



ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Technical Advisory Council November 17, 2023 Staff Report

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. Actionable Research and Resilience Metrics..... | 3 |
| California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment..... | 3 |
| Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program | 4 |
| Science Advisory Group (SAG) | 5 |
| 2. Decision Support Tools and Guidance | 6 |
| Adaptation Clearinghouse..... | 6 |
| Cal-Adapt | 7 |
| Planning and Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook Update | 8 |
| Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit..... | 9 |
| 3. Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources | 10 |
| Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function | 10 |
| Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)..... | 11 |
| 4. Funding and Financing | 12 |
| FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners | 12 |
| ICARP Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program..... | 13 |
| ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program | 14 |
| ICARP Regional Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program | 15 |
| 5. Climate Equity and Vulnerable Communities..... | 16 |
| Vulnerable Communities Platform..... | 16 |
| 6. Additional Special Initiatives | 17 |
| California Climate Adaptation Strategy..... | 17 |
| The California Extreme Heat Action Plan..... | 18 |

ICARP Programmatic Priorities

With guidance from the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council, and building on the 2023 ICARP Impact Report, ICARP staff implement a suite of programmatic priorities. Regular programmatic updates, organized by the following Council priorities, are summarized through these quarterly staff reports.

Actionable Research and Resilience Metrics

Grounding California's adaptation and resiliency policy in cutting-edge science is central to ICARP's charge. By identifying and contextualizing projected climate impacts through the CA Climate Change Assessments, supporting and guiding resilience metrics, and convening a Science Advisory Group, ICARP supports state and local efforts to operationalize actionable climate science.

Decision Support Tools and Guidance

ICARP develops and shares tools and guidance to support a community of practice on adaptation and resilience in California. Through the ICARP Climate Services Team, staff support integrated, science-based climate resilience decisions, planning, and implementation at all levels of governance, through tools like the [State Adaptation Clearinghouse](#).

Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources

ICARP convenes stakeholders across agencies, sectors, and scales to build collaborative partnerships, facilitate integrated climate adaptation and resilience planning, and align funding opportunities. Through the Community Planning and Capacity Building – Recovery Support Function, ICARP staff provides technical assistance and helps communities integrate climate resilience and equity into disaster recovery planning.

Funding and Financing

ICARP's work to scale funding and financing for climate resilience includes supporting state agencies with the integration of climate considerations in existing state programs and investments, as well as making direct investments through multiple grant programs.

Climate Equity and Vulnerable Communities

Climate equity and a focus on vulnerable communities is a core mandate for ICARP, both statutorily and programmatically as defined in [ICARP's vision and principles](#). Building on the Council's leadership to define [Vulnerable Communities](#), and in response to stakeholder needs, ICARP continues to fill critical gaps by developing resources and tools that support equitable adaptation action.

Additional Special Initiatives

ICARP Staff and Council respond proactively to new and emerging issues and opportunities as they align with the ICARP core vision and principles. This includes building new partnerships and initiatives and providing guidance and support for partner efforts to respond in real time to local, regional, and state needs.

1. Actionable Research and Resilience Metrics

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

Staff Lead: [Neil Matouka](#) / [Elea Becker Lowe](#)

Background / Framing Context

Preparing California for the impacts of climate change requires detailed and accurate forecasts of their location, severity, and onset. At the direction of [SB 1320 \(Stern, 2020\)](#) and with funding from the [2021 Climate Budget](#), ICARP is coordinating the Fifth California Climate Change Assessment in partnership with the California Energy Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, Strategic Growth Council, and other expert and community partners. The Fifth Assessment will include the next generation of downscaled climate change projections and modeling, technical research reports, regional and topical synthesis reports, decision-support tools, and a first-of-its-kind tribal research program.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1-Q4: Produce new climate data and scenarios that will inform hydrologic and wildfire modeling, and sea level rise projections.
- Q1-Q3: Launch original climate research funding opportunities, including a Core Climate Research Program and the Tribal Research Grants Program.
- Ongoing: Robust community engagement to gather input on the scope of regional and statewide research products and embed equity in the State's climate research.

Updates for Q4 2023

- The Fifth Assessment team will announce the updated boundaries that will be used to define the geographic scope for the regional authorship teams and the regional reports by December.
- The Fifth Assessment team will announce the topics for the statewide topical reports by December.
- The Core Climate Research Program will make funding award announcements by the end of the year.

