP's RRGP aims to:

### 1. Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities, improve regional climate resilience, and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.

- a. Enhance a community's capacity to respond to climate change by implementing solutions that protect natural and built infrastructure. These actions should be consistent with [the State Planning Priorities](#), the priorities outlined in the 2021 [California Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), the nature-based climate solution priorities listed in the [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#), or aligned with a climate goal previously identified by the applying entity.
- b. Take immediate actions to reduce present and near-term climate change risks while also planning for long-term risks. An example action could be providing immediate relief

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<sup>4</sup> For more information, see the "Integrated Climate Actions" definition in [Appendix E. Distinguishing RRGP from Related State Grant Programs](#).



to current drought impacts, while developing measures to alleviate future, more extreme drought, such water efficiency improvement or watershed restoration projects.

c. Prioritize climate adaptation and resilience solutions that mitigate and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and support resilient forms of carbon sequestration.

## **2. Address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.**

a. Explicitly prioritize and meaningfully engage communities experiencing increased climate vulnerability in decision-making, promoting equity and fostering community resilience.

b. Build localized capacity through community partnerships and develop actionable plans that build and integrate climate resilience considerations in decision-making and provide multiple benefits.

c. Base everyday planning, policy, and investment decisions on data and information that is relevant and salient to communities and their experience of climate vulnerability, including local and tribal expertise, and Traditional knowledge(s).

d. Use localized climate projections to identify climate risks and exposures, describe their impact on the community, and identify and prioritize climate adaptation measures and objectives that address such impacts (See [Appendix D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#) for more guidance and resources).

## **3. Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects through regional collaboration.**

a. Apply adaptive and flexible governance approaches through collaborative partnerships across geographic scales (from household to regional scales) and between public entities, California Native American Tribes, community-based organizations, and academic institutions to accelerate effective problem-solving.

b. Align with similar grant programs to address unmet needs, reduce the time and cost burden of grant applications, and support planning, implementation, and evaluation projects.

## **4. Support equitable outcomes**

a. Prioritize communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, ensure regional diversity and foster a transparent and accessible grantmaking process.

b. Use transparent governance models to ensure collaborative community partnerships include an equitable distribution of decision-making power that allows for community-led initiatives.

c. Avoid investment decisions that could lead to maladaptation, exacerbate inequitable conditions or outcomes in vulnerable communities, or transfer the challenge from one



location, public entity, California Native American Tribe, community-based organization, academic institution, or social group to another.

d. Measure program success by tracking specific public health, social well-being, and economic prosperity metrics.

## 1.7. Timeline

The proposed timeline below is subject to change and indicates who the milestone for the RRGP involves (e.g., RRGP staff, applicants, or grantees). The [RRGP webpage](#) has the most up-to-date timeline.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Group Milestone Affects</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Conduct Outreach + Hold Listening Sessions for the RRGP	RRGP Staff	July 26 – October 10, 2022
Draft Guidelines	RRGP Staff	October 10 – January 17, 2023
Release Draft Guidelines for Public Comment	RRGP Staff	January 17, 2023
Draft Guideline 45-Day Public Comment Period	Members of the public	January 17 – March 3, 2023
Prepare Final Guidelines and Application/Solicitation	RRGP Staff	March 3 – June 13, 2023
Release Intent to Apply Survey and Request for Help Survey	RRGP Staff	March 20, 2023
Release Final Guidelines and Application/Solicitation	RRGP Staff	June 13, 2023
Provide Application Support	RRGP Staff	June 13 – August 29, 2023
Hold Application Support Webinars and Office Hours	RRGP Staff	June 13 – July 19, 2023
Intent to Apply Survey* and Applications Due	Applicants	August 29, 2023, 5 p.m., PST
Review Applications	RRGP Staff, Application Review Panel	August 29 – November 9, 2023
Expected Notice of Recommended Awards Posting Date	RRGP Staff	November 9, 2023
Expected Start Date	Grantees	January 2024



<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Group Milestone Affects</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Optional Program TA Workshop	Grantees	Q1, 2024
Optional Program TA Workshop	Grantees	Q2, 2024
Optional Program TA Workshop	Grantees	Q2–Q3, 2024
Expected End Date (depending on project term)	Grantees	January 2025 - June 2026
Invoice Deadline	Grantees	September 2026

\*Filling out the [Intent to Apply Survey](#) is the first step in applying to funding from RRG. RRG staff encourage prospective applicants to fill out the Intent to Apply Survey as early as possible.

## 1.8. Questions

### How and where to ask ICARP staff questions about the RRG program

Contact ICARP staff (see Section [1.4. Program Contact](#)).

Attend the RRG webinars, which the RRG team will post on the [RRG webpage](#) (see the [Application Webinars](#) Section).

### Timing

**Due Date to Submit Questions.** Submit all questions on the RRG and grant application process by the submission deadline listed in Section [1.7. Timeline](#).

**Q&A Period.** At its discretion, ICARP may re-open the question-and-answer period to provide all applicants the chance to get any needed clarifications.

### Methods of Communication

**Q&A Document.** The RRG team will post responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the [RRG FAQ webpage](#). Staff regularly updated the FAQs and associated answers as the RRG received feedback on the Draft Guidelines and while preparing to release the Final Guidelines. After initially posting the FAQ online, ICARP staff announced the availability of this resource through ICARP e-blasts.

**Communication.** Any verbal communication, such as office hours, phone calls, and public workshops with ICARP staff on this solicitation is not binding on the State and will not change a specification, term, or condition of the solicitation. Direct any written



communication to assigned ICARP staff using the contact information in Section [1.4. Program Contact](#).

## 1.9. Errors

If an applicant finds any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the RRGP documents, including the Q&A document or the solicitation, the applicant should immediately notify RRGP staff of such error via email or phone call, and request a corresponding change or clarification in the document (see Section [1.4. Program Contact](#)). If the error is related to the solicitation, RRGP staff, at its discretion, may provide changes or clarifications by amending the solicitation or by sending a written notice to all parties who requested the solicitation, without divulging the source of the request. OPR shall not be responsible for failure to fix errors.



## 2. Before Applying

The steps and sections below are meant to help applicants prepare their application. Before beginning the application process, OPR recommends that prospective applicants:

1. Determine whether their organization is eligible to apply by reviewing Section [2.1. Applicant Eligibility](#).
2. Determine which grant type is most appropriate to apply to based on the phase the proposed project is in by reviewing Section [2.2. Comparing RRGP Grant Types](#).
3. Determine whether their project would be eligible by reviewing Section [2.3. Project Eligibility](#).
4. Review Section [3.2. Application Components & Scoring Criteria](#) to determine what information and resources the applicant needs to gather to apply.
5. Review Section [6.4. Program Expectations](#) to understand what participating in the RRGP may involve.
6. When needed, ask RRGP staff for help using the contact information listed in Section [1.4. Program Contact](#). RRGP staff will also announce ways to ask questions and learn more (e.g., during the webinars listed in Section [1.7. Timeline](#)).

### 2.1. Applicant Eligibility

#### Eligible Applicants

**Public Entities** include cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), Councils of Governments (COGs), Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), school districts, and special districts (e.g., resource conservation districts, harbor districts, etc.).

**California Native American Tribes** include federally and non-federally recognized Native American tribes on the California tribal consultation contact list that the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) maintains per Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 ([Pub. Resources Code, § 21073](#)).

- OPR acknowledges the sovereignty of federally recognized tribes. Federally recognized tribes serving in the role of Lead or Co-Applicant will not be required to submit a limited waiver of sovereign immunity to OPR.

**Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)** include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, foundations, California tribal organizations, organizations with a history of representing tribal or vulnerable communities, and fiscally sponsored organizations.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Such entities need not be 501(c)(3) organizations but should be legal entities authorized and empowered to enter contracts and hold funds.



**Academic Institutions** include individual public California institutions of higher education (e.g., universities, community colleges, etc.).

## Ineligible Applicants

**For-Profit Entities** are ineligible to apply as fiscal agents or lead or co-applicants but can provide technical assistance or other services to eligible applicants as subcontractors.

**State and Federal Agencies**, including any department or subagency of those agencies, are ineligible to apply as lead or co-applicants but can provide technical assistance, research, facilitation, or other services to eligible applicants.

## Applicant Requirements

**Co-applicants.** Each lead applicant should have at least one co-applicant that helps create the regional partnership. Together, “lead applicants” and “co-applicants” are referred to as “regional partners.” See the list below for the required co-applicant structure.

- **Public Entities.** If the lead applicant is a public entity, they should partner with:
  - At least one CBO that serves the vulnerable communities within the region; and
  - At least one local public entity in another jurisdiction OR at least one California Native American Tribe.
- **California Native American Tribes.** If the lead applicant is a California Native American Tribe, they should partner with at least one public entity in another jurisdiction OR at least one other California Native American Tribe.
- **Community-Based Organizations.** If the lead applicant is a CBO, they should partner with at least two entities representing two jurisdictions. This partnership should include at least one public entity and/or a California Native American Tribe.
- **Academic Institutions.** If the lead applicant is an academic institution, they should partner with at least:
  - Two entities representing two jurisdictions. This partnership should include at least one public entity and/or a California Native American Tribe; and
  - At least one CBO that serves the vulnerable communities within the region.

**Regional Applicants.** Applicants are not required to be a regional agency or regional collaborative. Regional agencies or collaboratives may apply and must follow the requirements above for their respective applicant type and meet the RRGPs definition of “regional focus” (see the Regional Focus Section below) for their project application.

**State Agency and Federal Agency Involvement.** RRGPs staff understands that federal and state government agencies play significant roles in land management and infrastructure that could be part of the proposed resiliency plan or project. Staff encourage coordination



with state and federal agencies where appropriate. However, state and federal agencies<sup>6</sup> cannot be co-applicants.

## Regional Focus

Projects should involve a regional partnership consisting of two or more eligible entities whose combined jurisdiction enhances their effectiveness in responding to the highest priority climate risks of that region.

Applicants should identify the region they serve. A project's region should be defined by shared natural and built environment systems and highest priority climate risks, supported by a regional scale partnership.

While various state and other programs define regions according to their own needs or policy areas, the RRGP does not intend to align with any one definition that other programs or initiatives use. An applicant may choose to work within a region that is predefined for another initiative to the extent that it is helpful to accomplishing their workplan. However, applicants who do so will not receive any preference in scoring or award selection.

## 2.2. Comparing RRGP Grant Types

Applicants should submit no more than one application per grant type. The section below outlines some differences between the RRGP planning and implementation grants. Review the criteria to see which grant type is most appropriate for your proposed project.

### Who should apply?

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#### Planning Grants **P**

Applicants who wish to investigate, research, and conduct community engagement to determine what solution is appropriate to the climate risk(s) their region is facing.

#### Implementation Grants **I**

Applicants who know the steps to implement the solution to the greatest climate risk(s) in their region, have a detailed and accurate budget, are ready to share the community engagement work they conducted and will continue to perform throughout the project, and can showcase an action plan and strategy.

