



Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Technical Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2021 | Zoom Video Conference | 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Public Agenda: <https://www.opr.ca.gov/meetings/tac/2021-12-10/>

Item 1 | Welcome and Roll Call

We at the Office of Planning and Research join you all from Sacramento California on ancestral Nisenan Tribal Land. We thank them for the stewardship of these lands for thousands of years. A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Native Americans as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Native American tribes and their traditional territories.

Today's agenda:

- Today, we've got another full agenda. We are hopeful that our next meeting will be in person. We are cognizant that we are asking you all to spend an almost full day with us on zoom, but we hope that the agenda we've developed will be informative and interactive.
- Item 1: Welcome & Roll Call
- Item 2: Approval of Draft Minutes from our last TAC meeting on Sep. 10, 2021
- Item 3: State Agency Report Out – we're excited today to introduce you to Sam Assefa, our new Director here at OPR
- Item 4: ICARP Programmatic Updates
- Item 5: 2022 ICARP Priorities
- Break
- Item 6: Public Workshop: Aligning Planning, Funding and Capacity Building for Climate Resilience
- Item 7: General Public Comment on non-agenda items
- Item 8: Closing and adjourn

Present: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Browne, Nathan Bengston, Jana Ganion, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Shereen D'Souza, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohot, Darwin Mossavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Michelle Passero, Mark Starr, John Wentworth, Brian Strong

Absent: Lori Nezhura, Grant Davis, Laura Engeman, Andrea Ouse, Gloria Walton, Wilma Wooten

Item 2 | Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion

ICARP Technical Advisory Council draft meeting minutes from [9/10/2021](#).

Public Comment

None.

Action



Approve the ICARP Technical Advisory Council draft meeting minutes from 9/10/2021

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Browne, Nathan Bengsston, Jana Ganion, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Shereen D'Souza, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohot, Darwin Mossavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Michelle Passero, Mark Starr, Brian Strong

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Minutes approved.

Item 3 | State Agency Updates

OPR update

Sam Assefa: We know that our planning issues are interconnected. Not a better place to demonstrate how to govern this way. The State has the leadership, resources, and willingness. This is an opportune time. We are interconnected as we're learning from the pandemic and climate change. Decisions we make go back to land use. We haven't dealt head on with this before – and is why I chose to join. OPR created in 1970 as state's primary land use agency that convenes city agencies to think holistically around these issues. ICARP and OPR priorities are aligned, including plan alignment, vulnerable communities, and multi-benefit strategies. In the past year, OPR worked with CNRA on California Adaptation Strategy update. So ICARP is well-placed to advancing Gov. Newsom's goals to advance a whole of government response to climate change. Also proud of work in the Interagency Resilience Work Group. Providing support and guidance for local governments is critical.

TAC Agency updates

Darwin Moosavi (CalSTA): 1) Planning for climate impacts: CalTrans has completed district adaptation priority reports that identify at-risk segments of the state highway system. Moving from high-level reports to more granular analyses. Districts are using reports for early planning and project development for adaptation. CalTrans is working towards moving from vulnerability assessments to projects for climate adaptation. Vulnerability assessments are all completed and available on the CalTrans website. 2) Climate Action Plan for Infrastructure – looks at both climate mitigation and adaptation/resilience. Report is in implementation phase. Gave public webinar last week on progress that has been made in implementation. Recording is available on the CalSTA website. Will put out progress report next fall. Early signs are looking good in terms of how we shift investments towards adaptation. 3) A lot of federal dollars coming into state with BIF. CalSTA will receive a significant chunk of those funds. Implementation of this will be informed by a stakeholder process. Stay tuned to this in coming weeks.

Amanda Hansen (CNRA): Drought and wildfire updates and climate resilience strategies that we're working on. 1) Drought: website to get latest information drought.ca.gov. Some highlights: water year is second driest ever. All counties are under drought emergency. Reservoir levels are well below 2019 levels. Californians being asked to reduce water consumption by 15 percent. 2) Wildfire: received historic funding to address wildfire and forest health in California. Teams have been working hard to get money out the door quickly. Will keep pushing for wildfire investments in future years. 3) Launched initiative this week: Outdoors for All to expand recreation access for Californians. Nexus between community resilience efforts. Specialty license plate will provide a revenue source for CNRA. 4) Partnering with OPR to finalize the state's adaptation strategy.



Looking to release that in January of next year. Looking to finalize draft of the extreme heat strategy. 5) Look out for the 30x30 final draft.