Looking Ahead

- The Fifth Assessment team will be finalizing, and entering into, contracts with the authorship teams for the regional and topical reports.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program

Staff Lead: [Patricia Kennedy](#)

Background/Framing Context

Indigenous communities are on the frontlines of those experiencing and adapting to climate change. Through the Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program, California is investing in tribal-led climate change research initiatives throughout the Fifth Assessment products.

This program will:

- Engage with tribes early, often, and meaningfully throughout the Fifth Assessment, offering continued Government to Government Consultation.
- Support tribal-led research and assessments focused on climate change goals as identified by the State and Tribes through a tribal grant program.
- Form a Tribal Advisory Group to guide the integration of traditional knowledge and tribal-led research into the State's Climate Assessment research portfolio.
- Support information sharing and learning amongst and within Tribes.
- Develop guidance and protocols to guide the State and researchers on meaningful collaboration around Indigenous Knowledge(s) (IK) and Tribal Expertise.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Convene the Tribal Advisory Group.
- Q3: Release Final Grant Funding Opportunity of the Tribal Research Grant Program.
- Q4: Announce Round 1 Grant Awards.
- Q2-Q4: Launch community engagement to scope the regional and tribal reports.
- Q4: Scoping and RFI process for IK Guidelines Project and Tribal Synthesis Report.

Updates for Q4 2023

- The Tribal Advisory Group continues to meet monthly and provide guidance.
- The [Tribal Research Grant Program](#) Application Due Date is November 17, 2023 at 5pm
- RFQ for IK Guidelines and Protocol Project is expected to be released in November 2023
- The team and TAG are finalizing SOW and Author Team structures for the Tribal Report

Looking Ahead

- Announcement of Round 1 Grants
- Announcement of IK Guidelines Awardee and Project Plan
- Entering into agreements with a Coordinating Lead for the Tribal Report

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

Science Advisory Group (SAG)

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#)

Background / Framing Context

Actionable science is foundational to California's climate agenda and supports science-informed policies and investments to respond to accelerating climate impacts. While many state agencies have science advisory bodies that provide valuable, sector-specific guidance, there have been many calls to convene statewide and multi-sector science advisory bodies that provide consistent climate science guidance across state agencies and inform statewide climate adaptation and resilience decision making.

As the state's primary hub for coordination on adaptation and resiliency across local, regional, and state efforts, and with funding through the 2021 Climate Budget, ICARP will convene the ICARP Science Advisory Group (SAG) to promote alignment of the state's deployment of climate science in resilience planning, policy, and investments. The SAG will significantly advance ICARP's goal of providing relevant, actionable data and research to support robust climate adaptation and resilience planning and policy.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Finalize SAG structure and initiate recruitment
- Q2-4: Convene SAG
- Q4: Brief report on updated structure/orientation of SAG

Updates for Q4 2023

- Based on input from the April 2023 TAC meeting, community and interagency engagement around the Vulnerable Communities Platform, and information-gathering to inform the technical assistance framework in development by the ICARP Climate Services team, staff are expanding the SAG to include a wider range of expertise and input.

Looking Ahead

- Staff will build out contact lists for four priority areas, including: community and environmental justice organizations coordinated in collaboration with the Community Resilience Working Group, interagency collaborators via the Interagency Technical Working Group, local governments or low-capacity organizations interested in technical assistance, and federal/academic experts to aid in alignment around funding priorities and research and data needs.
- Staff will coordinate across these networks to leverage any existing efforts on science advisory processes, and identify emergent questions or decision support needs, to coordinate communication and alignment within this network.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

2. Decision Support Tools and Guidance

Adaptation Clearinghouse

Staff Lead: [Nikki Caravelli](#)

Background / Framing Context

ICARP's enabling statute, SB 246 (Wieckowski, 2015), charges ICARP with creating and managing a clearinghouse of climate adaptation information. The Adaptation Clearinghouse is the State of California's consolidated searchable database of resources for statewide, local, and regional climate adaptation planning and decision-making at [ResilientCA.org](#).

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q2: Completed User Needs Assessment (Complete)
- Q2: Completed city layer of the ResilientCA Adaptation Planning Map (RAP-Map) (Complete)
- Q3: Updated online Coastal Compass (Complete)
- Q2: Executed two-year contract and initiation of two-year redevelopment plan. (Complete)
- Ongoing: database quality control and updates.

Updates for Q4 2023

- Staff are developing a new information architecture and site entry points in response to recommendations from the user needs assessment.
- Staff have updated the resource upload process and are soliciting new resources for the database on an ongoing basis.
- Staff completed the RAP-Map's remaining gaps in city adaptation planning data. Every city and county in California has been reviewed at least once by staff since 2021 to inventory and document local adaptation efforts.