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<sup>6</sup> See the agencies, conservancies, councils, and commissions listed on the [State Agency Listing](#) and the [Federal Agency Listing](#).





## Deliverables

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### Planning Grants **P**

A planning product that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- Initiates the regional resilience planning process
- Assesses regional climate vulnerability
- Defines a regional resilience framework and strategies
- Prepares an implementation plan to apply resilience planning strategies

### Implementation Grants **I**

A project that addresses and mitigates the region's greatest climate risk(s) through one or more of the following:

- Physical interventions (i.e., capital projects)
- Non-physical interventions (i.e., programs or processes)

## Timing

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### Planning Grants **P**

The planning phase deliverable comes before the implementation phase.

### Implementation Grants **I**

The implementation intervention enacts the plan or strategy developed in the project's planning phase.

## Considerations

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### Planning Grants **P**

A planning product may investigate the following questions and more:

- Who will lead the charge?
- Who has agreed to participate?
- What is the timeline?
- What are the specific questions the process will address?
- What community resources will the project use?
- What experts will applicants engage to discuss the data or help explore the most promising approaches to address the problem?

### Implementation Grants **I**

An implementation grant details what the community will do to address the problem. It explains what the Action Plan is and how the community will implement it, including, but not limited to:

- What roles will various groups play?
- What are the major project milestones?
- Who, when, and how will milestones be accomplished?
- What resources are the community providing for the effort?

## 2.3. Project Eligibility

The project must be an eligible activity, have a regional focus, directly benefit communities experiencing the greatest climate vulnerability, and align with at least one of the RRGPs



Goals (See Section [1.6. Goals](#)). Stronger proposals will also be consistent with one or more of the climate-related State plans (see examples in [Appendix C: Related Climate Impact Statewide Plans & Grants](#)), address at least two climate risks (see [Appendix A: Examples of Climate Risks Proposals May Address](#)), and offer multiple benefits to the area in which the project is located. Projects should apply the best available science (see resources in [Appendix D: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#)).

Applicants starting the resilience planning process can review a selection of example projects in the [Planning Applications](#) section. Applicants who are further along in the implementation phase can review a selection of example projects in the [Implementation Applications](#) section. The RRGP team developed the lists of planning and implementation projects based on input it received during the RRGP's Listening Sessions.

## Consideration of Vulnerable Communities

Projects should consider and address how the project will serve vulnerable communities. Applicants are responsible for identifying and defining the vulnerable populations in their community.

After a public deliberation and review process in 2017, the ICARP Technical Advisory Council released a definition of climate vulnerability and the [ICARP guide on Defining Vulnerable Communities in the Context of Climate Adaptation](#) to supplement the ICARP Vision and Principles. Through that engagement process, ICARP defined climate vulnerability as the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are at risk of exposure to climate change-related impacts. Vulnerable communities experience heightened risk and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/ or economic factor(s), which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality.

Reducing risks from climate change requires increasing the resilience of communities and people to withstand and recover from climate-related disruptions, and to learn and adapt in the face of this change. However, some communities are better positioned to respond, recover, and adjust as these changes occur, while others are more vulnerable and experience disproportionate impacts – particularly low income black, brown, and tribal communities.

Factors that contribute to vulnerability include existing inequities, institutionalized racism, and exclusion, poor environmental conditions, lack of access to services, and poor living conditions; existing conditions such as chronic health or mental illnesses; and a lack of investment and opportunities. All of these factors contribute to a person or community's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and ability to adapt.

When identifying and defining vulnerable populations in the community, applicants should reference the [ICARP guide](#), but may also use other information applicable to the community.



See [Appendix D: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#) for more guidance and resources.

## Planning Applications **P**

Regional partners with projects in the planning phase will be considered for the planning grant award.

### Eligible Planning Projects/Actions

Examples of planning projects eligible for grant awards are listed below. To see how these examples may address climate risks, see [Appendix A: Examples of Climate Risks Proposals May Address](#).

- **Regional partners work together to amend, update, integrate, align, or prepare one or more State-required, regional, local, or tribal planning documents to address climate risk**, including, but not limited to, implementation or action plans, tribal plans and planning documents, climate adaptation plans, community wildfire protection plans, the Climate Ready Program Plans, disaster recovery frameworks/plans, emergency plans, extreme heat event action plans, post-fire flood/flood after fire plans, water management plans, floodplain management plans, flood resiliency plans, food system resilience plans, multi-city or county general plans (e.g., safety elements and housing elements), groundwater sustainability plans, heat contingency plans, multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans, long range transportation plans, power disruption emergency management plans, the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Plans, Sustainable Communities Strategies
- **Conducting studies:** Conducting regional-scale climate vulnerability or risk assessments, including those informed by Tribal expertise and Traditional Knowledge (s), regional-scale project feasibility studies that can include natural and built infrastructure, conducting studies that explore the efficacy of implemented climate solutions.
- **Capacity building** such as staff training related to climate resiliency, community awareness; sustainable workforce, including youth, development and/or creation of at least living wage jobs to improve climate resiliency; establishing or strengthening a regional partnership; or establishing a regional climate financing tool, like a climate resilience district, which is considered to be an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District

### Ineligible Planning Projects/Actions

The following costs are ineligible for grant awards:

- Legislative lobbying and lawsuits
- Environmental studies, plans, or documents normally required for project development under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



## Implementation Applications **I**

Applicants proposing to implement regional projects, especially those that use natural infrastructure (where feasible), improve regional climate resilience, and reduce risks from climate impacts, including wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events, will be considered for the implementation grant award.

### Eligible Implementation Projects/Actions

Examples of implementation projects are listed below. To see how these examples may address climate risks, see [Appendix A: Examples of Climate Risks Proposals May Address](#).

**Implementing state, regional, local, or tribal adaptation strategies or planning documents that address climate risk**, including, but not limited to plans mentioned in the [“Planning Applications”](#) section above.

**Implementing projects** that address various climate risks (e.g., drought, extreme heat events, flood, increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and wildfire), including, but not limited to: regional forest restoration, vegetation management, building and infrastructure retrofits, emergency communication frameworks, sea level rise adaptation (e.g., flood barriers, dune or wetland restoration, living shorelines, infrastructure elevation, etc.), water efficiency and conservation, diversifying water supplies (e.g., stormwater re-capture, water recycling and reuse, groundwater recharge projects, cost effective desalination), food security, floodplain management, green stormwater infrastructure projects, urban and community greening, landslide adaptation (e.g., vegetation management, terracing, stormwater drainage, relocation), restoring native ecosystems, employing nature-based solutions, energy system resilience such as implementing energy storage solutions, a microgrid or other distributed energy resources, hardening or undergrounding grid infrastructure.

**Capacity building:** Sustainable workforce, including youth, development and/or creation of living wage jobs related to climate resiliency like forestry efforts or other natural resource-related activities; implementation projects that strengthen new or existing climate collaborative structures; implementation projects that include an educational component (e.g., emergency communication frameworks, wildfire retrofits, energy resilience, water efficiency and conservation)



## 3. Preparing and Submitting an Application

Applicants should submit no more than one application per grant type electronically. ICARP staff will provide additional information about the application process with the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Application materials.

Step 1. Filling out the [Intent to Apply Survey](#) is the first step in applying to funding from RRGP. Applicants only need to include brief, approximate, and general information about the prospective project and Lead Applicant. RRGP staff encourage prospective applicants to fill out the Intent to Apply Survey as early as possible.

After submitting the Intent to Apply Survey, RRGP staff will provide the applicant with instructions on how to submit an application.

Step 2. Coordinate with your regional partners to prepare and submit an application.

### 3.1. Application Support

ICARP staff will provide technical assistance during the application window, which begins after the RRGP team posts the final guidelines and solicitation and lasts until the application submission deadline (see Section [1.7. Timeline](#)). ICARP staff will be available to provide help to individual applicants, through one-on-one consultation office hours and email. The [Questions](#) Section provides more information on how applicants can ask RRGP staff for help in the process.

### Application Webinars

To help applicants develop competitive proposals, RRGP staff will hold multiple optional webinars, including:

- Two application webinars to review the guidelines and answer questions from potential applicants.
- Two application resource webinars to provide an overview of and guidance on using publicly available tools that may support application development.
- Four focused application workshops: one for tribal communities, one for the Inland Desert, the Sacramento Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley regions, one for the North Coast and the Sierra regions, and one for the Los Angeles, San Diego, Bay Area, and Central Coast regions.

How to Participate:

- Via the internet (Zoom)
- Via conference call on the date, time, and location listed on the RRGP webpage. The RRGP team will post recordings of all general audience webinars on the [RRGP webpage](#).



## 3.2. Application Components & Scoring Criteria

To be considered eligible for funding, an application should be fully complete and submitted before the application due date. No materials will be accepted after the submission due date (See Section [1.7. Timeline](#)). The application includes the components shown in the table below. The next sections will provide more information on the application components, example scoring criterion, and tips.

Application Materials:

1. Instructions
2. Application Workbook
3. Application Narrative Questions
4. Attachments

Attachment Formatting Requirements:

- Each attachment file size must be 2 GB or smaller.
- Maximum Optional Attachments Allowed: 10, including media like diagrams, graphics, and photographs.
- File Name Limit: 125 Characters.
- Font: 11-point, Arial (excluding Excel spreadsheets, original template headers and footers, and commitment or support letters).
- Margins: No less than one inch on all sides (excluding headers and footers).
- Spacing: Single spaced with a blank line between each paragraph.
- Pages: Numbered
- File Format: Electronic files must be in Microsoft Word XP (.pdf format) and Excel Office Suite formats.

The table below shows the maximum number of points each component of the application can earn.

<b>Application Component</b>	<b>Total Points Possible</b>
<a href="#">Project Description &amp; Goals</a>	15
<a href="#">Community Partnership, Needs, &amp; Priorities</a>	20
<a href="#">Climate Risks and Multiple Benefits</a>	20
<a href="#">Regional Partnership</a>	20
<a href="#">Organizational Capacity</a>	10
<a href="#">Budget</a>	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Project Description & Goals

#### Word and Character Limits

750 words, 5,000 characters



## Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

Include the following information. The criteria in checkboxes below show what the RRGP application review panel will consider when evaluating applications:

### 1. Project Description.

- The application clearly describes the project and shows that it is eligible for the RRGP.
- The application describes how the project aligns with the activities and objectives that relevant local, regional, tribal, or state plans, programs, or policies outline, including those across sectors, like transportation, housing, land use planning, public health; or those from related State grant programs (see [Appendix E. Distinguishing RRGP from Related State Grant Programs](#)).
  - Example documents to align with include: [California Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), the California [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#), county or regional general plans, hazard mitigation plans, climate action plans, tribal-led plans, integrated regional water management plans, zoning, building intensity, and density requirements, design guidelines, housing elements and applicable goals, policies, and programs.
- The application clearly highlights or directly quotes the exact section of the relevant local, regional, tribal, or state plan etc., that the project aligns with.
- If the applicants' jurisdictions do not have a draft, in-progress, or adopted plan to reference, the application illustrates how they have completed similar projects and what the process will be by providing a framework or description of relevant past experience.