Shereen D'Souza (CalEPA): 1) A lot of conversations on 1383 implementation. Mitigation focused areas, but types of compost that would be generated for drought resilience and water resilience. Feeding two birds with one seed. 2) EJ small grants program. CalEPA got \$25 million over 2 years. Huge increase over the past. \$10m will be available in 2022. RFP not out yet. Way for small CBOs to advance adaptation/resilience initiatives to get access to funding and engage with community members on their priorities. In recent past, one \$50k grant project surveyed Bay Area residents on a climate emergency community response plan. Another one surveyed Sonoma County young tribal members to understand climate resilience needs. This is a way to seed longer-term projects on climate resilience needs. 3) State Water Resources Control Board doing a lot of resilience projects, including SLR and forest health for watershed management. Water Board received \$1.5b for drinking water infrastructure projects and water contamination cleanup. Funding will lead to concrete projects across state. Another program advances water conservation and efficiency. Urban efficiency and water loss standards for urban water utilities – will make conservation as a way of life laws. Currently have 15 percent voluntary conservation standard, but the state has found it hard to meet these targets. Water board work on this rulemaking will help us abide by the new reality of climate change and chronic drought.

Mark Starr (Cal HHS): We have rebranded! We have updated our guiding principles and strategic priorities for agency. Now include equity and impacts of climate change. 1) Agency is hiring a chief equity officer. Equity liaisons throughout the department. 2) Public health work group of climate action team. Much to be learned from pandemic to address climate crisis. Climate crisis is pandemic in slow motion. Going back to normal is not good. Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) grants. Will continue to advancing climate health leadership. Provide data and grants. Will be providing support for tribes. Pilot projects in Tulare County for weatherization services for low-income ag workers.

- <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/guiding-principles-strategic-priorities/#build-a-healthy-california-for-all>
- <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/climate-action-team-public-health-workgroup-meetings>

OPR: New ICARP team structure with five teams: TAC, Climate Services, 5th Climate Assessment, Adaptation Planning Grants, Regional Planning & Implementation. Update on how we are enacting our budget items. Introduction of Sloane and Juliette's new roles.

Public Comment

None.

Action

None.

Item 4 | ICARP Programmatic Updates

Discussion

Juliette Finzi-Hart: Overview of updates from staff report.

- Resilience Metrics



- CA Climate Adaptation Strategy success metrics are being folded into the broader resilience metrics work.
- We held two meetings between now and last quarterly meeting, where we looked at the draft metrics and focused on social system resilience to start thinking about how these individual success metrics can roll up to broader outcome-based metrics that demonstrate social system functional resilience.
- Decision Support Tools & Guidance
 - Continued updates to the Adaptation Clearinghouse
 - And we've kicked off the work on 3 different plan alignment guides. This will be the focus of the first part of the afternoon workshop.
- Building Partnerships & Leveraging Resources
 - Continued engagement with fire-affected and at-risk communities to better understand long-term disaster recovery and wildfire resilience needs to build peer learning network
 - Presented on equity and resilience at FEMA facilitated So Cal Catastrophic Earthquake Plan workshop
 - Launching a Peer Learning Network
- Funding & Financing
 - Climate insurance sub-group met; continued work on the planning and primer and started to explore future work
 - Prop 84 recipients keep working; we look forward to inviting grantees to present on their work at future TAC meetings
 - Continued work with CalOES and state agencies to identify any Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) related projects – including with CDFA and Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - We'll be diving deep into the nexus of hazard mitigation funding and climate resilience in our workshop this afternoon.
- Vulnerable Communities Platform
 - Lots of work underway! Continue to coordinate and inventory state agency datasets and resources that could feed into the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP). Working to develop the solicitation to be able to partner with pilot communities to partner with us in the development of a beta version and understand user needs
 - Partnered with Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) and held tribal and rural community listening session. We'll hear more about the RCC work this afternoon in the last segment of our afternoon workshop.
- Additional Projects
 - We're in the final stages of the State Climate Adaptation Strategy and Extreme Heat Framework. Thank you to everyone who has provided input into these important bodies of work over the course of the year. We'll be excited to share these with you early in the new year.

Nathan Bengtsson (PG&E): BRIC grants and how we can learn from first round to build pipeline of future projects.

Public Comment

None.

Action

None.



Item 5 | 2022 Priorities

Discussion

Impact Report

Juliette Finzi-Hart:

- As a reminder, we developed our first impact report in 2020. The goal of that document was to take stock of the breadth of the work accomplished by ICARP in the first 3 years of the program.
 - It also helped us outline the Council's priorities for the next year.
- We are developing the 2021 report now. We anticipate reaching out for quotes and thoughts and we'll bring it to the Council in March.

2022 Work Priorities

Juliette Finzi-Hart:

- As we close out 2021 and look to what we have ahead in 2022, we want to revisit with you, our Council, on the priorities that should guide our work ahead.
- [slide with priorities] Here's what you told us were your priorities for 2021, which is how we structure our staff reports (as you can see in your packets).
- This discussion will inform two next steps:
 - 1. First, it will serve as the basis of identifying the Council's priorities for 2022 that we will reflect in the 2021 Impact Report
 - 2. It will also help guide our programmatic approach as we head into this next year, especially in light of the new funding and research programs that were funded through the climate budget.
- So, we'd like to spend some time now discussing these questions:
 - Are these still the priorities that should guide our work moving forward?
 - Are there any gaps that necessitate the addition of new priorities?