Looking Ahead

- Web development to implement the new information architecture and entry points begins in Q4 2023. Additional updates throughout the site will continue through 2025.
- Staff will present a technical assistance framework and programming options for the Council to review and advise at a future Council meeting.

Follow-ups for Council

- Councilmembers and the public may submit resources for staff to consider adding to the database at any time through this form: <https://forms.office.com/g/pxif53cDwA>.

Cal-Adapt

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#)

Background / Framing Context

Cal-Adapt is the State of California's open-source web platform for accessing high-quality, peer-reviewed downscaled climate data and projections. Currently, the web application accesses data from California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment and provides data visualizations, features, and tools for many local climate-related risks, including projected changes in sea level, wildfires, temperature, precipitation, snowpack, and more. These valued resources guide decisionmakers at state, regional, and local levels when planning for and implementing climate adaptation projects to promote resiliency to climate change.

With funding from the 2021 Climate Budget, the California Energy Commission (CEC) and OPR will expand Cal-Adapt into the Cal-Adapt Enterprise with new climate data from California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment that includes features for a broad range of stakeholders who need easily accessible data visualizations and tools, while also providing a more powerful analytics engine to serve highly technical, data-intensive needs. In coordination with the CEC, ICARP will oversee maintenance and development of interactive visualizations and tools for a broad base of users such as local and state decision makers and community-based organizations.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1-2: User needs assessment activities to inform Cal-Adapt redevelopment priorities and strategic direction. (Complete)
- Q2-3: Data visualization prototypes and architecture for revised Cal-Adapt visualizations (Complete)
- Q3-4: Develop/initiate development contract to update Cal-Adapt and integrate updated data visualizations

Updates for Q4 2023

- Staff presented Cal-Adapt general user framework at interagency and coordination meetings (IRWG, CEC C-DAWG) for feedback and comment
- Staff are developing an updated workplan for the Cal-Adapt web application based on input from the user needs assessment, and in coordination with CEC for alignment with Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine

Looking Ahead

- Cal-Adapt web application development to begin in coordination with CEC, and staff are exploring opportunities to better integrate other ICARP resources (VCP, Adaptation Clearinghouse) as part of this updated development.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

Planning and Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook Update

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#)

Background / Framing Context

[Executive Order N-19-19](#) calls for embedding physical climate risk into state investment decisions. Successful incorporation of physical climate risk into asset investment decisions requires the consistent application of climate science and downscaled risk projections into asset planning and investment processes. It further requires a similarly consistent decision-making framework to identify and prioritize climate adaptation actions.

To respond to EO-N-19-19, ICARP staff are updating the Planning and Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook ([Resilience Guidebook, 2017](#)), initially developed in response to [Executive Order B-30-15](#). Revisions will include updates to the foundational science that underpins the Resilience Guidebook, as well as updating the adaptation decision-making framework to incorporate discussion of adaptation pathways.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1-2: Engage with agency collaborators regarding needs and gaps, and to identify priority areas for updates
- Q4: Draft update to Guidebook released for feedback and input.

Updates for Q4 2023

- Staff are reviewing the guidebook to outline priority areas for updated content, or opportunities for appended content.

Looking Ahead

- Staff will coordinate with interagency partners to help review gaps or opportunities for the guidebook update, with a review/update cycle shifted to early 2024 to better accommodate alignment with the release of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment data in late 2023 or early 2024

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time

Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit

Staff Lead: [Nikki Caravelli](#) / [Sarah Samdin](#)

Background / Framing Context

ICARP Climate Services, in partnership with numerous local, regional, state, and federal partners, released the Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit in November 2022 on the Adaptation Clearinghouse. The toolkit is a suite of climate resilience plan alignment guides and supporting resources to support local climate resilience planning. The goal of the toolkit is to support alignment of local and regional planning efforts, allowing planners and other practitioners to achieve climate resilience goals, reduce duplication, and avoid policy conflicts. Current guides focus on wildfire, flood-after-fire, and coastal hazard resilience, and summarize requirements and best practices, discuss strategies to leverage various planning and implementation processes, and identify alignment opportunities and tricky spots to avoid.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q3: Update and publish print and online version of the Coastal Compass
- Q3: Print and distribute plan alignment guide booklets
- Q3-Q4: Outreach and engagement activities

Updates for Q4 2023

- Print booklets are available to the public upon request, while supplies last.
- Staff presented at a FEMA adaptation planning workshop, and at an OPR General Plan Guidelines webinar, to promote the plan alignment toolkit.