### 2. Who the project serves.

- The application clearly describes who the project serves.
- The application clearly defines one or more vulnerable communities and demonstrates it will primarily benefit, is located in, or represents the defined communities.
- Applications qualifying for the DAC set-aside clearly identify how DACs will make up at least at least 51% of the project applicants' combined jurisdiction by Census tracts or population.

### 3. Expected Project Outcomes.

- The application clearly describes what the expected short- and long-term outcomes, including climate resiliency outcomes, will be.



The outcomes show how the project will incorporate the application components in the goals (e.g., [Community Needs & Priorities](#), [Climate Risks and Multiple Benefits](#), [Regional Partnership](#), [Organizational Capacity](#), [Budget](#)).

Applications qualifying for the DAC set-aside clearly explain how the project will directly benefit disadvantaged communities.

4. **Work Plan** (See [Appendix D: Work Plan Template](#) for the Work Plan structure).

The work plan adheres to the 12- to 30-month expected end date, is detailed, has clear timelines, discrete tasks, and detailed deliverables.

## Community Partnership, Needs, & Priorities

### Word and Character Limits

1,000 words, 7,000 characters

### Relevant Terms

**Community.** Throughout this section, “community” refers to the populations the project serves, as identified in #2 under [Project Description & Goals](#).

**Community partnership.** Throughout this section, community partnership refers to a group of organizations and community members who share common goals and objectives, distributed roles and responsibilities, and engage in collective decision-making processes. However, they do not need to be part of the project’s regional partnership structure (i.e., not applicants or co-applicants).

### Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

Include the following information. The criteria in checkboxes below show what the RRGp application review panel will consider when evaluating applications.

Applications qualifying for the DAC set-aside address how the project meets the needs and priorities of disadvantaged communities in each checklist category below.

1. **What the community’s needs and priorities are.**

The application clearly describes what the community’s needs and priorities are.

The application considers and addresses the current, most pressing inequities the communities face, while building resilience in built, natural, and social systems.

The priorities consider feasibility, adaptive capacity,<sup>7</sup> and building capacity.<sup>8</sup>

2. **Who identified the community’s needs and priorities and how.**

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<sup>7</sup> For more information, see the “adaptive capacity” definition in [Appendix F: Glossary and Acronyms](#).

<sup>8</sup> See tools from [Appendix E: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#) for ideas.





- The application clearly describes who identified the community's needs and priorities and how they identified them.
- The community helped or will help identify community priorities through a substantial community engagement process (e.g., by conducting a community needs assessment).
  - This process meaningfully included or will include vulnerable populations or community-based organizations representing vulnerable populations.
  - This community engagement process involved all affected and necessary parties, including those who may be part of the community partnership structure.
  - If the application describes a substantial community engagement process, it includes a clear justification and plan to address this gap within the grant term by reflecting this effort in the work plan, budget, and community engagement plan.

### **3. How the community's needs and priorities informed the project design.**

- The application clearly describes how the community's needs and priorities informed the project design.
- The community helped define and design the project through a substantial community engagement process (e.g., collaboratively developing feasible community project ideas to reflect community needs and ensure projects reflect community priorities and expertise before developing the project).
  - This process meaningfully included or will include vulnerable populations or community-based organizations representing vulnerable populations.
  - This community engagement process involved or will involve all affected and necessary parties, including those who may be part of the community partnership structure.
- The application provides clear and convincing evidence of strong community support (e.g., from those in the community partnership structure, etc.).

### **4. The project's community partnership and engagement plan.**

- The application clearly describes the project's community partnership structure and how partnering with the community will build climate resiliency in its region.
- The application includes a community engagement plan to meaningfully engage communities throughout the project.
  - The plan explains how it will involve vulnerable communities.
  - The engagement process makes it easy for community members to participate in meetings and in the decision-making process (e.g., the project provides stipends, meets in convenient locations or virtually, provides childcare



- and food, uses plain language, offers translation services for languages spoken in the community, and uses culturally appropriate methods).
- The plan shows how materials will use accessible language and messaging (e.g., plain language, languages spoken in the community).
  - The application's community partnership structure represents a diversity of residents and key collaborators.
  - The application clearly explains how those in the community partnership structure will be involved throughout the project, from design to evaluation. Members of the community that the project serves are involved as board members, management staff, or have a leadership role in project/program development.
  - The application demonstrates how the project will clearly and meaningfully shift or share decision-making power with vulnerable communities.

## Climate Risks and Multiple Benefits

### Word and Character Limits

1,000 words, 7,000 characters

### Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

Include the following information. The criteria in checkboxes below show what the RRGP application review panel will consider when evaluating applications:

- Applications qualifying for the DAC set-aside address how the project identified climate risks and multiple benefits with respect to the needs and priorities of disadvantaged communities in each checklist category below.

#### 1. The region's greatest climate risks.

- The application includes a clear description and analysis of the region's greatest current and future climate risks. If the region has not yet identified the greatest climate risks, the application includes a description of local or tribal ecological knowledge of climate risks.
- The region's greatest climate risks align with the risks the RRGP addresses (drought, flood, extreme heat events, increasing temperatures, sea level rise, wildfire).

#### 2. Whether the application addresses the region's greatest climate risks.

- The application addresses the region's greatest climate risks identified in #1 above.
- The application describes how the project will maximize resilience and address multiple, interconnected regional climate risks, where possible, using a systematic approach.



- If it is not possible to address more than one regional climate risk due to regional needs, priorities, or other conditions, the application provides a clear and comprehensive justification and includes a plan to address this gap in their application.

### 3. Methods the project will use to address the climate risks.

- The application includes information on how they evaluated opportunities during the project design process to increase resilience to the region's greatest climate risks.<sup>9</sup>
- The application evaluates whether the project could use natural infrastructure to address the climate risk.
  - The project uses natural infrastructure to respond to the climate risks, where feasible.
  - If using natural infrastructure is infeasible, the application explains why.
  - The application applies systems-level thinking and problem-solving when developing the project.
- The application describes the intent to use climate projections based on best available science and local and/or regional data to identify climate risks and exposures, describe the impact of climate change risks and exposures on the community, and identify and prioritize climate adaptation measures and objectives that address such impacts (For more guidance, see [Appendix E: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#)).
  - The climate projections and science are relevant to the issue the application is trying to address, supports the application, and supports why this is a priority for the community.

### 4. The multiple benefits the project offers.

- The application clearly and comprehensively describes how the project will benefit communities within the project area.
  - The project prioritizes benefits towards vulnerable communities.
- The benefits the project offers go beyond climate resiliency, are cross-cutting, and span sectors and climate issues.

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<sup>9</sup> For more information, see the “Benefits” definition in [Appendix G: Glossary and Acronyms](#).



## Regional Partnership

### Word and Character Limits

750 words, 5,000 characters

### Relevant Term

**Regional Partnership** consists of two or more eligible entities whose combined jurisdiction enhances their effectiveness in responding to the highest priority climate risks of that region.

### Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

Include the following information. The criteria in checkboxes below show what the RRGp application review panel will consider when evaluating applications:

Applications qualifying for the DAC set-aside should address how the regional partnership meets the needs and priorities of disadvantaged communities in each checklist category below.

#### 1. The regional partnership structure (i.e., applicant and co-applicants).

- The application clearly describes the regional partnership structure
- The regional partnership includes two or more eligible entities whose combined jurisdiction enhances their effectiveness in responding to the highest priority climate risks of that region.
- Regional partners reflect the community and includes a diversity of eligible entities.
- Regional partners bring unique strengths and approaches and a proven track record serving communities.
- The regional partnership will facilitate capacity building opportunities for co-applicants from disadvantaged communities.

#### 2. Partner responsibilities and long-term goals.

- The application clearly describes how the regional partners will organize themselves, manage the project, and build their network's capacity.
- The application clearly describes the regional partnership's long-term goals.
  - Regional partners show commitment to equity, ability to self-govern, and the likelihood of sustaining the partnership beyond the grant term.
  - Regional partners will evaluate and measure their progress towards achieving program objectives and describe how they intend to use the findings.



## Organizational Capacity

### Word and Character Limits

500 words, 3,500 characters

### Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

In the organizational capacity section, the application should describe the regional partners' organizational capacity to implement the proposed activities successfully, providing examples from previous experience and plans to meet any gaps required for the RRGp.

Include the following information. The criteria in checkboxes below show what the RRGp application review panel will consider when evaluating applications:

#### 1. Administrative Experience.

- The application shows that at least one co-applicant in the partnership structure can manage grants and this proposal, including internal processes for financial tracking and accountability, and can coordinate amongst diverse partners.
- The application demonstrates ability to provide advanced payment to co-applicants (only if the proposal includes advanced pay as a mechanism of payment).
- One of the co-applicants demonstrates fiscal agent's expertise in gathering and reporting information on implementing the proposal.
- Regional partners show commitment, readiness and capacity to implement the proposed work on time and within budget.

#### 2. Programmatic Expertise.

- The application demonstrates that the applicants possess strong programmatic expertise.

#### 3. Plans to Meet Capacity Gaps.

- The application clearly describes how the regional partners plan to close capacity gaps, including those related to the administrative and programmatic expertise, to complete the project.
- The work plan and budget show how the applicants will maintain or create sustainable staffing levels to support capacity building.

## Budget

### Word and Character Limits

500 words, 3,500 characters

### Information to Include and Corresponding Criteria

The application should include a budget and a written narrative explaining the budget's allocations and reasons for proposed expenditures. The criteria in checkboxes below show



what the RRGP application review panel will consider when evaluating applications. The budget should:

### 1. Align with the RRGP.

- The total budget allocates 3-15% towards [Evaluation Activities](#) to support the applicants' time engaging with the RRGP's evaluation activities.
- The total budget allocates up to 5% towards [Peer-to-Peer Learning](#) to support the applicants' time engaging with the RRGP's peer-to-peer learning activities.
- The budget only includes eligible costs (see the [Note](#) section below).

### 2. Align with the project goals and work plan.

- The budget is realistic, reflecting organizational strengths and experiences, and feasible financial projections within the 12- to 30-month grant period.
- The budget aligns with the project goals and activities outlined within the application and work plan.
- The budget has reasonable tasks and deliverables, feasible financial projections, and considers the grant term's timelines.
- The budget includes funding from sources other than the RRGP, if applicable.

### 3. Be detailed and complete.

- The budget clearly outlines proposed activities, broken down by task and line item. It shows how the project will allocate resources across co-applicants and partners to lead or support specific activities, reasonable tasks and deliverables.
- The budget considers the number of funded partners, number and complexity of activities, consultant services and other contracting needs, community engagement and participation costs.
- The budget is thorough, showing an understanding of proposed activities.
- The budget allocates resources across entities within the collaborative based on their strengths and experience to lead or support specific activities.
- The budget includes all necessary supporting justifications.