Jason Greenspan (SCAG): Where will the insurance sub-group work fit in? Headed in a really promising direction.

Juliette Finzi-Hart: Funding & financing - but these are just buckets

Karalee Browne (ILG): funding & financing – make sure that we are taking time to document what is working and what is not. Avoid reinforcing patterns of inequality. Value of money comes from lessons learned. Outcomes are long-term. Make sure to structure future funding in more constructive ways.

Michelle Passero (Nature Conservancy): Notion of acceleration is on my mind. Maybe something that can best within these bins. Acceleration is a cross-cutting issue. Not sure if it deserves its own category or not.

John Wentworth (Town of Mammoth Lakes): Getting into whole new types of endeavors. Important to hear how OPR's capacity will change and how TAC will be changing. As OPR is moving into implementation, new challenges. Need to talk about technical capacity for regions and towns to ride the wave of enormous amounts of money coming their way.

Nuin-Tara Key: Evolution of program evolving. Internally looking to build out these teams so that we have right structure to serve as a hub for alignment and support implementation as well. A lot of momentum to drive and scale regional action (Regional



Early Action Planning, Community Economic Resilience Fund), and a lot of state-level coordination. TAC will serve an important role of informing this process.

Jonathan Parfrey (Climate Resolve): Think that ICARP TAC just gave wonderful example of why it exists. Pay attention to the world beyond California's borders. We don't have similarly constituted groups. Good for us to help inform federal policymaking. Better conversations took place in green zone along local government officials. Is there alignment between ICARP and Governor's lobbyists to ensure that BBB dollars advance California's priorities?

Brian Strong (City of San Francisco): Would be useful for how OPR's shift into implementation. Think that category 6 (additional relevant projects) is too vague. Easy to get caught up in details of implementation and then put details of metrics and measurable outcomes. Funding & financing is second most critical piece. BRIC provides a lot of opportunities but also challenges. Push FEMA in certain ways to make programs more accessible.

Sona Mohnot (Greenlining Institute): Want to echo what Jonathan and others have said around how we can align federal infrastructure dollars with state funding and its climate/equity goals. How can Justice 40 initiative align with our own goals. Communities want to know how to plug in with federal infrastructure dollars. Some guidance on how local entities engaging in implementation can plug into federal implementation dollars.

Mark Starr (Cal HHS): Like the priority areas. Ways to more thoroughly embed health into these priority areas, especially #3 (Local Implementation). This is an area where health can be primary. Primary concern about climate change is health, when you survey people. #5 (Climate equity & vulnerable communities) also plays into health. What will happen after Vulnerable Communities Platform?

Public Comment

None.

Action

None.

11:20 pm Break

Item 6: Afternoon Workshop - Aligning Planning, Funding and Capacity Building for Climate Resilience

Nuin-Tara Key: ICARP serves an important role in coordinating alignment of state and local adaptation efforts, and in light of the tremendous focus on resilience and adaptation, and the historic state investments going to scaling our efforts, we are exciting to host today's workshop, where we'll be focusing on three interrelated priorities that we are working on across the administration to support local implementation of adaptation and resilience efforts.

1. The first is supporting local adaptation planning efforts – efforts that are foundational to building resilience. The first portion of our workshop is going to provide an opportunity for you to provide input into a suite of local plan alignment tools that our office is working on.
 - a. Following brief presentations from staff on these tools, we'll transition into breakout rooms to provide input on a series of discussion questions that will inform these efforts.



2. The second, and building on the first item, is focused on efforts to align state and federal funding to support implementation of climate resilient efforts. You will hear from a state panel on efforts to align multiple state and federal funding streams that bring together both hazard mitigation and recovery with the state's climate resilience priorities.
 - a. We'll have time for Q&A with the panel
 - b. This portion of the meeting serves as a biannual meeting of the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).
3. Third, we'll turn to a discussion on the critical role the state can play in investing in community capacity to take advantage of the resources and funding opportunities. One of the programs that was funded through the 2021 climate budget was SGC's Regional Climate Collaboratives grant program.
 - a. Following a brief presentation from staff on the program, we'll transition back to breakout rooms to get your insight into a series of discussion questions.

We know this is a long afternoon on zoom, but we've heard your calls to leverage our quarterly meetings as opportunities to align our stakeholder engagement to inform multiple state agency efforts at once.

