

### State Adaptation Strategy- First Survey: Continuous Improvement

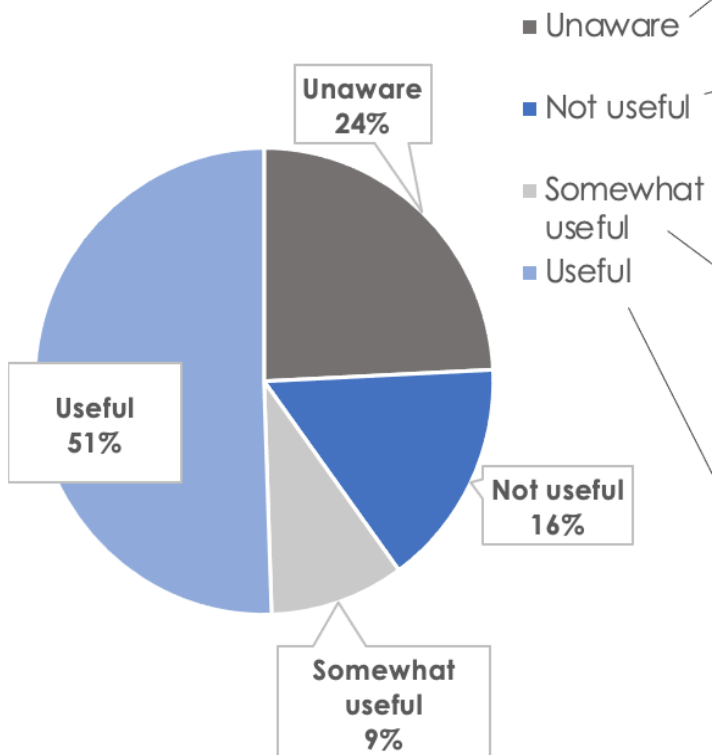
The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) released a four-question survey to solicit input on the value of previous iterations of the State Adaptation Strategy, as well as opportunities for improvement. The survey was open from February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and was disseminated through CNRA’s and OPR’s listservs, social media, and other communication channels.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (n=103)
Sacramento Valley	26%
Bay Area	24%
San Joaquin Valley	11%
Los Angeles Region	10%
Sierra	7%
Bay-Delta	4%
Central Coast	4%
San Diego Region	4%
North Coast	4%
Inland North	2%
Desert	2%

AFFILIATION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS (n=83)
Individual	29%
State government	25%
Local government	14%
NGO	12%
Consultant	8%
Academia	4%
Special district	4%
Federal government	2%
Regional government	1%

\*Regions are defined by the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s [Adaptation Clearinghouse](#).

### Q 1: Have the past iterations of the Strategy been useful to you?



- “What Adaptation Strategy?”
- “Not particularly. Vague for rural areas.”
- “I personally have not found past iterations of the Strategy useful simply because I don’t have time to parse through the information... it is generally too high level to be of immediate use at a municipal level.”
- “Somewhat. We’ve used the materials to inform staff trainings and learning sessions about how to incorporate climate change and sea level rise considerations into internal processes like lease application review.”
- “Past iterations of Safeguarding have been helpful in recognizing the importance of certain adaptation priorities and identifying ongoing initiatives related to those priorities...it hasn’t actually been very useful beyond having the state on record saying some of the right things about overall direction.”
- “Helping to identify numerous resources and understand the integrated nature of the work going on across California government to tackle climate change impacts.”
- “It has helped to develop projects and prioritize grant proposals.”

## Q 2: Where have there been gaps in the past iterations of the Strategy, both within the document itself and in its implementation?