#### Note

**Eligible Costs (Planning and Implementation Projects).** The list below provides eligible costs using grant funds. Applicants should ensure that costs proposed in the project budget are eligible for funding. Costs deemed ineligible in the application review process will be removed and the project's recommended total award will be adjusted accordingly.

- a. RRGP Costs: items listed under Section [D. Program Expectations](#) (e.g., optional [Peer-to-Peer Learning](#), [Evaluation Activities](#), and developing reports). Note that 3-



15% of the budget should be allocated for [Evaluation Activities](#) and no more than 5% should be allocated for [Peer-to-Peer Learning](#) activities.

- b. Staff Costs: Grant recipients, subgrantees, and their contractors' staff costs, including salary at an hourly rate, benefits, taxes, and leave. Staff may be full or part-time employees. If applicants wish to use grant funds to pay for interns, fellows, or other positions that are not on an organization's payroll, list these costs in the budget as direct costs via a consultant contract.
- c. Travel Costs: Travel reimbursements should adhere to the State [rates and conditions set on the CalHR website](#), except for "incidentals" and out-of-state travel, which will not be reimbursable under this grant.
- d. Administrative Costs: Up to 20% of the costs incurred by the recipient to administer the grant, or costs incurred by subgrantees to perform the tasks necessary to fulfill the deliverables outlined in these guidelines. Administrative costs include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Operating expenses and equipment costs not included as part of direct project costs (functions like accounting, budgeting, audits, business services, information technology, web design services, janitorial; and rent, utilities, supplies, etc.).
  - ii. Tools, subscriptions, and software (subscriptions to tools and other software that will help increase capacity, help with communication, or otherwise help implement the project, like project management software, videoconferencing technology subscriptions, and mapping software).
  - iii. Prorated general liability, workers' compensation (may be included in payroll), and automotive insurance.
- e. Engagement, Outreach, Education, and Training: Costs related to the engagement, outreach, education, and training activities under the grant, including:
  - i. Non-tribal applicants: compensation to tribes for engaging and consulting on local plans
  - ii. Materials developed for outreach events, training, and other grant activities, including digital content, or printed materials
  - iii. Language Access: Personnel or subcontractor costs for translation or interpretation services for meetings or written materials
  - iv. Access to proprietary data or research materials to conduct research, market, and feasibility studies, compiling and analyzing community needs-related information studies
  - v. Facilitating meetings
  - vi. Marketing and advertisements
  - vii. Compensating participants for their help developing community work products. Include documentation like sign-in sheets or written surveys. Subcontractors and consultants should be qualified to provide services. The lead Applicant is responsible for complying with all applicable laws.
  - viii. Transportation stipends and transportation services for community residents, like a vanpool
  - ix. Rental costs of equipment, facilities, or venues



- x. Providing childcare services or dependent care stipend for community residents at sponsored events
- xi. Food and refreshments that are important for the event (e.g., providing a meal at an event, like a design charrette held in the evening, that replaces a meal otherwise missed by attending the event)

### Eligible Costs (Implementation Projects). **I**

- a. Direct costs: Costs directly tied to implementing the Grant Agreement including, but not limited to personnel costs for project management and grant administration, labor, subcontracts, equipment costs, supplies, expenses directly tied to the implementation of the grant.
- b. Pre-development construction costs: These include costs for construction or project plans, specifications and estimates for engineering, architectural, and other design work; insurance fees; inspection fees; loan and accounting fees; or taxes.

### Ineligible Costs (Planning and Implementation Projects). **P I**

Grant funds may not be used for the following costs and are not reimbursable:

- a. Costs that occur outside of the grant agreement term
- b. Direct lobbying
- c. Office furniture purchases or other capital expenditures
- d. Acquiring vehicles or shuttle programs
- e. Organizational membership fees
- f. The following costs associated with community engagement and outreach:
  - i. Direct cash benefits or subsidies to participants
  - ii. Alcoholic refreshments
  - iii. Participant incentives, like door prizes, which are unrelated to specific community work
- g. General meetings that do not specifically discuss or advance the RRGP Project

### Match Funding and Cost Sharing

The RRGP does not require match funding and will award grants corresponding to the grantee's project type. Individual planning grants will range in size from \$150,000 to \$650,000. Individual implementation grants will range in size from \$650,000 to \$3 million.

Grantees may use the RRGP funding to provide the required match funding for other funding or grant opportunities. If the Grantee needs funding from sources other than the RRGP to execute the project, include those details in the budget, including the likely timescale for securing the additional funding. Letters of support from project partners and local community organizations should include and reference the amount and timing of additional funding.





## 4. After Applying

### 4.1. Confirmation of Application Submission

After the State receives a submitted application, RRGP staff will email applicants confirming that OPR has received the submittal. This is NOT a confirmation that the applicant submitted all of the required documents. The applicant is solely responsible for ensuring they submit all documents outlined in these Guidelines.

### 4.2. Changing or Withdrawing an Application/Proposal

A participating applicant may request to change or withdraw a proposal before the deadline by e-mailing the RRGP staff. RRGP staff will not accept changes after the deadline. A proposal cannot be “timed” to expire on a specific date. For example, a statement like this would not be accepted: “This proposal and the cost estimate are valid for 60 days.”

### 4.3. Minor Errors/Immaterial Defect

If an applicant’s proposal has any immaterial defects,<sup>10</sup> OPR may waive them as long as the defect(s) do not change the proposal or make the applicant non-compliant.

### 4.4. Public Records Act

All applications and submitted materials are subject to the Public Records Act ([GC § 6250](#)) requirements and certain information may be publicly disclosed under those requirements. Materials will remain confidential through the evaluation process, after the applicant submits a proposal. However, all submitted documents will become publicly available records after the RRGP posts the awards or the solicitation is cancelled. Applicants should not include any sensitive, confidential or proprietary information, including culturally sensitive information, in their applications.

### 4.5. Application Review Process and Scoring

After the submission due date, the RRGP team will review the applications it received and award funding on a competitive basis and through set-asides.<sup>11</sup> Applications to the competitive and set-aside funds will be subject to the same scoring criteria.

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<sup>10</sup> For more information, see the definition for “immaterial defect” in [Appendix G: Glossary and Acronyms](#).

<sup>11</sup> For definitions, see “Competitive Funding” and “Set-Aside” in [Appendix G: Glossary and Acronyms](#).



## Competitive Funding

The steps below outline the application review process for applications eligible for competitive funding.

1. RRGP staff and an interagency review panel will evaluate applications using the scoring criteria, reviewing the following: eligibility, completeness, submission of proper documentation, content, meeting technical criteria, overall relationship to statewide planning efforts, compliance with State planning requirements; how well applicants describe the project, justify the need for the project and the RRGP funding, reflect the program evaluation criteria, and articulate a concrete work plan and project timeline.
  - a. The example scoring scale show that projects that meet multiple criteria under each section will be evaluated favorably.
2. RRGP staff will make a final determination on all grants in the Fall of 2023.

Reviewers will assess how well the proposal meets each evaluation criterion using the following scale. The score ranges vary by the maximum points each application component may earn. To see the maximum points and the example scoring criterion, see Section [3.2 Application Components & Scoring Criteria](#).

Point Scale	Component Max. Points: 20	Component Max. Points: 15	Component Max. Points: 10
<b>Excellent:</b> All criteria are addressed with the highest degree of confidence in the response or proposed solution. Exceeds the requirements in providing multiple enhancing features, a creative approach, or an exceptional solution.	17 - 20	12 - 15	9 - 10
<b>Very good:</b> fully addresses the criteria with a high degree of confidence in the response or proposed solution. Offers one or more enhancing features, methods, or approaches that exceed basic expectations.	12 - 16	9 - 11	7 - 8
<b>Good:</b> fully addresses the criteria with a good degree of confidence in the proposer’s response or proposed solution. No identified omissions, flaws, or defects. Any identified weaknesses are minimal, inconsequential, and acceptable. Gaps in meeting criteria are accompanied by a strong justification and plan to address gaps in the grant term.	8 - 11	6 - 8	4 - 6



<b>Point Scale</b>	<b>Component Max. Points: 20</b>	<b>Component Max. Points: 15</b>	<b>Component Max. Points: 10</b>
<b>Fair:</b> Inadequately addresses the criteria. Any omissions, flaws, or defects are inconsequential and acceptable.	4 - 7	3 - 5	2 - 3
<b>Poor:</b> does not adequately address the criteria. One or more omissions, flaws, or defects or the criteria are addressed in a limited way that results in a low degree of confidence in the proposed solution.	0 - 3	0 - 2	0 - 1

### Set-Aside Funding

See [Set-Aside Goals](#) under Section [1.5. Funding Availability](#) for more information.



## 5. Unselected Applications

Depending on the volume of applications, staff capacity, and the number of applicants requesting support, OPR may only be able to offer limited support to unselected applicants. RRGP staff may be available to provide information to the applicants of unselected applications on how to improve their application in subsequent rounds. If another OPR grant program may be a better fit for the project, RRGP staff will try to direct the applicant accordingly.



## 6. Selected Applications

This section outlines elements of the RRGP that grantees should expect to meet.

### 6.1. Responsibilities and Grant Agreement

Applicants are responsible for carefully reading these guidelines, asking appropriate questions promptly, and drafting and submitting their applications consistent with these guidelines. Grant recipients will commit to implementing their proposal as described in their application as a part of a grant agreement.

The final grant agreement will reference and may incorporate these guidelines. OPR will send the agreement, including the general Terms and Conditions and any additional terms and conditions, to the grant recipient to review, approve, and sign (See [6.2. No Agreement Until Signed or Approved](#)). OPR reserves the right to negotiate with grant recipients to change the project work plan, the level of funding, or both.

The grant agreement must be approved and signed by an authorized representative. Applicants should not execute the agreement later than 90 days after the award notice. If OPR is unable to successfully negotiate and execute a funding agreement with a grant recipient, OPR, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel the pending award and fund the next highest-ranked eligible project.

OPR, through its programs, is dedicated to transparency and compliance with State auditing requirements and applicable records retention/disclosure rules. Applicants should expect that grant agreements will reflect consistency with these standards and ensure compliance with applicable rules and requirements.

At the time of grant execution, grantees are expected to provide the following:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or other type of legally binding agreement between the partners.
  - If California Native American tribes or California tribal communities are the lead or co-applicants, the MOU should outline measures that will be taken to protect tribal data sovereignty and the confidentiality of tribal data, Tribal expertise, and Traditional Knowledge(s) collected or shared as part of the grant activities.
  - If a federally recognized tribe is the lead or co-applicant, the MOU should show how the tribe's sovereign status will be respected and upheld.
- Public entities and California Native American Tribes will be required to submit a resolution or commitment document based on the tribes operating procedures. If a resolution is burdensome, a letter of commitment is acceptable
- Grantees will be required to submit authorization, like a resolution, showing that the representative is authorized to sign the grant agreement

OPR will not disburse funds until it receives the documents listed. If providing the required documents at the time of grant execution is infeasible, the grantee should submit an



explanation in writing. Under extenuating circumstances, OPR may allow grantees to provide the listed documents with the first report and invoice submission before OPR distributes funds.