Workshop Part 1, WUI Best Practices Inventory & Plan Alignment Tools

Discussion

Beth Hotchkiss (OPR): Here to discuss WUI Best Practice project. Conduct research to inventory and publish local government best practices and enforcement that address and reduce wildfire hazards and risks in the wildland urban interface (WUI). Approximately 1/3 of all homes in California are in the WUI. Project partners are: Community Wildfire Planning Center (CWPC), Office of Planning & Research, CAL FIRE, and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

- Best practice criteria: relevancy, efficiency, innovation, effectiveness, replicability, equity, collaboration, and sustainability.
- WUI Inventory: CPWC reviewed planning tools across 39 tribal nations, 58 counties, 189 local responsibility area (LRA) jurisdictions. The inventory provides a broad snapshot of plans, regulations, and other related activities for pre and post wildfire planning.
- Survey participation: 16 questions with 117 responses. Survey was forwarded to planning departments, BOF and CAL FIRE list-servs, pre-fire engineer mailing list, and fire protection organizations.
- Wildfire risk mitigation is an ongoing challenge that could benefit from more research and new solutions.
- Case study tools & locations: community plans, recreation and resiliency mater plans, landscaping ordinance, fire abatement ordinance, etc.
- Aligning activities: the best practice case studies and inventory will equip planners across the state to build wildfire resilience. Guidance, Tools, Training.

Taylor Carnevale (OPR) & Nikki Caravelli (OPR): Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Guides

- Plan alignment is the integration of disparate data & planning efforts to achieve more holistic, effective solutions & outcomes. Leveraging connections, information, and resources to build shared language, data foundations, and processes. Build plans with same data foundations and shared goals.
- Horizontal plan alignment and vertical plan alignment.
- Implementation benefits, community benefits, reduce barriers, and leverage resources



- Coastal Plan Alignment Compass, Wildfire Resilience Plan Alignment Guide, Floor-after-Fire Plan Alignment Guide
- Coastal Plan Alignment Compass on the Adaptation Clearinghouse: <https://resilientca.org/topics/plan-alignment/compass/>
- Wildfire Resilience Plan Alignment Guide: funded through a CAL FIRE & OPR interagency agreement. Will translate findings from OPR's WUI BPI into an interactive guide, paper guide, and 1 case study.
- Flood-after-Fire Plan Alignment: funded through OPR-FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners grant. Will translate results from inventory report and needs assessment into an online interactive guide, paper guide, and 1 case study.
- Plan Alignment Advisory Group and Local Government Plan Alignment Focus Group
- Process should:
 - Support state & federal interagency alignment, identify opportunities to remove barriers and better support local planning
 - Guides should be accessible, support implementation, and drive collaboration
- Baseline plans to align across all plan alignment guides:
 - General plans, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, Climate Action and Resilience Plans
- Additional plans
 - Coastal act/local coastal program plans
 - Recreation plans
 - Emergency plans
 - CAL FIRE unit plans
 - Vegetation management plans

John Wentworth: important space that could use tightening. WFR Task Force has a lot of work going on. Coordinately closely across Task Force activities. Shared stewardship agreement. Federal Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire program helps with forest resilience work. https://cpaw.headwaterseconomics.org/?gclid=CjwKCAiAksyNBhAPEiwAIDBeLNldcOK9C7qFTAqwWKYknj02uOI1ZZv02n5tbNVLHsl8VgCrkoOQMxoC77wQAvD_BwE

Jonathan Parfrey: Looking at this from a planning lens? Also insurance remedies? Looking at importance of operations & management?

Nuin-Tara Key: The plan alignment guides are intended for local planning efforts. Not getting into insurance realm. Focused on planning alignment activities. However whole body of work embarking on aligning insurance and planning efforts. Not disconnected, but tool itself intended for planning work.

Public Comment

Discussion Questions

- Do you have examples of good plan alignment? What case studies would be most helpful for you?
- Which plans should we consider including in the plan alignment guides?
- How do we support plan alignment at the local level in a way that sets up local agencies for state and federal funding?
- Do you have suggestions for outreach or know of opportunities to put the best practice case studies and plan alignment tools to use?

Breakout room 1



Jana Ganion: tribal nation engagement - there is not a lot of alignment between tribal planning and local and regional planning. They are doing some resilience convenings to partly focus on plan alignment, knowledge sharing. Importance of regional convenings. Little funding for plan alignment efforts in capacity strained regions.

- US climate resilience toolkit. <https://toolkit.climate.gov/case-studies>

Jonathan Parfrey: In April 2021, our organization, Climate Resolve, filed a suit under the California Environmental Quality Act to challenge the proposed Centennial development in the Tehachapi Mountains due to not adequately characterizing the development's GHG emissions and wildfire protection activities. Judge Mitchell Beckloff sided with Climate Resolve, which led to six months of negotiation with the developer, which resulted in a settlement that achieves commitments to achieve a Net Zero GHG community and greater fire protection.

Wildfire findings: O and M - need for establishing firewise councils, fire community groups, and funding related to that. Possible case study.

- Title 24 Chapter 8, circa 2022, will be better than past decades. Tension between new and established housing, in the WUI. May deserve different treatment between old and new.
- County entitlement process, Environmental Impact Reports
- LA County - safety element update.
- Designation of very high vs high - the distinction is not always dependent on landscape, but also the nature of firefighting services nearby & staffing.

