



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

## Technical Advisory Council

### Item 8: California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

April 14, 2023

#### Introduction

Actionable science is foundational to California's climate agenda and supports policy, planning and implementation at state and local scales. SB 1320 ([Stern, 2020](#)) directed the Office of Planning and Research's Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program to lead the implementation of California's Climate Change Assessments on a five-year timeline in partnership with the California Natural Resources Agency, Strategic Growth Council, and California Energy Commission. The 2021-22 Climate Budget allocated funding to support the administration of [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment](#) (Fifth Assessment) and develop a suite of original climate change research, data and tools. These include:

- **Downscaled global climate change projections data and modeling** on wildfire risk, hydrology, sea level rise that will be hosted on the State's [Cal-Adapt](#) website.
- **Core Climate Research Reports** include research funded through CEC's EPIC Grant Program to address climate impacts to the energy sector and funding through CNRA's Core Climate Research Program to address climate impacts and adaptation issues for non-energy sectors.
- **[A Tribal Research Program](#)** issues grants for tribally led research through CEC's Tribal Research Grants Program and establishes a Tribal Advisory Group to guide the integration of traditional knowledge(s) into Fifth Assessment products.
- **Synthesis Reports** will integrate various research findings through two suites of reports: 1) **Regional Synthesis Reports** which summarize scientific research and incorporate community input to explore locally relevant climate impacts and adaptation pathways throughout nine regions of the state, and 2) **Topical Synthesis Reports** that consider issues of statewide significance, including, but not limited to, the risks posed to and unique needs of tribal and vulnerable communities.
- **A Statewide Summary Report** will capture key takeaways throughout all Fifth Assessment research products.

Strategic and robust engagement with diverse organizations and individuals throughout the entire timeline is fundamental to achieving the Fifth Assessment's goals to fill gaps in the State's knowledge about climate change impacts and adaptation pathways. It further integrates diverse knowledge into the development of the Fifth Assessment's original climate research.

## Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports Overview

Locally driven research, planning, and implementation are critical to achieving the State's goals to bolster resilience and climate adaptation solutions across California. [California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment](#) established a framework for integrating local knowledge and research findings to address climate issues experienced across nine regions of the State. The Fifth Assessment implementation process will build from this approach in the development of updated Regional Synthesis Reports that leverage diverse community input into the scoping and development of resources that address nuanced impacts of climate change across each California region.

In 2022, the Fifth Assessment project team collected input from more than 200 individuals representing state and local governments, businesses, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, tribal communities, and the general public. Responses included over 600 proposed climate research topics for consideration in the Fifth Assessment. With subject matter expert support, this list was refined to [26 Research Topics](#) that will be used to guide the scope of future deliverables. These topics consider broad issues that address knowledge gaps on climate change impacts and adaptation pathways. **Additional input is needed to consider how these, and other more locally relevant themes can be addressed throughout the Fifth Assessment research.**

The scope and development of the Regional Reports will leverage input collected through engagements with government partners, subject matter experts, and diverse California communities throughout 2023. This includes a public Request for Information (RFI) to collect suggestions on topics (both general and regionally specific), author team partnerships, and administrative logistics associated with the development of each Regional Synthesis Report. This also involves multiple virtual and in-person events to capture diverse perspectives and expertise throughout the state. Collectively, the input gathered will be used to develop a scope of work for each regional report. The drafting process is anticipated to kick off in early 2024.

### Discussion Question

- The Fifth Assessment Research Topic Identification Process determined four cross-cutting themes to be considered throughout Fifth Assessment research. These include governance, economics and financing, traditional knowledge(s), and monitoring. What additional general themes are important to consider within each of the Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports?

## Appendix A: California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Regions



### California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment Regions by County

Central Coast: Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara

Inland Deserts: Eastern San Bernardino and Riverside

Los Angeles: Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, western San Bernardino and Riverside

North Coast: Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Siskiyou, Del Norte

San Diego: San Diego County

Sacramento Valley: Sacramento, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba, Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Tehama, Shasta, eastern Solano, western Placer

San Francisco Bay Area: San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, western Solano, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Sonoma, Napa

San Joaquin Valley: Stanislaus, Merced, Kings, western Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern

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