## 6.2. No Agreement Until Signed or Approved

The Grant Agreement is considered fully executed once the grant recipient and OPR's authorized signatories sign the agreement. Once the grant agreement is fully executed, OPR will issue a Notice to Proceed and work can begin. Grantees cannot request reimbursement for any costs incurred or work completed before grant execution. OPR reserves the right to change the award documents before executing the agreement.

## 6.3. Disbursement and Accounting Funds

- The RRGF is a reimbursement grant program. ICARP will provide the grant recipient with the necessary grant award and invoicing documents for the reimbursement process.
- OPR will withhold the last 5% of the grant until it determines that the recipient fulfilled the grant terms.
- The grantee cannot request reimbursement for any work completed before the grant agreement is executed.
- Grantees may request reimbursement from OPR every quarter (every three months).
- Partners should invoice the grantee before the grantee submits an invoice to OPR.
- The grantee will be responsible for compiling all invoices, supporting documentation, and reporting materials for themselves and the partners into a single package. Once OPR approves the package for payment, it will disburse funds to the grantee.
- The grantee is responsible for disbursing payment to their partners.
- OPR is not authorized to provide advance payments for the RRGF.

## 6.4. Program Expectations

Unless otherwise stated, the following program expectations will apply to grantees awarded Planning or Implementation funds.

### Project Action Plan

At the beginning of the grant term, grantees and their partners should develop an action plan that identifies their project's key activities, member roles and responsibilities, and timelines. This should build on the activities and roles submitted as part of the work plan and regional partnership components of the RRGF application. The action plan is meant to help guide project implementation and hold partners accountable to one another and the community around activities and outcomes.

### Resources to help draft the action plan



- See Phase 1 of the [California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide](#) for tips on drafting action plans, including creating budgets, identifying roles, preliminary research considerations, and more.
- Analyze the proposed project's intended outcomes and capacity-building needs. Consider ways to maximize the impact of activities conducted through the grant.
- Coordinate with community organizations and use decision-making processes established in the governance structure detailed in the community partnership agreement to create the action plan.

### **Include the following in the action plan**

- Roles and responsibilities for the different members in the community partnership, showing how they will achieve elements of the overall work plan.
- An analysis on the resources or data needed to successfully implement and maximize the impact of the proposed project. This can include
  - An analysis used to identify the strengths, barriers, assets, relationships, and resources available to the community partnership to accomplish the project work plan.
  - A review and/or analysis of existing plans, community engagement, and needs assessments to help focus areas for additional engagement.
  - An assessment of local policies to identify opportunities to meet community priorities.

### **Evaluation Activities (3-15% budget)**

Grantees will be expected to monitor impact and evaluate how their project aligns with program objectives on an ongoing basis. This is meant to ensure community partnerships are meaningfully serving vulnerable communities. (See [Appendix D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources](#) for tips and resources).

Program staff will help develop evaluation plans and assess progress throughout the grant term. Throughout the fiscal year, the RRGP staff will evaluate progress against goals and objectives, discuss new strategies to improve program outcomes, and align available funding to maximize results for the State. Expenses related with evaluation activities can be listed as eligible costs (see the [Note](#) section under the [Budget](#) Application Component). No more than 3-15% of the budget should be allocated to evaluation activities.

### **Progress Reports**

Grantees will submit two formal progress reports over the length of the grant term: a mid-term progress report and a final progress report.

- The mid-term progress report will track the work completed during the first half of the grant term. It will include high-level questions not captured during RRGP workshops, webinars, and informal meetings.



- The final progress report will report on the overall status of the grant and track the work completed during the entire grant term.

Both progress reports should include the following information:

- The members of the community partnership, including any new members.
- Populations served
- An outline of all the activities and the outcome of each activity conducted as part of the project work plan
- Status on the project and grant's development, application, and completion
- Meetings held and actions taken by the grantee(s)
- Information on the program's expenditures.
- The effectiveness of climate resiliency planning and implemented projects based on indicators in the proposed evaluation plan.
- Feedback for program staff including current barriers, challenges, and opportunities.

OPR will track these indicators and metrics when evaluating the projects and will work with grantees to align interim evaluation findings with the progress reports.

### Regular Check-Ins

In addition to providing formal progress reports, all grantees can expect to participate in regular check-in meetings with RRGP staff. During these meetings, grantees can describe their work and RRGP staff can offer feedback and guidance on draft deliverables. During each check-in meeting, RRGP staff will take notes on accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned to identify emerging trends, best practices, opportunities for greater support, and success stories. RRGP staff will also support grantees in meeting the various administrative criteria, connecting to technical assistance resources, and building connections between grantee(s) and State and Federal agencies.

### Check-in frequency

- The lead applicant, as the liaison between RRGP staff and the community partnership, will participate in more frequent check-in meetings with RRGP staff.
- The grantee check-in meeting schedule will align with the quarterly invoicing schedule.
- Partners can expect to participate in two full collaborative check-ins each grant year.

### Case Study

At the end of the grant term, grantee(s) will produce a project case study documenting lessons learned and effective practices through this project. This is meant to help other community efforts learn from each other and advance community planning and capacity.





RRGP staff will review and curate case studies to possibly include them in the Adaptation Clearinghouse to help support a community of practice across the state. Grantees will receive technical assistance for developing case studies.

### **This case study should reflect**

- Project outcomes
- Lessons learned
- How the project responds to climate change impacts
- Helpful resources

### **Peer-to-Peer Learning (< 5% budget)**

RRGP staff will host quarterly virtual peer-to-peer learning sessions to support funded regional partners. At least one representative from each grantee's organization should attend these sessions. This attendance requirement applies to both the Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant(s) of each project. Expenses related with participating in peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange opportunities (e.g., meetings, events, roadshows, and convenings of communities of practice) that RRGP facilitates can be listed as eligible costs (see the [Note](#) section under the [Budget](#) Application Component). No more than 5% of the budget should be allocated to peer-to-peer learning activities.

## **6.5. Optional Program Help/Technical Assistance**

RRGP staff and partners will offer awarded grantees assistance throughout the grant term (e.g., through the project's development, implementation, and evaluation phases). Also, each grantee(s) will participate in regular check-in meetings with RRGP staff (see [Regular Check-Ins](#)).

### **Technical Assistance Workshop Series**

Throughout the grant term, the RRGP team will host multiple optional workshops on building short-term capacity to implement the grant and build long-term technical capacity for resilience planning and implementation. RRGP staff will survey awarded grantees to understand the specific technical assistance interests to ensure that workshops will cover topics and resources tailored to the needs of grantees during the grant term. See Section [G. Timeline](#) for estimated workshop dates. Potential workshop topics may include:

#### **Climate Adaptation 101: Visioning, Pre-planning, and Getting Started**

This includes introductory information about climate adaptation planning. Learn how to refine the project motivation and scope, identify necessary teams and resources, and get started with identifying climate impacts and community elements. Learn about introductory best practices and explore example projects and plans.



Resources: [California 2020 Adaptation Planning Guide](#) and the [State Adaptation Clearinghouse](#).

### **Introduction to Integrated Planning and Plan Alignment**

This includes training on aligning plans, specifically resources, best practices, and frameworks for successful whole-community planning approaches and collaboration.

Resources: [ICARP Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit](#).

### **Climate Impacts, Vulnerability, and Risk**

This is an introduction to understanding and working with climate change impact information and conducting climate vulnerability assessments.

Resources: [Cal-Adapt Enterprise](#); [ICARP Guide to Defining Vulnerable Communities](#); [OPC Sea Level Rise Guidance](#), [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#), California Department of Public Health [Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators for California](#)

### **Developing Climate Resilience Strategies and Actions**

This introduces frameworks to develop, organize, and prioritize strategies and actions, with examples from around the state.

Resources: [State Adaptation Clearinghouse](#), [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#), [OPR General Plan Guidelines](#), [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)

### **Pathways Towards Funding and Implementing Adaptation**

#### **Planning Implementation, Funding, Monitoring, and Evaluation**

This covers how to prepare an implementation program, including how to identify resources, track progress, and adjust over time.

#### **Navigating State Grants and Applications**

This includes both informational and skills-building exercises to find and navigate appropriate State funding programs and build capacity for applying for State implementation funds.

### **Reporting Templates and Forms**

OPR will provide templates for:

- Progress reports at the time of award.
- The work plan and budget with the application materials.
- The invoice form and reimbursement request forms with the grant agreement. These documents will record the project's expenditures and assess general progress on deliverables.









## 7. Appendices

### Appendix A. Examples of Climate Risks Proposals May Address and Potential Benefits

RRGP's implementing legislation ([SB 170](#)) specifically highlights drought, flood, extreme heat events, increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and wildfire as climate risks that the RRGP should target. When reviewing project proposals, the RRGP review panel will consider whether and how projects address one or several of those climate risks. The tables below include types of eligible planning and implementation projects and the corresponding climate risks they may address. The list of climate risks is not exhaustive and proposed projects may address other risks in addition to those listed in [SB 170](#).

These tables also provide examples of the types of benefits these projects may offer. The list of benefits is not exhaustive and proposed projects may offer other benefits not shown below.