John Wentworth:

- No plans that go across toward fed. Requires enormous tech support.
- In task force: state doesn't have capacity on ground...ad hoc collaboratives work on project based funding. Shared stewardship; Step back - from fed/state / task force, don't overlap with their work.
- Contracting with USFS is nightmare. Does the WUI involve fed? Reach out to them, Identify who the federal line officer/authority person is

Jason Greenspan: 3rd bullet - adaptation and safety could be at odds with each other. Urban greening vs WUI? Extreme heat vs wildfire? Native veg, defensible space? Alignment with broader adaptation objectives.

Mark Starr: no penalty to local jurisdiction - for integrating.

Jana Ganion: blue lake just updated hazard mitigation plan. These are important for regional governments to look at all hazards approach. Challenging to update it with climate centered lens - HMA's required for certain FEMA funds. Tribes are also have them.

John Wentworth: Send money to the gaps - not Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Jason Greenspan: we at SCAG can help!

Breakout room 2

Victoria LaMar-Haas (Cal OES): want to also highlight state hazard mitigation plan. Really need to look at it. A lot of other planning processes look at SHMP to see what state priorities are. Want to capture this as a resource document. We are required to have that SHMP to apply for any federal disaster funding.



Karalee Browne (ILG): Everyone is in the midst of Housing Elements, social equity, and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing updates. Then Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, resilience and climate action plans on top of it. No answers on any questions. Housing Element and General Plan updates are being done more this year than ever seen before. Don't have a good way of mapping it out other than having it all in once place. Guidance is all in different locations as well.

Nuin-Tara Key: As we see housing elements updated, do we see local jurisdictions using this update as a way to meet SB 379 requirements?

Karalee: new requirements for Housing Elements have folks pulling their hair out. It's a hard bar. Few cities have gotten theirs adopted and approved. Don't know that climate adaptation is part of that effort. Money is there for both but doing them separately.

David Loya (City of Arcata): we're at end of 20-year general plan cycle. Plan to integrate adaptation planning work into this update. With Karalee in approach to getting this out there. Planning work for adaptation is done in planning departments that are focused on forward looking planning, and then hazard mitigation is housed in environmental services/fire departments. Some solutions to help people think across silos to integrate hazard mitigation and adaptation planning needed. TA such as what PlaceWorks is providing is a good way to roll that out. Need to get enough templates to start marketing that as a way to do this. In Humboldt County, jurisdictions' level of understanding and interest and political dimensions are challenging. Templates for developing shared sets of values are needed.

Erik de Kok (OPR): Thanks for bringing up Housing Element updates, Karalee. Brought into some interesting regional discussion. Michael G with ABAG has been doing a series of workshops with REAP funding on ways to align housing and safety element updates. Increasing complexity around Regional Housing Needs Assessment cycle housing element updates and climate adaptation requirements.

- <https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/wildfires-how-preserve-and-protect-housing>
- <https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/resilience/planning/general-plan-resilience-updates>

Brian Strong: Incorporating SB 379 requirements while updating Housing Element is crazy but it does help with the integration. Make a plug for centralized resilience offers (CROs). Have a central place for it. Still worry that these processes happen separately. Created Climate SF Program to bring together everyone working on climate in one place. Other area where this could happen.

Action

None

Workshop Part 2, Linking Hazard Mitigation Funding with Climate Resilience Goals & Projects – Panel Discussion

Discussion

Nuin-Tara Key:

- This portion of the meeting serves as a biannual meeting of the CDBG-MIT Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). This agenda item is a panel discussion with Cal OES, HCD,



and CAL FIRE to discuss the role of aligning hazard mitigation funding to support climate and wildfire resilience in California.

- California faces numerous climate risks and natural hazards, including wildfires, drought, extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise, among others. These growing climate risks are increasing the severity and cost of disasters. As a response, federal and state investments in hazard mitigation are increasing.
- California regions and local governments are eligible for unprecedented amounts of funding to plan for and implement climate resilience projects.
- Hazard mitigation programs, which fund natural hazard risk reduction projects, represent a substantial piece of the resilience funding puzzle
- Competitive applications must also leverage multiple funding sources, including state programs.
- As ICARP prepares to launch new planning grants for climate adaptation and regional resilience planning, we are highlighting the role of hazard mitigation in advancing California's resilience goals.
- Joining us today is an esteemed interagency panel of hazard mitigation and resilience leaders to discuss ongoing efforts at aligning hazard mitigation funding for climate resilience goals and projects. I am pleased to introduce:
 - Maziar Movassaghi, Chief Disaster Recovery Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
 - Jacy Hyde, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
 - Daniel Berlant, Asst. Deputy Director, Planning & Risk Analysis, Fire Engineering and Investigations, Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- This discussion will focus on some program specifics but aims to illustrate the big picture on how hazard mitigation funds advance climate resilience adaptation, as well as opportunities for alignment across funding programs can help address local planning and implementation challenges.
- Additional context and program detail is provided on the discussion memo included on the meeting agenda web page.
- We will now dive into this timely discussion.

Panel Discussion

Discussion Question: Could you briefly describe the hazard mitigation programs that you work on? How do these programs fit into the state's long-term climate adaptation and resilience goals?