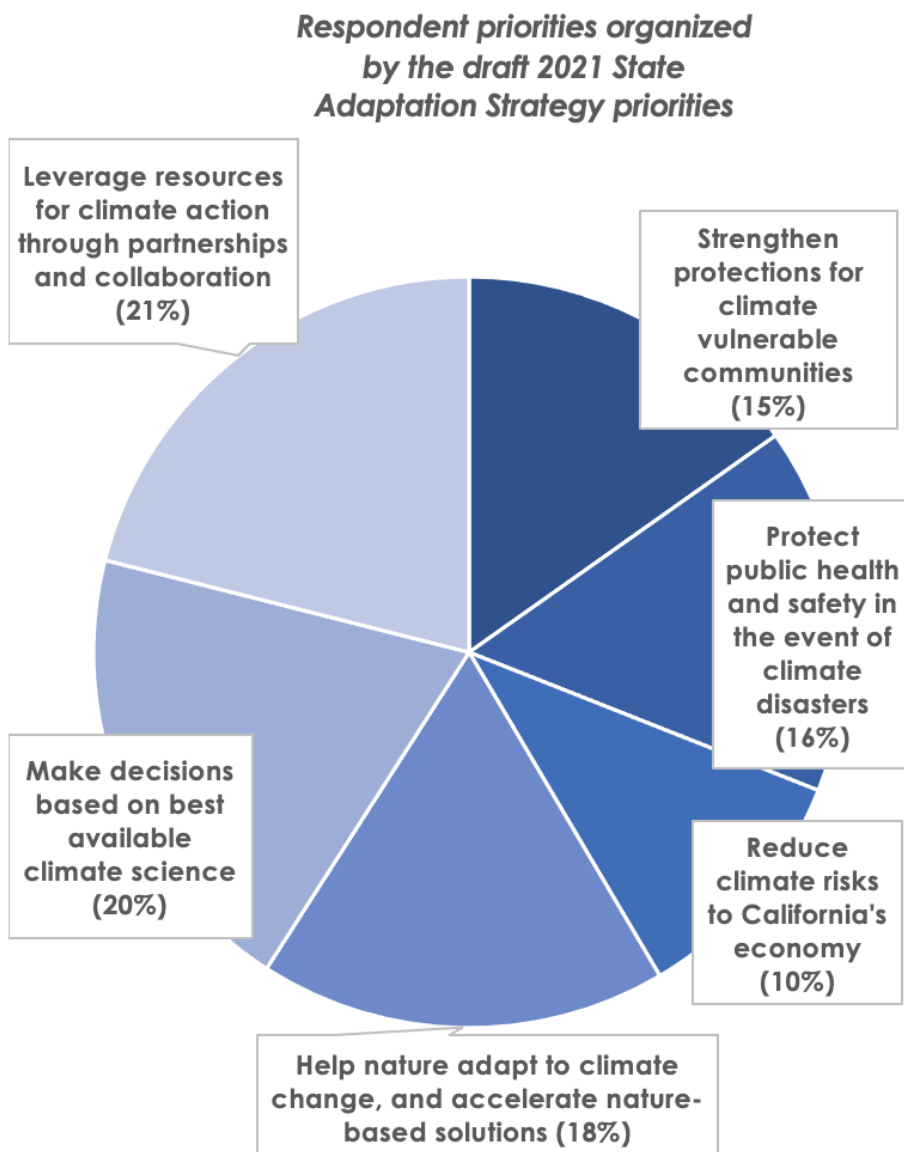
The most prominent gaps identified within past versions of the document are:

- An insufficient **consideration for specific subject areas** (29%), including natural and working lands, sea-level rise, and housing
- The need for **actionable goals** for state agencies and local jurisdictions (16%).

The most prominent gaps regarding the implementation of strategies are:

- A lack of **funding, resources, and technical assistance** for jurisdictions to support the implementation of the Strategy (15%), and
- The need to **measure progress** through resilience metrics (7%).

## Q 3: What are key climate resilience priorities, and how can the State Adaptation Strategy best support them?



### Key themes of Q 3 responses:

- Natural system adaptation and nature-based solutions (35%)
- Funding and incentives for strategy implementation (24%)
- Bolstering of climate-smart infrastructure (23%)
- Alignment of State, regional, and local adaptation efforts (14%)
- Support for underserved communities through a focus on equity and environmental justice (15%)
- Increased public awareness and education campaigns surrounding climate risks (14%)

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE 2021 STATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY PRIORITIES:

Strengthen protections for climate vulnerable communities

" Access for all - ensuring that all California communities have the necessary resources to respond to future impacts and that all levels of governance are coordinated in the approach to streamlining resources toward communities most at need and at risk.."

Protect public health and safety in the event of climate disasters

"Key climate resilience priorities should address the highest risks to human life. I see these as excessive temperatures, wildfire and flooding. For excessive temperatures, the state needs to get their power systems in order to prevent shut downs during heat waves and cold spells. For wildfire, CDF and local fire departments need to dedicate time/staff to fuel management."

Reduce climate risks to California's economy

"..I believe the state should work on climate risk transparency, The Strategy can support these goals by facilitating research collaboration on deriving metrics to measure financial risk in the context of climate uncertainty.."

Help nature adapt to climate change, and accelerate nature-based solutions

"Land conservation, restoration, and stewardship to ensure that the ecosystem can continue to provide clean air, water, and biodiversity. The State Adaptation Strategy can allocate funding and other resources to land conservation, restoration, and stewardship to support these priorities".

Make decisions based on best available climate science

"A specific, urgent climate resilience priority: long-term resources to provide management and access for continually updated, quality-controlled, publicly available climate projection and near-real time observed weather data on which to found actionable strategies".

Leverage resources for climate action through partnerships and collaboration

"Data integration to help and promote alignment and collaboration.. and provide means (financial and human resources) to facilitate the process.."