#### Climate Risks

-  Drought
-  Flood
-  Extreme Heat
-  Increasing Temperatures
-  Sea Level Rise
-  Wildfire

#### List of Possible Benefits

- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Economy
- Energy Resiliency
- Environmental Conditions
- Housing
- Land Use
- Natural Resource Management
- Public Health
- Public Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Social Infrastructure
- Transportation

- Water Quality
- #### List of Possible Capacity Building Activities
- Staff Training
  - Education
  - Community Awareness
  - Workforce Development and/or Job Creation
  - Partnership Development
  - Climate Financing Tool

## Planning

### Climate Adaptation Plans (CAPs)







- **Climate Risks:**       **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural






Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality

- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools







### Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development







### Plans prepared as part of the California State Coastal Conservancy's Climate Ready Program

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Disaster recovery frameworks/plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Economy, Energy Resiliency, Housing, Public Health, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation,
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Extreme heat event action plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Flood after fire and water management plans







- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development



### Flood plain management plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Flood resiliency plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools







### General Plans (city or county, including safety elements and housing elements)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Groundwater Sustainability Plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Heat contingency plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development







### Local Coastal Program plans

- **Climate Risks:**      




- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

### Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development







### Long range transportation plans

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

### Power disruption emergency management plans






- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

### Plans prepared as part of the California Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development









### Sustainable Communities Strategies







- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development

### Implementation






#### Diversifying water supplies (e.g., stormwater capture, water recycling and reuse, groundwater recharge, cost-effective desalination)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development







#### Evacuation communication frameworks

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

#### Floodplain management

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Partnership Development

#### Green stormwater infrastructure projects

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development







#### Urban greening projects

- **Climate Risks:**      









- **Possible Benefits:** Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development







### Hardening or undergrounding infrastructure

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Energy Resiliency, Housing, Land Use, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Partnership Development

### Implementing a microgrid or other distributed energy resources

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Partnership Development


### Landslide adaptation (e.g., vegetation management, terracing, stormwater drainage, relocation, etc.)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

### Regional carbon sequestration efforts (e.g., reforestation)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools




### Restoring native ecosystems or employing nature-based solutions

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

















### Sea level rise adaptation (e.g., flood barriers, dune or wetland restoration, living shorelines, infrastructure elevation, etc.)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools




### Water efficiency and conservation

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Housing, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

### Wildfire retrofits (including home hardening, defensible space, etc.)

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Air Quality, Energy Resiliency, Housing, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Social Infrastructure
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development, Climate Financing Tools

### Vegetation management

- **Climate Risks:**      
- **Possible Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Infrastructure, Water Quality
- **Capacity Building:** Staff Training, Education, Community Awareness, Workforce Development and/or Job Creation, Partnership Development

## Appendix B. Examples of Multi-Risk, Multi-Jurisdiction Projects

This appendix lists examples of funded project examples to inspire and inform potential applicants. These examples demonstrate how to benefit multiple jurisdictions and address multiple climate risks. Projects in this appendix may not meet every requirement of the RRGP. Inclusion in this appendix does not mean that these projects would hypothetically be granted funding from RRGP.

### **Tribal Marine Stewards Network**

**Project Types:** Planning and Implementation

**Lead Organizations:** Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation

**Climate Risks:** Flood, Sea Level Rise, Wildfire

**Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Social Infrastructure, Water Quality

**Description:** The Tribal Marine Stewards Network is an alliance of Tribal Nations working collaboratively to steward, protect, and restore the ocean and coastal resources within their ancestral territories. The network aims to manage and steward ancestral ocean and coastal territories by establishing long-term, consistent engagement with state and federal agencies while implementing Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and Tribal Science into management practices.

**More Information:** [Tribal Marine Stewards Network](#)

### **Urban Greening Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area**

**Project Types:** Planning and Implementation

**Lead Organizations:** San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP)

**Climate Risks:** Flood, Rising Temperatures

**Benefits:** Air Quality, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Public Health, Public Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Quality

**Description:** Urban Greening Bay Area is a planning and implementation effort to re-envision Bay Area urban landscapes to include green infrastructure (GI). SFEP will work with partner cities to plan for and track GI projects and find long-term funding for GI implementation throughout the region. The project will also host a design charette to develop cost-effective GI designs for typical roadway intersections and construct a green street at Chynoweth Avenue in San Jose.

**More Information:** [EPA Case Study - Urban Greening Bay Area](#)



## **Forest and Watershed Health Program, Tuolumne County**

**Project Type:** Implementation

**Lead Organizations:** Sierra Nevada Conservancy, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and CAL FIRE

**Climate Risks:** Wildfire, Flood

**Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Water Quality

**Description:** The Forest and Watershed Health Program will restore and protect the health of one of California's most vital watersheds by removing dead material from forests that act as fuel for wildfires, controlling and minimizing the spread of noxious weeds, rebuilding rangeland infrastructure such as fencing and wildlife friendly troughs, replanting a diverse and resilient mixed conifer forest, and creating and enhancing strategic fuel breaks to reduce future fire risk throughout Tuolumne County. The project will help millions of residents continue to enjoy the forest's wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon storage, recreation, and wood products.

**More Information:** [Community Watershed Resilience Program Case Study](#)

## **Port of Long Beach Microgrid, City of Long Beach**

**Lead Organization:** Port of Long Beach

**Project Type:** Implementation

**Climate Risks:** Acute Risks (e.g., flood, storms, wildfire, extreme heat events)

**Benefits:** Air Quality, Economy, Energy Resiliency, Public Infrastructure, Public Safety, Transportation

**Description:** The Port of Long Beach built a microgrid demonstration project that will generate a reliable supply of electricity for the Port's main security facility – the Joint Command and Control Center. The project provides energy resiliency for the security center while enhancing air quality by delivering clean power for daily operations. The project also reduces the Port's reliance on diesel generators to produce electricity during outages. The microgrid will help the Port continue to serve the regional economy safely and reliably.

**More Information:** [Port of Long Beach Microgrid](#)

## **SAFER BAY Project, Menlo Park**

**Lead Organizations:** San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), a joint powers authority comprised of the cities of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto, the San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

**Project Type:** Implementation

**Climate Risks:** Sea Level Rise, Flood



**Benefits:** Air Quality, Energy Resiliency, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource management, Public Infrastructure, Transportation

**Description:** This is a large-scale infrastructure project that proposes a continuous earthen levee with a living shoreline side, and floodwalls with gates to protect 3.7 miles of infrastructure and an electrical substation. The project will reduce risk to almost 300,000 customers impacted by a loss of function of the substation due to flooding. It will create about 30 acres of tidal marsh transition zone and a resilient, high-quality habitat. Additionally, it will provide nearly five acres of western snowy plover breeding habitat. The snowy plover is listed as an endangered species.

**More Information:** [FEMA BRIC 2020 Project Award List](#)

## **Dos Rios Ranch Preserve Floodplain Protection Project, San Joaquin Valley**

**Lead Organization:** River Partners

**Project Type:** Implementation

**Climate Risks:** Flood, Drought

**Benefits:** Agriculture, Air Quality, Economy, Environmental Conditions, Land Use, Natural Resource Management, Water Quality

**Description:** The Dos Rios Ranch project will revert the 2,100 acres at the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers in the state's Central Valley to a floodplain. As the largest single floodplain restoration project in the state, the project will convert land that farmers no longer want to manage to space where rivers can breathe. Barriers on the Feather River have been altered to allow more water to flow into an existing wildlife area. In West Sacramento, 4 miles of levee along the Sacramento River is being set back.

**More Information:** [Dos Rios Ranch Project Website](#)



## Appendix C. Related Climate Statewide Plans & Grants

### Climate Statewide Plans

- [The State's Planning Priorities](#) (Gov Code 65041.1)
- [State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- [2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy's priorities](#), which are to:
  - [Strengthen Protections for Climate Vulnerable Communities](#)
  - [Bolster Public Health and Safety to Protect Against Increasing Climate Risks.](#)
  - [Build a Climate Resilient Economy.](#)
  - [Accelerate Nature-Based Climate Solutions and Strengthen Climate Resilience of Natural Systems.](#)
  - [Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science.](#)
  - [Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources](#)
- California Air Resources Board [2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality](#)
- [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#)

### Resources to Find Climate Statewide Grants

- [California Grants Portal](#)
- [California State Clearinghouse "Investing in Adaptation" Topic Page](#)
- [ICARP's Resilience Funding and Financing Program Timeline](#)



## Appendix D. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources

### Assessing Adaptive Capacity and Climate Vulnerability

For information on how to assess adaptive capacity and identify the climate change risks and exposures within the project, visit:

- [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#)
- OPR [General Plan Guidelines](#) Chapters 4 (see: Safety Elements) and 8
- OPR's [Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit](#) helps identify capacity building and process opportunities, like different ways jurisdictions might approach collaborative, multi-jurisdictional planning or better align different sectors.
- The [California Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#) contributes to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability at the local scale and informing resilience actions from climate change.
- [Cal-Adapt](#), an online platform containing [the State's most current Climate Change Assessment](#) projections data and models that can be used to help identify and plan for specific climate change exposures.
- A local or regional vulnerability or risk assessment, climate adaptation plan, or other studies, assessments, plans, and programs.
- Other tools and data resources, like those on the [State Adaptation Clearinghouse Tools and Data page](#) and [Find a Tool](#) feature.
- Any other locally developed projection model.
- [California Heat Assessment Tool \(CHAT\)](#) for extreme heat.
- California State Coastal Conservancy [Sea the Future site](#), which helps users determine which sea level rise tool is appropriate for their project.
- California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) [Sea-Level Rise Guidance](#) helps users determine impacts and risk tolerance. Note that OPC is updating this guidance.

While not an exhaustive list, the following tools and data can be used to identify climate vulnerable communities and help describe the impact of climate change risks and exposures on the community. As no single tool is currently capable of identifying all vulnerable communities, each Applicant is encouraged to use a combination of at least two tools from the list below to identify their unique, vulnerable communities. If an applicant identifies a tool or dataset that considers factors, such as culture and health, important for identifying their vulnerable communities and that the resources below may not adequately address, the ICARP team will review and consider that tool.

- ICARP's [The Guide to Defining Vulnerable Communities in the Context of Climate Change](#). To learn more about how the ICARP Technical Advisory Council (TAC) deliberated how to define vulnerable communities, see the materials for the [April 2, 2018 TAC Quarterly Meeting](#).
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Climate Change & Health Vulnerability Indicators for California \(CCHVI\)](#)– CCHVI helps identify people and places that are more susceptible to adverse health impacts associated with climate



change, specifically extreme heat events, wildfire, sea level rise, drought, and poor air quality.

- The California Department of Public Health’s [Climate Change and Health Profile Reports](#), which describe the impact of climate risks and exposures for vulnerable populations in each county.
- [Mapping Resilience: A Blueprint for Thriving in the Face of Climate Disasters](#).
- [The UC Davis Center for Regional Change Regional Opportunity Index \(ROI\)](#).
- [California Healthy Places Index \(HPI\)](#) –the Public Health Alliance of Southern California developed the HPI. The HPI is a dataset and online tool that maps local factors that drive health. Such factors include education, job opportunities, clean air, and other indicators that are positively associated with life expectancy at birth. The HPI can help describe and prioritize resources and investments to neighborhoods most disproportionately impacts by health and racial inequities. HPI provides overall scores and data on specific policy action areas that shape health, such as housing, transportation, education, and more. Overall, HPI is similar in concept to CalEnviroScreen in providing California communities an index score. However, instead of focusing on pollution exposure, the HPI focuses on social determinants of health and living conditions linked to life expectancy, including environmental health and exposures and other socio-economic factors. Communities that HPI classifies as “less healthy” through its index scores also tend to be disproportionately vulnerable to disruptive events, including climate-related disruptions.
- [Office of Access and Functional Needs \(OAFN\) Web Map](#) - helps identify Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Communities.
- The Social Vulnerability Scores from the [Federal Emergency Management Agency’s \(FEMA\) National Risk Index](#) - The [Social Vulnerability Scores](#) can determine the susceptibility of social groups to adverse impacts from current and historic natural hazards for each United States county and Census tract.
- [CalEnviroScreen 4.0 \(CES\)](#)- CalEnviroScreen can describe disadvantaged communities based on historic pollution exposure and socio-economic indicators within the physical scope of the proposed project.
- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).
- The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) [Resources for Water Managers webpage](#) includes guidance, data, and tools to support climate change mitigation, assess climate change vulnerabilities, and design and implement climate change adaptation across a range of water management planning efforts.
- DWR’s [Climate Change Effects on Tribal Communities diagram](#) identifies the culturally-significant natural resources that may be vulnerable to climate change.
- DWR’s [Climate Change Vulnerabilities and Adaptation Strategies table](#) lists direct vulnerabilities to tribal practices that climate change will impact and opportunities for adaptation strategies.