Maziar: CDBG-MIT is only for counties in presidentially-declared disasters in 2017 and 2018. LA/Ventura County in the South. Lake, Butte, Shasta, Mendocino counties in the north. Targeted program. We created a program from input we received. Two sub programs. Resilient Infrastructure Program (RIP) and Planning and Public Services (PPS).

Jacy Hyde: Reduce risk from natural hazards. Planning team devoted to maintaining State Hazard Mitigation Plan – how we invest federal hazard mitigation funds in the future. Grants branch administers.

- BRIC: annual program funds large scale infrastructure NBS for whole community resilience
- FMA: annual program that protect repetitive loss properties - \$1.6b available this year



- HMGP: state administered post-disaster program – receive 20 percent of cost of relief/recovery – has received tremendous amount of funding. Half almost half a billion dollars available this year.
- Working in partnership with CAL FIRE to build out the wildfire home hardening program.

Daniel Berlant: Oversee wildfire planning and engineering programs. Focus on fire prevention grant program. Overlap in work that OES and HCD do. But there are different focuses. Keeps funding in different lanes. Agencies collaborate on a number of fronts. Fire Protection Grant Program (FPGP) – funded through GHG reduction fund. Makes communities more resistant to wildfires and focus on carbon emissions that wildfires make. Program goal is to achieve multiple benefits. This year the program awarded \$138 million to local governments and fire safe councils to do wildfire planning and fuels reduction. Another round of funding will be released in next few months. Accepting applications for fire prevention grant program through the end of January.

Discussion Question: How does your program fit into local hazard mitigation efforts?

Maziar: In order to expedite getting resources into communities, talked to local folks and identify projects in their existing LHMPs or other studies and plans. Surprisingly to us, a lot of local jurisdictions had LHMPs that had not been updated in awhile, so we let updating LHMPs be an eligible activity for CBDG-MIT.

Jacy: Cal OES supports both planning and implementation. Provide TA as plans are developed at local level as they navigate that process. We also encourage jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans. Providing TA on incorporating climate/equity considerations into plans. Cannot apply for a FEMA grant unless you have a plan. Adopting those plans into Safety Element opens up more state assistance after disasters. Work with FEMA to get plans approved. On grant programs, we provide funding for these plans. Fund 30+ plans/year. Once plans are developed, look through them to guide outreach to help them develop projects that carry out actions identified in their plans. We also do rigorous studies of what projects Loss avoidance studies – Cal OES mitigation project saved \$73m from the Lake complex fire.

Daniel: LHMPs and Safety Elements are critical for us. Safety Elements required to be reviewed by Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. We have a land use program that provides TA to jurisdictions. We fund Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). Also take into consideration in ranking of grants, whether project is strategic. The project should nest into one of these plans. Each unit as a strategic fire plan. How does the project tie into the strategic fire plan? Important to know that we are all tying funding decisions to something that has already been planned out.

Discussion Question: How do your hazard mitigation programs advance equity and work to address the needs of climate vulnerable communities? Seeing connections to pipeline of plans and projects and tracking and monitoring?

Daniel: we take into account low-income and disadvantaged communities as set by CARB, since most funding comes out of GHG fund. Ensures that we are reducing risk of most vulnerable populations. As part of joint home hardening financial assistance program, we are specifically targeting individuals who are vulnerable.

Jacy: Constrained by FEMA regulations. Local match is a constraint. A lot we are trying at local level. Direct assistance for local match. Particularly meant to support under-resourced communities in navigating FEMA process. We are also working to align state programs with local



match requirement. Technical Assistance is a huge part. FEMA process is complex, and local governments lack capacity, especially with the benefit cost analysis (BCA). Need to help them through that process. Work with NGO partners and OPR – look to bring in outside expertise for local governments. In next update to SHMP in 2023, make sure we have clear hazard risk and social vulnerability maps to be clear where these overlap to make targeted funding decisions. Adjust our own funding priorities internally. Disadvantaged communities top priority – 40 percent of funding went to communities in top 1/3 of social vulnerability as determined by CDC. Once we get home hardening program up, we will create additional resources for communities to plug and play for hazard mitigation projects.

Maziar: by federal regulation, minimum of 50 percent of funds benefit LMI population. Most of what comes through HUD has a 70 percent LMI requirements but lowered to 50 percent for MIT, because MIT projects have large service areas that have broader benefits. When we work with locals, decided to open funding in two rounds. Some communities need more time to get their plan together. This is a smaller pool of counties, and in the first go around there weren't a lot of projects that were designed to protect vulnerable communities. One community needed new fire station in one of the most affluent parts of town. To a certain degree, this is where we are limited to helping vulnerable communities at local level unless we see the same demand from local applicants.

Discussion Question: What barriers have local governments faced in accessing these funding sources? Some priorities set out.