Looking Ahead

- Staff are exploring opportunities to host local and regional plan alignment workshops, as well as partnerships with other State agencies to develop future plan alignment resources.

Follow-ups for Council

- To request a printed plan alignment booklet, send your mailing address to icarp@opr.ca.gov and staff will mail the guide to the provided address. To request a plan alignment presentation or workshop in your region, contact staff.

3. Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources

Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function

Staff Lead: [Sloane Viola](#) / Disaster Resilience and Recovery Specialist, TBD

Background / Framing Context

In partnership with Cal OES, OPR serves as the lead state agency on the Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function (CPCB-RSF), which strengthens the adaptive capacity of local governments to plan for and implement long-term disaster resilience and recovery programs by coordinating information, technical assistance, and funding. OPR, through ICARP, works to integrate climate adaptation and resilience policies into hazard mitigation, emergency management, and disaster recovery programs. To extend the impact of the CPCB-RSF, the ICARP team will lead the development of a peer-to-peer learning network for disaster resilience and long-term recovery planning.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Engage stakeholders from disaster-impacted and at-risk communities to solicit feedback on local planning and capacity needs for long-term disaster recovery and resilience.
- Ongoing: Convene local governments as part of Peer Learning Network to build a cohort of disaster-impacted and at-risk communities, accelerate information exchange, and connect communities to funding opportunities.

Updates for Q4 2023

- Staff continues to participate in weekly interagency CPCB-RSF meetings. The group has begun discussions about the scope and goals of the Peer Learning Network.

Looking Ahead

- No updates forecasted until the Disaster Resilience & Recovery Specialist is hired.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Staff Lead: [Sloane Viola](#) / Disaster Resilience and Recovery Specialist, TBD

Background / Framing Context

With support from the ICARP TAC, OPR signed an MOU with HCD on August 19, 2021 to enable the ICARP TAC to serve as the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for the 2017/2018 Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) grant program. CDBG-MIT is a federal program that funds planning and infrastructure projects that reduce disaster risks and promote community resilience in disaster-impacted communities. HUD requires state grantees to convene a CAC to promote transparency and engage stakeholders on how to use and implement these one-time community hazard mitigation funds. The CAC represents an opportunity for dialogue with agencies, grantees, and external stakeholders to inform program implementation and align the program guidelines other state hazard mitigation funding sources, including those administered by Cal OES and CAL FIRE.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q2 & Q4: Convene the Citizen Advisory Committee to provide feedback on CDBG-MIT

Updates for Q4 2023

- This meeting will include an update on current CDBG implementation, and an discussion about new grants through CDBG-DR to support flood resilience and recovery.

Looking Ahead

- HCD will develop priorities for the new CDBG-DR flood resilience and recovery grants.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

4. Funding and Financing

FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners

Staff Lead: [Sarah Samdin](#)

Background / Framing Context

ICARP has received three Cooperative Technical Partners (CTP) grants from FEMA to provide coordination support to align federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding with state resilience goals. The partnership supports identification of projects that strengthen California's portfolio of nature-based, social and environmental justice projects. With a specific focus on hard-to-reach priority project types, as identified by FEMA, these pilot projects will help shape a pipeline of projects that may be eligible for future FEMA funding.

ICARP, in partnership with CalOES, provides technical assistance to state partners who are new to the federal HMA space, and helps identify innovative projects for FEMA's newest pre-disaster infrastructure funding program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program. This partnership advances California's climate resiliency goals, as well as the Governor's priority of leveraging state and federal funding.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q4: Case Study documenting lessons learned, promising practices, and challenges with aligning a state climate resilience funding program with FEMA HMA eligibility. ICARP's APGP seeks to serve as proof of concept of how align state and federal funding opportunities.

Updates for Q4 2023

- Staff submitted case study deliverable to FEMA on October 30. Staff are in the process of closing out the CTP FY21 grant.
- Staff onboarded California Indian Environmental Alliance to lead tribal engagement for the Tribal User Needs Assessment, a CTP FY22 deliverable. The function of a needs assessment is to identify the existing gaps between the current state of a topic and a desired outcome, in this case the state of tribal climate resilience in California.