## Identifying Adaptation Strategies, Measures, Actions, and Projects

For resources that help identify and prioritize climate adaptation measures and projects that address anticipated climate impacts, visit:

- The [2020 Adaptation Planning Guide](#), which guides on assessing climate impacts and adaptation strategies to address them.
- The [State Adaptation Clearinghouse](#) for case studies, adaptation plans and strategy documents, and State guidance:
  - [Topic Pages](#) include sector-specific climate change background information, featured State guidance documents, example strategies from Appendix D of the [Adaptation Planning Guide](#) (also available in the guide PDF), and a curated search function for each topic.
  - [The Climate Equity Topic page](#) for information on equitable planning and achieving climate equity in adaptation and resilience efforts.
  - [The Resilient CA Adaptation Planning Map \(RAP-Map\)](#) provides links to local government adaptation planning documents.
  - [The Case Studies page](#) includes summaries of the processes for developing plans and projects across the state.
- The [State Adaptation Clearinghouse](#) for case studies, adaptation plans and strategy documents, and State guidance:
- The [California Emissions Estimator Model \(CalEEMod\)](#), which quantifies ozone precursors, criteria pollutants, and greenhouse gas emissions from the construction and operation of new land use development and linear projects in California. The model integrates data from CalEnviroScreen, Cal-Adapt, and the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) to identify potential climate risks and environmental burdens within the project vicinity. Measures to reduce emissions, climate risks, and environmental burdens are available for user selection and analysis.
- The [Handbook for Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions, Assessing Climate Vulnerabilities, and Advancing Health and Equity](#) provides methods to quantify GHG emission reductions from a specified list of measures, primarily focused on project-level actions. The Handbook also includes a method to assess potential benefits of different climate vulnerability reduction measures, as well as measures that can be implemented to improve health and equity.
- For a list of potential project types that apply nature-based climate solutions, visit the [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#). Section 2 in the strategy includes a list of the State's priority nature-based climate solutions.





## Appendix E. Distinguishing RRGF from Related State Grant Programs

Many State grant programs provide funding to California communities to prepare for and adapt to climate change risks and impacts. Two aspects of the RRGF that distinguish it from similar grant programs are:

**All projects the RRGF funds must have a regional focus.** If you are interested in pursuing RRGF funding for an eligible project, form a regional partnership consisting of two or more eligible entities whose combined jurisdiction enhances their effectiveness in responding to the highest priority climate risks of that region, to apply. The proposed project should have a geographic impact that extends beyond the boundaries of a single government's jurisdiction. Applicants have the flexibility to self-identify their region defined by shared natural and built environment systems and shared priority climate risks.

**RRGF funds project implementation.** The RRGF funds two project types: planning and implementation. Applicants proposing to implement regional projects, especially those that use natural infrastructure (where feasible), improve regional climate resilience, and reduce risks from climate impacts, will be considered for the implementation grant award. In future rounds of funding, the RRGF will only fund implementation projects.

Throughout the application phase, RRGF staff will be available to support applicants in navigating the differences of similar grant programs. Similar programs include but are not limited to:

### OPR & SGC Programs

- [Adaptation Planning Grant Program](#)
- [Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program](#)
- [Tribal Research Grant Program](#)
- [Community Resilience Centers Grant Program](#)
- [Regional Climate Collaboratives](#)
- [Transforming Climate Communities](#)

### Other State Programs

- [Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program](#)
- [Forest Health Grants](#)
- [Local Coastal Program Updates](#)
- [Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program](#)
- [California Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant Programs](#)



## Appendix F. California Climate Adaptation Strategy Regions

The nine [California Climate Adaptation Strategy \(CCAS\) Regions](#) are also known as the California Fourth Climate Change Assessment Regions. These regions include the: Central Coast, Inland Deserts, Los Angeles, North Coast, Sacramento Valley, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Sierra Nevada.

The RRGP allows applicants to self-identify their region and regional-scale partnerships. Applicants do not need to consider the CCAS regions when identifying their regions or forming partnerships.

### Map of California Counties and Climate Adaptation Strategy Regions



### Central Coast

#### Background

[CCAS page on the Central Coast Region](#)

#### Central Coast Counties

- Monterey County
- San Benito County
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Barbara County
- Santa Cruz County

### Inland Deserts

#### Background

[CCAS page on the Inland Deserts Region](#)

#### Inland Deserts Counties

- Imperial County
- eastern Riverside County
- eastern San Bernardino County

## Los Angeles

### Background

[CCAS page on the Los Angeles Region](#)

### Los Angeles Counties

- Los Angeles County
- Orange County
- Ventura County
- western Riverside County
- western San Bernardino County

## North Coast

### Background

[CCAS page on the North Coast Region](#)

### North Coast Counties

- Del Norte County
- Humboldt County
- Lake County
- Mendocino County
- Siskiyou County
- Trinity County

## Sacramento Valley

### Background

[CCAS page on Sacramento Valley](#)

### Sacramento Valley Counties

- Butte County
- Colusa County
- eastern Solano County
- Glenn County
- Sacramento County
- Shasta County
- Sutter County
- Tehama County
- western Placer County
- Yolo County
- Yuba County

## San Diego

### Background

[CCAS page on the San Diego Region](#)

### San Diego Counties

- San Diego County

## San Francisco Bay Area

### Background

[CCAS page on the San Francisco Bay Area](#)

### Counties

- Alameda County
- Contra Costa County
- Marin County
- San Francisco County
- western Napa County
- western San Mateo County
- western Santa Clara County
- western Solano County
- western Sonoma County

## San Joaquin Valley

### Background

[CCAS page on the San Joaquin Valley](#)

### San Joaquin Valley Counties

- King's County
- Merced County
- San Joaquin County
- Stanislaus County
- western Fresno County
- western Kern County
- western Madera County
- western Tulare County



## **Sierra Nevada**

### **Background**

[CCAS page on the Sierra Nevada Region](#)

### **Sierra Nevada Counties**

- Alpine County
- Amador County
- Calaveras County
- eastern Fresno County
- eastern Kern County
- eastern Madera County
- eastern Tulare County
- El Dorado County
- Inyo County
- Lassen County
- Mariposa County
- Modoc County
- Mono County
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Plumas County
- Sierra County
- Tuolumne County



## Appendix G. Glossary and Acronyms

**Access and Functional Needs (AFN)** – Term referring to individuals who are or have: physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities; chronic conditions or injuries; limited English proficiency; older adults; children; low-income; experiencing homelessness; transportation disadvantaged or depend on public transit; and pregnant people (California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, 2022).

**Adaptive Capacity** - The ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences. Vulnerable communities have less adaptive capacity to cope with, adapt to, and recover from climate impacts. Adaptive capacity can be assessed by using publicly accessible tools.

**Adaptive Management** – A process of incrementally implementing plans and taking actions, despite some uncertainties, allowing opportunities to learn and adjust before moving forward.

**Applicant** - The lead applicant and co-applicants are collectively referred to as “applicants.”

**Application, Proposed Project, Project Proposal, or Proposal** - Responses and supporting documents an applicant submits to apply for the grant.

**Awarded** - An agency commits funding to implement projects (e.g., executed a grant agreement with a Grantee; transferred funds to another agency or program administrator).

**Benefits** – Also referred to as “multiple benefits.” These are added benefits that go beyond meeting a policy’s main goal, like climate change mitigation. For example, most policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions also indirectly benefit the economy, air quality, public health, and reduce energy costs (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). Benefits may fall under the following topics: agriculture, air quality, economy, water quality, public safety, public health, energy resiliency, transportation, natural resource management, social infrastructure, land use, housing, public infrastructure, and environmental conditions (including carbon sequestration and reducing greenhouse gas emissions).

**California Native American tribe** – A federally or non-federally recognized Native American tribe in California that is on the contact list that the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) maintains per Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004 ([Pub. Resources Code, § 21073](#)).

**California Tribal Organization** - A corporation, association, or group that a California Native American tribe controls, sanctions, or charters. The organization is subject to the laws of the tribe, the State of California, or the United States.

**Capacity Building** - The process of strengthening local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills, expertise, and access to resources in vulnerable communities to help to develop or increase the ability of that community to independently compete for grants and implement projects in the future. Capacity building activities include, but are not limited to, identifying and planning for needed climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in a



given region and identifying the tools and resources needed to successfully access, apply for, and receive grant funding.

**Climate Adaptation** – An adjustment that natural or human systems make to a new or changing environment. Adapting to climate change is when natural or human systems adjust so that actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects will be less harmful and will not exploit beneficial opportunities.

**Climate Equity** - Climate change policy considers core equity issues: addressing the impacts of climate change, which are felt unequally; identifying who is causing climate change to limit its effects; and understanding how climate policy intersects with other dimensions of human development, both globally and domestically.

**Climate Hazard** – Climate hazard refers to the potential occurrence of climate-related physical events or trends that may cause damage, loss, or other impacts (also see definition for **Risks**).

**Climate Impacts** – The damage, loss, or other impacts that acute or sustained climate risks create (also see definition for **Risks**).

**Climate Mitigation** A human intervention to reduce the human impact on the climate system; it includes strategies to reduce greenhouse gas sources and emissions and enhance greenhouse gas sinks.

**Climate Resilience/Resiliency** - Resilience is the capacity of any entity – an individual, a community, an organization, or a natural system – to prepare for disruptions, recover from shocks and stresses, and adapt and grow from a disruptive experience.

**Climate Resilience District** - An enhanced infrastructure financing district to finance public capital facilities or other specified projects of communitywide significance, including projects that enable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change ([SB 852](#)).

**Climate Vulnerability** – An assessment process helps identify susceptibility and risk to climate impacts. See “Vulnerable Communities” definition.

**Co-Applicant** - Entities other than the lead applicant that enter into a partnership with other organizations to apply for a Regional Resilience Grant (See “Partner” definition).

**Community** – The populations the project serves.

**Community-based Organization** - A public or private nonprofit organization that represents a community or significant segments of a community and provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

**Community Engagement** - The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people to address issues affecting their well-being. These groups and people may be geographically local, share a special interest, or are in similar situations.