Maziar: local stakeholders are disaster-impacted. Think of Butte County, Lake County. They're already devoting a lot of resources to bringing people back. Seems like community doesn't have bandwidth to think about mitigation. Barrier can be not having enough bodies who could have completed the applications. Initial notice of interest was only 3 pages. Shouldn't have been a barrier, but speaks to capacity. Wasn't clear where in local government knowledge on hazard mitigation needs are located. Maybe fire department is engaged but not the housing agency. Lack of local coordination. Wasn't clear what the local priority was and how they were looking to coordinate to combine funding to get over the finish line.

Daniel: Capacity to coordinate, apply, and implement the work. Most of the projects we fund are to remove hazardous fuels. Huge amount of implementation dollars. In addition to utility partners doing a huge amount of enhanced vegetation management and are sucking up a lot of the workforce with more competitive bids. Becomes a problem when community is doing a small project that in their world is huge. But small in the grand scheme of things. The \$1.5b wildfire resilience package in the budget had a specific program for workforce development grant program to get more people to work.

DOC administers the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program – help build local capacity so they can be more competitive in funding applications. Rural counties are challenged to just get the application in. We have thus funded a fire coordinator position at every county so they can write grants and build wildfire capacity at the local level. This is the bottleneck.

Jacy: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program applications due to FEMA within a year of a disaster. Communities pulled in a bunch of different directions. Staffing even more non-declared counties is a huge problem. Technical capacity to identify correct projects to deal with a hazard. Designing projects takes funding. We are thinking of how we fund more planning activities to fund project development. Timeline to get grants approved. Project has to go through NEPA



review after we select them, can take several years. By the time project gets funded, could have been additional disasters and the person who wrote the grant has moved on. Goal is to ID how we can support at the local level whether it's through our own technical assistance and capacity building, collaborating with each other, collaborating with NGOs, or with an application cohort for wildfire mitigation. Think about what other processes and hurdles we can tear down to help communities move through process.

Discussion Question: How are you working to align these programs so they can be used concurrently? What program guideline modifications could make other programs complimentary?

- *Follow-up: how can the state incentivize the right kinds of projects to come through the pipeline? Follow-up: Role of insurance as an incentive*

Brian Strong: My understanding is that the grant funds that can be used for planning are very limited in terms of overall dollars and in comparison to funds for construction. Can you comment on that/ and how we can increase planning funds? I have more around equity, alignment, and how to expand capacity.

John Wentworth: inspiring group. Thank you for saying all of the right things. But there are two ingredients that are exacerbating what we're talking about. Nature-based solutions and 30x30. We need to get funding to every corner of the state.

Karalee Browne: echo John. Through BOOST, some small communities haven't had a disaster, but they don't have clean water, etc. are there rural community carve-outs? Grants still overlooking some corners of the state.

Daniel: today we focused on climate/vulnerability elements, legislatively we are required to ensure that funds are regionally split up. Fire Protection Grant Program (FPGP) funds must go to all corners. This is what we work the hardest on.

Jacy: we have a funding source opportunity for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Just launched a huge outreach effort directly to communities that hasn't received more than \$5m over past 5 years. Helping folks get across the line. Easier to get through FEMA process on more basic infrastructure projects.

Brian Strong: these programs are challenging for large cities with lots of resources. Some things we can do to make these funds easier. Couple comments on equity to reach more vulnerable communities. Ability to do subcontracting is hard. Large administrative burden. If there are ways to reduce administrative burdens separate from matching costs, this would be helpful. Almost every capital project we do has multiple funding sources. Cost-benefit analysis does not match up with what we're facing. Mitigation projects are often \$15 million, and cost-benefit analysis will come up with \$1.5m, and then we're stuck. We don't know how to scope it to match FEMA scope. Around capacity, one grant for one project. Know that City of Berkeley has struggled. Would be great if we could have one grant for multiple projects, even if the projects are not contiguous. This would reduce administrative costs and make funding more attractive for municipalities. Finally, never enough planning dollars.

Jacy: layering projects is eligible for some project types. Some situations where it would be challenging. If wanted to seismic retrofit and floodplain restoration would be challenging. Period of performance can be challenging. Environmental & Historic



Preservation (EHP) review is challenging. Mechanisms facing projects where you can money for design and then implementation, but this takes longer. A challenge to try to line up these funding sources. Restricted to natural hazards, we can't go into cybersecurity threats. Always interested in pushing FEMA guidelines but it is not easy and requires a lot of effort.

Maziar: got a lot of applications from NGOs and local governments that were aligned, so when we reached out to see if they wanted to go in together, they said NO. Plan alignment maybe could help. This is something we can explore in the next conversation around capacity building and help bridge some of those local divides.

Jana Ganion: at this last meeting of the year, Cal OES/CAL FIRE have done a progressively extraordinary job at working with tribal nations. CA has 109 federally recognized nationals and dozens of unrecognized nations. Have seen marked improvement in ability to partner with state agencies. I am most familiar with CalOES. Building on what Karalee was saying about the always difficult process of deploying funding, always will be a work in progress. Thought leadership that I am hearing today instills confidence. Clear that your agencies are on the edge of their chairs working on these issues. Allows for alignment and collaboration between tribes and state that are more than the sum of their parts. Tribes have resources to leverage. Found de-siloing in our own backyard part of the success.