Looking Ahead

- OPR will hire and recruit an Assistant Planner to support the Tribal User Needs Assessment and other CTP FY22 deliverables.
- Staff will begin work on CTP FY22 deliverables, including the development of a State Resilience Funding Program Guidebook that documents how to develop and design a state funding program that is aligned with FEMA HMA Guidance.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

ICARP Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program

Staff Lead: [Braden Kay](#)

Background / Framing Context

Extreme heat is a public health, climate resilience, and social equity problem that will impact every community in California. Historically, the lack of guidance and support to plan and implement heat interventions has hindered bold local action to address these unique risks. The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program builds capacity for heat action planning and project implementation in the most heat-burdened communities by providing funding and technical support. The program also drives the state's work to implement California's Extreme Heat Action Plan, a comprehensive, coordinated response across state agencies for advancing equitable outcomes, including reducing economic and health disparities associated with extreme heat.

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program will invest in local, regional, and tribal heat reduction and mitigation efforts. This program will fund projects that mitigate the impacts of extreme heat or the urban heat island effect by adopting strategies, including, but not limited to, heat action plans, providing mechanical or natural shade, increasing building and surface reflectance, providing passive or low-energy cooling strategies, and promoting evaporative cooling.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Program Engagement Kickoff at the Quarter 1 Technical Advisory Council Meeting
- Q2: Program Engagement through focus groups and listening sessions; Guideline development and refinement
- Q3: Draft Guideline Release
- Q4: Draft Final Guidelines and Application Materials

Updates for Q4 2023

- Guidelines opened for public comment 10/12/23
- Staff will revise the Draft Guidelines based on public comments to inform the final Guidelines
- Conducting additional engagement to ensure guidelines meet the needs of heat vulnerable populations including farmworkers, laborers, aging populations, young people in schools, people experiencing homelessness and others.
- Later in Q4, staff will begin developing a technical assistance framework for Round One

Looking Ahead

- Funding opportunity will be released in Winter of 2024

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time

ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program

Staff Lead: [Abby Edwards](#)

Background / Framing Context

In 2021, OPR, through ICARP, received \$25M in the state budget to fund the ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program (Adaptation Planning Grant Program) to support local, regional, and tribal adaptation planning across California.

As communities in California experience more frequent, prolonged, and severe impacts of climate change, state, regional, local, and tribal governments are undertaking adaptation and resiliency planning. However, many jurisdictions lack the capacity, tools, guidance, and resources to effectively prepare for climate impacts. To meet this need, the Adaptation Planning Grant Program provides funding to help fill planning needs, provides communities the resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and supports the development of a pipeline of climate resilient infrastructure projects across the state.

Key priorities of the program are to:

- Explicitly and meaningfully prioritize equitable outcomes, particularly in the most vulnerable communities
- Encourage communities to equitably plan for and respond to multiple climate risks
- Build statewide capacity to plan for and implement equitable planning strategies
- Embed equity into the planning process, from project visioning through project evaluation

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Round 1 Application Window
- Q2: Application Review & Awards
- Q3: Round 1 Contracting, Draft Guideline Development
- Q4: Round 2 Draft Guideline Release

Updates for Q3 2023

- Staff are working on updates to Round 2 guidelines and plan to release the Guidelines for public comment later in Q4.

Looking Ahead

- Staff plan to release the Intent to Apply for APGP Round 2 Survey.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

ICARP Regional Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program

Staff Lead: [Dolores Barajas](#)

Background / Framing Context

The Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program is developing a Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (Regional Resilience Grant Program, RRGP) that will invest \$100 million over multiple funding rounds to help fill local, regional, and tribal adaptation planning and resilience needs, and support the development of a pipeline of climate resilient projects. Available to local, regional, and tribal governments, the Regional Resilience Grant Program will support regions in advancing resilience through three major activities: capacity-building, planning, and project implementation. Grants will be available both competitively and on a formula basis.

Key Priorities of ICARP's Regional Resilience Grant Program are to:

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

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Release draft guidelines for public comment (Complete)
- Q2: Request for proposals, release round 1 grant application (Complete)
- Q3: Application assistance and review process (In progress)
- Q4: Round 1 grant awards and round 2 draft guidelines outreach

Updates for Q4 2023

- RRGP staff closed the application window on August 29th and received 83 applications requesting over 5 times the available funding for round 1. Staff are currently coordinating the application review process.
- RRGP staff will announce round 1 awards in December 2023 and begin outreach for round 2.