**Community partnership** – A group of community institutions, agencies, organizations and members who share common goals and objectives, distributed roles and responsibilities,



and engage in collective decision-making processes. However, they are not part of the project's regional partnership structure (i.e., not applicants or co-applicants). Individual partnership members can represent, but are not limited to, local residents, community-based organizations, public water related agencies in the region such as flood control, retail water agencies, water recycling agencies, groundwater management agencies, local health jurisdiction, local health departments, health equity-focused CBOs; vulnerable communities; members or representatives of disadvantaged communities; California Native American tribes or tribal-serving organizations, educational institutions, local businesses, elected officials, community representatives like staff, board members, or consultants who have worked in or are from the respective community; community leaders; labor unions; faith-based groups; economic development institutions; workforce development groups; businesses; neighborhood associations, business and civil leadership organizations, environmental advocacy, environmental justice groups, and other interested groups.

**Competitive Funding** – Competitive funding grants involve a preliminary review process to ensure that applications are complete and meet the eligibility requirements. A panel of subject matter experts then review and score eligible applications and note the applications' strengths and weaknesses based on the selection criteria outlined in the grant solicitation.

**Direct Costs** - Costs directly tied to implementing the Regional Resilience Planning grant, including, but not limited to personnel, subcontracts, equipment, travel, etc.

**Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)** - Designation of census tracts and physical locations used to identify the areas most affected by pollution and the people most vulnerable to its effects, based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazards criteria.

For the purposes of the DAC set aside, RRGP uses either of the following tools to identify disadvantaged communities in their region:

- Defined as disadvantaged by the California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEPA (see the [CalEPA's Disadvantaged Communities Map](#)); or
- Census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's, [HUD's, list of income limits](#) adopted pursuant to [Section 50093 of the California Health and Safety Code](#); or
- Census tracts with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average

RRGP staff recognize that the term “disadvantaged” overlooks the many assets these communities also possess, and particularly the community residents for whom these places are home. In many of these communities, organized groups of neighborhood leaders are actively engaged in local planning efforts, policy campaigns, and other activities to make their communities healthier, safer, and more sustainable. These efforts are particularly important today since these communities disproportionately experience the impacts of



climate change. The RRGP is structured to provide existing residents and businesses with the tools and resources to drive change and to ensure they are the primary recipients experiencing the benefits of investment.

**Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUC)** - A fringe, island, or legacy community in which the median household income is 80% or less than the statewide median household income ([Gov. Code § 65302.10](#)).

**Encumbrance** - Encumbrances are obligations of all or part of an appropriation.

**Energy resilience** - entails building a state of readiness of our energy system(s) to climate impacts such as increased temperatures, extreme heat events, wildfire, or other extreme weather events.

**Fiscal Agent** – A legal entity with legal authority, history, and capacity to administer State funds. A Fiscal Agent can make disbursements on the applicant’s behalf.

**Grant Agreement** - Arrangement between the State and grantee specifying how the State will pay the grantee funds to meet specific Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program Objectives within a specific grant performance period.

**Grantee** - Designated Lead applicant that has an agreement for grant funding with the State.

**Hazard Mitigation** - Any action to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. The term is sometimes used in a stricter sense to mean cost-effective measures to reduce the potential for damage to a facility or facilities from a disaster event.

**Hazard mitigation planning** – A process that governments use to identify risks, assess vulnerabilities, and develop long-term strategies that protect people and property from the effects of future natural hazard events.

**Immaterial Defect** - An error that is insignificant to the budget, quantity, or execution of the proposal compared to the proposal’s total budget or scope. The applicant can correct this error with additional information without giving them a competitive advantage over other applicants.

**Indicators** - Quantitative measures, including project-related metrics, that show changes in conditions over a period of time.

**Indirect Costs** – General expenses of doing business. These costs are not directly tied to the grant but are necessary for the organization’s general operation. Examples of indirect costs may include but are not limited to: personnel costs for administrative, supervisory, legal, executive staff or support units like clerical support, housekeeping, etc. Other examples include operating and equipment costs not part of direct project costs.





**Integrated Climate Actions** - Through [ICARP's principles](#), integrated climate actions are those that provide multiple benefits, like reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to climate impacts.

**Interagency Review Panel** – This panel is responsible for reviewing RRGp guidelines and applications. For the RRGp, this panel includes subject matter experts from the following State agencies: California Coastal Commission (CCC), Ocean Protection Council (OPC), Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Planning Team, Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Climate Team, Strategic Growth Council's Resilient Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Conservation (DOC).

**Joint-powers Authority** - A government entity, formed by a formal, legal agreement, comprised of two or more public agencies that share a common power and want to jointly implement programs, build facilities, or deliver services.

**Jurisdiction** – The geographic boundaries within which a certain government or governing body has the power to enforce laws, regulations, and provide services to the people residing or working within that area. Each jurisdiction may have its own set of rules, laws, and governing bodies that make decisions and oversee matters within their defined boundaries. These boundaries can range from small local areas, such as a districts and cities or, to larger areas like counties and regions.

**Living Wage** – The wage or annual income that covers the cost of the basic needs, budget, and relevant taxes for a worker and their family. These necessities include the cost of living in a particular area, including factors such as housing prices, transportation, food, childcare, healthcare costs, and local economic conditions. It does not include publicly provided income or housing assistance. The goal of a living wage is to ensure that workers can support themselves and their families without experiencing poverty.

**Maladaptation** – When efforts to adapt to climate change backfire and have the opposite of the intended effect (i.e., increasing climate vulnerability and exposure to climate risks rather than decreasing it).

**Mitigation** – An effort to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters (FEMA).

**Natural Hazard** – An environmental phenomenon that can impact societies and the human environment.

**Nongovernmental Organization (NGO)** – An organization (e.g., a tribal-serving NGO) independent of the government whose primary mission focuses on environmental, social, cultural, and other issues.

**Nonprofit Organization** - Any nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California and qualified pursuant to subdivision (c)(3) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code.



**Nontechnical Assistance** - Questions unrelated to an RRGF proposal design (e.g., related to format requirements or attachment instructions). See “Technical Assistance (TA).”

**Notice to Proceed** – A formal notice indicating that work can begin, as outlined in the grant contract.

**Partner** – Referred to as “Co-Applicants” during the application phase. See “Co-Applicants.”

**Plan Alignment** – Plan alignment is the process of using connections, information, and resources to build shared language, data foundations, and processes across multiple planning efforts at any scale. The resulting products of plan alignment are:

- a suite of plans (with different scopes and purposes) that share the same data, similar underlying assumptions, aligned visions, complementary goals, strategies, and actions, and
- a shared understanding, process, and structure for multiple entities in a community or region to continue to collaborate and align efforts over the long term.

**Post-award Consultation** – The period before executing the grant agreement when the State and Awardee determine and finalize the grant agreement’s terms and conditions.

**Pre-development construction costs** - The expenses incurred before the actual construction of a project begins. These costs are associated with the early stages of planning, designing, and preparing for construction. Pre-development construction costs are the financial outlays required to get a project ready for construction and usually include feasibility studies, architectural and engineering design, and permitting and approvals.

**Program Objective** - Statements that describe the program’s desired outcomes. The Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program includes the following three program objectives:

- Support regional projects aligned with ICARP priorities, improve regional climate resilience, and reduce climate risks from wildfire, sea level rise, drought, flood, increasing temperatures, and extreme heat events.
- Address the greatest climate risks in the region, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.
- Fill the gaps in climate resilience funding and support sustainable and cohesive climate resilient projects through regional collaboration.
- Support equitable outcomes

**Proposal** – See “Application” definition above.

**Public Entities** - include cities, counties, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs), Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), Councils of Governments (COGs), Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), school districts, and special districts (e.g., resource conservation districts, harbor districts, etc.).

**Quarter (Q)** – The following dates outline the quarters the RRGF will use:



- Quarter 1: January 1 – March 31
- Quarter 2: April 1 – June 30
- Quarter 3: July 1 – September 30
- Quarter 4: October 1 – December 31

**Request for Proposals** - A document that solicits potential grantees to apply for a grant.

**Regional Government** – Examples include air districts, Community Service Districts (CSD), Councils of Government (COG), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA).

**Regional Partnership** – Consists of two or more eligible entities whose combined jurisdiction enhances their effectiveness in responding to the highest priority climate risks of that region.

**Risk** – The combination of an event, its likelihood, and its consequences – i.e., risk equals the probability of climate hazard multiplied by a given system’s vulnerability.

In climate policy and planning, RRGP implementing legislation ([SB 170](#)), and throughout these guidelines, “climate risk” refers to acute (e.g., wildfires, extreme heat events, etc.) and chronic (e.g., persistent drought, sea level rise, etc.) physical climate events or direct results of those events. [SB 170](#) specifically highlights drought, energy resiliency, flood, extreme heat events, increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and wildfire as climate risks that the RRGP should prioritize.

**Set-Aside Funding** – Set-aside funding, which the RRGP implementing legislation ([SB 170](#)) refers to as funding on a “formula basis,” is funding in which applicants do not compete, even though they must submit an application and meet other specified requirements. This funding approach ensures that designated recipients will receive funds, and State Administering Agencies usually administer and manage the funding. Typically, statutes or congressional appropriations acts govern how the administering agency will distribute funds, specifying which factors will determine eligibility, how to allocate funds among eligible recipients, and how the applicant must demonstrate its eligibility for that funding.

**Social Infrastructure** – The services and facilities that serve a community’s health, social, cultural, and economic well-being. It responds to a community’s basic needs to improve the quality of life, equity, and stability and affects the development of human or social capital.

**Social Vulnerability** - The susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards, including disproportionate death, injury, loss, or disruption of livelihood.

**Solicitation** – See “Request for Proposals” definition above.

**Special District** – A local public agency separate from cities and counties, that provides one or more specific services like water, sewer, fire protection, parks management, and others to a community within a defined boundary. An elected board or existing legislative body governs special districts. Examples include harbor districts, resource conservation districts, waste management districts, park districts, and others.



**Technical Assistance (TA)** - The process of providing the necessary education, resources, and support to an agency, organization, or community for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects for any of the following:

- Project development
- Grant development and writing for state and federal grant programs.
- The successful and appropriate expenditure of grant money for the successful completion of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.
- Post-application and project implementation assistance

**Tribal Community** - A group of people affiliated with a reservation or allotment boundaries, on land that otherwise falls under a California Native American Tribe's ownership or jurisdiction, or where a California Native American tribe or other California Tribal Organization serves. Members of the group may be tribal members or members of another tribe.

**Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK)** - This is also referred to as TK (Tribal Knowledge), IK (Indigenous Knowledge), ITEK (Indigenous Tribal Ecological Knowledge), and other similar terms. There are many ways to define TEK and the RRGP will defer to the definition a Tribe provides for their project. If a Tribe does not provide a definition, the RRGP will use the following definition: the on-going accumulation of knowledge, practice, and belief about relationships between living beings in a specific ecosystem that indigenous people acquired over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment and by handing it down through generations. Indigenous people use this knowledge for life-sustaining ways. This knowledge includes the relationships between people, plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes, and timing of events for activities like hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture, and forestry. It encompasses the world view of a people, which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships, and more.

**Vulnerable Community** - Vulnerable communities experience heightened risk and increased sensitivity to climate change and have less capacity and fewer resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from climate impacts. These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factors (s), which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality.

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