Daniel: in early part of calendar year, forest health program will get funds out to support CA tribes.

Jana: we've a lot of regional planning around climate impacts. CAL FIRE is a leading expert on these regional collaboratives.

Public Comment

None.

Action

None.

Workshop Part 3, Regional Climate Collaboratives Listening Session/Discussion

Discussion

Nuin-Tara Key: Up to now in this workshop, we've discussed state funding and tools to help with aligning planning. This final portion of our workshop focuses on building capacity to take advantage of these financial and technical resources. We are pleased to have Sarah Risher and Coral Abbott who are leading the Regional Climate Collaboratives work at SGC. Here again, we will hear directly from Coral and Sarah and then will break into discussion rooms to dive deeper on what technical assistance and capacity building is needed.

Coral Abbot and Sarah Risher:

- Under-resourced communities: Cal EnviroScreen 4.0
- The questions for discussion are:
 - What are barriers to meaningful partnerships?
 - What specific costs should this grant fund?
 - How can collaboratives lead to more community-driven planning and decision-making



- o Knowing this program is focused on supporting the most underresourced communities access to funding for priority projects, what is the appropriate size of a region to accomplish this goal?

Public Comment

Discussion Questions

- What are barriers to meaningful partnerships?
- What specific costs should this grant fund?
- How can collaboratives lead to more community-driven planning and decision-making?
- Knowing this program is focused on supporting the most under-resourced communities access to funding for priority projects, what is the appropriate size of a region to accomplish this goal?

Breakout room 1

John Wentworth: when you have partnerships across jurisdictions or boundaries, tackling hurdles, you need shared vision and common goals. Bureaucratic Tape – There is a lack of streamlining at local level and state has so many protocols so makes it challenging to make it align with local needs

Jana Ganion: Peer to peer desiloing is so important. It is something that we haven't done well, if we do it well, it is one of the solutions to make these investments more productive. without more of these types of support upfront, we risk business as usual where we are not learning from each other and we are not learning the TA gaps that can reduce the soft costs of getting those resources. Without the support to form the collaboratives and sustain them over time we can't do that, if we think of this as scope of work over decades, upfront costs will make a big difference.

Jonathan Parfrey: on costs, there should be clear policy on providing stipends to local community members. Maybe it requires new legislation or attorney general so we can start paying people for their time, this is the most fundamental aspect, we need money in people's pockets.

John Wentworth: Must be careful with the geography (of collaboratives) and alignment of collaborative with jurisdictions. If collaborative is successful, then giving money to these efforts for that collaborative but what about the boundaries of cities, counties, other jurisdictions. hopefully money will be flowing and it must be aligned to an authority(jurisdiction) who can give money to projects. Defining Under-resourced communities for grant writers – In writing grants, it is challenging to look up definitions so it would be easier to have clear definitions. Manual for grant writers – would be very, very helpful.

Breakout room 2

Nathan Bengtsson (PG&E): cannot find a way to pay participants. Administrative processes for creating community stipends can be challenging. In our own community engagement, want to right size communities within regions. This is challenging. Some work already outlines how people think about this in adaptation space. But if you want this to go faster, can be more prescriptive. But we want people to be able to define what matters to them.

Nuin-Tara Key: how do we scale to regions? What it means to work at a regional scale depends on what climate hazard you're talking about.



Brian Strong: How to build governance structure that everyone has confidence in? Important to have resources to work through it.

Jamboard: This grant is helpful because it might be the first out the gate before a huge wave of climate/resilience money flows. How can this program result in stronger/joint applications?

Jamboard: Awareness of opportunities is a huge one. Spreading awareness about other projects that are ripe for partnership is a helpful function.

Jamboard: Not sure I would limit the size of the scale.

Jamboard: The size of region should be flexible that should consider both political and ecological boundaries. The 4th Climate Assessment could help inform.

Carol Abbott: Hear some consistent feedback across different stakeholder engagement. Across this we hear from clear needs and how to address it. Now we address the administrative pieces and what the guidelines look like.

Action

None.

Item 7: General Public Comment

None.

Item 8: Closing, Future Agenda Items

Nuin-Tara Key: Will be scheduling 2022 meetings soon. Next meetings: we may need to transition to in-person

- AB 361 (R. Rivas) created special procedures under the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act to allow remote meetings during a state of emergency through January 31, 2021.
- The Governor's Executive Order (EO N-8-21) that extended special provisions for open meetings only applied through September 30, 2021.
- AB 361 contained an urgency clause, so it took effect before the usual January 1, 2022 effective date, and the bill's provisions dictate how we may conduct remote open meetings from October through January.
- After January 31, without further Executive or Legislative action, Bagley-Keene entities would return to pre-pandemic open meeting procedures.

Meeting Adjourned.