Looking Ahead

- Staff will conduct outreach for Round 2 RRGP Guidelines.
- Projects awarded in Round 1 will begin.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

5. Climate Equity and Vulnerable Communities

Vulnerable Communities Platform

Staff Lead: [Ankitha Doddanari](#), [Mark Hedlund](#)

Background / Framing Context

Building off the 2018 ICARP TAC definition of “vulnerable communities” in the context of climate adaptation, and in response to queries from a range of cross-sector stakeholders, OPR is developing an integrated platform to make this definition actionable for adaptation policy and investment decisions. The goal for the Vulnerable Communities Platform is to develop an open, accessible, and community-grounded platform that holistically identifies the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Developing the ICARP Vulnerable Communities Platform consists of several workstreams: (1) background research and comparison with existing policy guidance, vulnerability assessments, and data platforms; (2) convening an interagency state technical workgroup; (3) engagement with vulnerable communities through listening sessions and pilot community partnerships; and (4) technical assistance and support from ESRI.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Compilation of existing statewide and federal datasets, and prototype VCP (beta) using initial regional/vulnerability framework (Complete)
- Q1: Engage with Community Resilience Working Group (CRWG) and Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) to establish VCP regional framework and process for review and input
- Q2-3: VCP 1.0, regional and community engagement around priority climate risks and community input and inclusion on VCP
- Q4: VCP 2.0 with regional vulnerability scenarios and community case studies, implementation plan for targeted climate services

Updates for Q4 2023

- Engaged academic, community, and local government stakeholders statewide to gather feedback on the proposed functions for VCP through 5th Assessment regional workshops
- Kicked off partnership with ESRI to provide technical assistance for the development of the final VCP

Looking Ahead

- Reconvene ITWG to vet VCP data sources with subject matter expert groups
- Organize community partnership pilot to collect on-the-ground experiences with climate change for inclusion in VCP

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time

6. Additional Special Initiatives

California Climate Adaptation Strategy

Staff Lead: [Sloane Viola](#)

Background / Framing Context

California is statutorily required to release an updated, comprehensive, statewide climate adaptation strategy every three years ([AB 1482](#), Gordon, 2015). Previous strategies were released in 2009, 2014, and 2018. For the 2021 Update, the California Natural Resources Agency and OPR, through ICARP, partnered to co-coordinate the development of California's 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy.

This update to the Strategy links together the state's existing, planned, and resourced climate adaptation efforts, showing how they fit together to achieve broad climate resilience priorities. The Strategy also specifies needed actions, with timeframes and metrics, to drive progress and enable accountability. The Strategy is organized around outcome-based priorities, rather than individual sectors, enabling a coordinated, integrated approach to building climate resilience. The 2021 Strategy will be released as an interactive website that serves as a hub for state climate resilience action. This website will be updated to reflect progress and make adjustments, and will allow for Californians to easily access information on the state's efforts.

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q1: Release an annual implementation report and update the Strategy website to reflect progress
- Q2-Q4: Scope the 2024 update to the State Adaptation Strategy leading up to the release of the Draft in January 2024

Updates for Q4 2023

- CNRA will release a Request for Proposals later this quarter and onboard a firm.
- CNRA and ICARP continue to leverage the Interagency Resilience Work Group and other interagency channels to get input on implementation progress for the current Strategy, updating existing actions and metrics applicable to the next Strategy, and identify new actions to include. This input supplements feedback being collected via regional workshops, tribal listening sessions, and other experts and practitioners across California.

Looking Ahead

- CNRA and ICARP will release a Draft 2024 Adaptation Strategy for public comment in early 2024.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

The California Extreme Heat Action Plan

Staff Lead: [Braden Kay](#)

Background / Framing Context

The [2022 Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) provides a strategic and comprehensive set of state actions to adapt and build resilience to extreme heat. It outlines California's all-of-government approach to mitigating the health, economic, cultural, ecological, and social impacts of increasing average temperatures and heat waves. The action plan was developed as part of the state's 2021 update to California's Climate Adaptation Strategy, in recognition of the need for an updated, integrated approach to addressing extreme heat. The Extreme Heat Action Plan provides an update to and expansion of the state's 2013 report on extreme heat ("[Preparing California for Extreme Heat Guidance and Recommendations](#)").

Summary of Major 2023 Deliverables

- Q4: Collect information on implementation progress from state agencies

Updates for Q4 2023

- None at this time.

Looking Ahead

- In partnership with the California Natural Resources Agency, Staff will incorporate priority actions from the Extreme Heat Action Plan into the 2024 update to the Adaptation Strategy.
- With the passage of [SB 306](#), Staff will regularly update the Extreme Heat Action Plan every 3 years beginning in 2026.

Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.