



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

## Technical Advisory Council March 29, 2024 Staff Report

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## 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; Data, Core Climate Research & Synthesis Reports

Staff Lead: [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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1-Q2: Finalize new climate data and scenarios that will inform hydrologic and wildfire modeling, and sea level rise projections.
- Q1: Launch Core Climate Research projects implementation.
- Q1-Q2: Enter into contracts with author teams to develop regional and topical reports.
- Q3-Q4: Ongoing research and development.
- 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 Q1 2024

- Staff are working with interagency partners on uplifting relevant State resources and expertise throughout Fifth Assessment research products.

### Looking Ahead

- Finalize Topical Synthesis Report themes, author teams, and commence work.
- Convene ongoing collaborations between Fifth Assessment research author teams.

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

## **Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program**

Staff Lead: [Elea Becker Lowe](#) / Tribal Program Manager TBD

### **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 among 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 2024 Deliverables**

- Ongoing: Convene the Tribal Advisory Group.
- Q1: Announce Round 1 Tribal Research Grant Awards.
- Q1: Contracting for Tribal Synthesis Report.
- Q2: Scoping for IK Guidelines Project.
- Q2: Release Solicitation for Round 2 Tribal Research Grants.
- Q3-Q4: Announce Round 2 Tribal Research Grant Awards.

### **Updates for Q1 2024**

- The Tribal Research Grant Program announced a [Notice of Proposed Awards](#)
- Staff are preparing for the Tribal Research Grant Program Round II

### **Looking Ahead**

- Develop scope for Indigenous Knowledges Guidance document
- Ongoing collaborations between Fifth Assessment research author teams

### **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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Align existing interagency coordination with SAG framing and develop updated overview of SAG role and structure (e.g. input on emergent science questions, with ad-hoc participation based on the question at hand)
- Q2-4: Convene SAG working groups in response to emergent issues and questions
- Q4: Brief report on whether updated SAG framework increased responsiveness to emergent issues, and whether this approach helped broaden networks of participation.

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff revisited optimal structure for SAG operations, and are working to align existing science advisory coordination within OPR (e.g. the Interagency Technical Working Group) and outside of OPR, to identify specific points of input for an ad-hoc group

### Looking Ahead

- Staff will use the ad-hoc approach to SAG participation to frame working group effort around task-specific inputs for the SAG, such as feedback on emissions scenario framing for state policy guidance (e.g. the planning and investing guidebook) or decisions around data selection in ICARP developed climate services and tools (e.g. the Vulnerable Communities Platform).
- Staff will coordinate with ongoing ICARP efforts to develop an updated technical assistance framework for climate and adaptation data, to funnel science questions and emergent priorities into the SAG for review and input.

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time

## 2. Decision Support Tools and Guidance

### Adaptation Clearinghouse

Staff Lead: TBD

#### 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](https://ResilientCA.org).

#### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Q2: Updated site navigation and home page improvements.
- Q2-Q4: Adaptation Help Desk, Intro to Adaptation content, and technical assistance service launched.
- Q4: Updated Search, Topics, Case Studies, Data/Tools, and Investing in Adaptation pages.
- Ongoing: database quality control and updates.

#### Updates for Q1 2024

- All case studies from FY 2019-2020 of the SB 1 Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant Program are now posted on the Case Studies section of the site. SB 1 Caltrans APGP Case studies document vulnerability assessments, local and regional planning efforts, infrastructure studies, and other adaptation efforts from three rounds of grants in FY [2017-2018](#), [2018-2019](#), and [2019-2020](#).

#### Looking Ahead

- Staff and developers have initiated updates to the site navigation and home page.
- Staff have begun developing the inaugural Adaptation Help Desk on the Adaptation Clearinghouse (See Technical Assistance).

#### Follow-ups for Council

- Anyone can submit resources for staff to consider adding to the Adaptation Clearinghouse 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, projections, and visualizations from California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment. These valued resources guide decisionmakers at all scales when advancing climate adaptation plans and projects. With funding from the 2021 Climate Budget, the California Energy Commission (CEC) and OPR are expanding Cal-Adapt into the Cal-Adapt Enterprise with new climate data from the [Fifth Assessment](#) includes updated, more accessible and versatile features for a broad range of users, while also providing a more powerful analytics engine to serve highly technical, data-intensive needs.

### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Initiate Interagency agreement with CEC to pilot first round of general user focused visualization and data tools, focused on ease of use and integrating results and insights from the 2023 climate services user needs assessment.
- Q2: Begin development of data visualization tools using Fifth Assessment data and updating as new projections become available, with iterative feedback from stakeholders and user groups during these development phases.
- Q3-4: Develop use-case guidance and support documents for best practices and use cases of updated data and tools, support for data and scenario choice, and ongoing coordination with Analytics Engine team to support for a range of users.
- Q4: Coordination within ICARP climate services (Vulnerable Communities Platform and Adaptation Clearinghouse) to ensure alignment across the climate services portfolio.

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff are finalizing a revised development plan to use an interagency agreement to leverage tools and resources developed by the Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine team.
- The draft general use projections presented at the CEC-CDAWG meeting in Q4 2023 will inform development of general user focused tools in 2024.

### Looking Ahead

- Staff are modeling initial development plans on the most used tools from the current version of Cal-Adapt, as well as insights from the 2023 user needs assessment.
- Development plans are emphasizing integration across the climate services portfolio and other state adaptation resources, to highlight connection and integration in planning and decision making.

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time

## State Adaptation Guidance

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#), [Sarah Samdin](#)

### Background / Framing Context

State guidance documents provide key information and best practices to inform how communities, local governments, and State agencies integrate climate risk and adaptation solutions into planning, investments, and other actions. OPR maintains and updates multiple critical State guidance documents such as the Planning and Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook ([Resilience Guidebook, 2017](#)), the [Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit](#), and more. ICARP staff also coordinate with other State agencies' guidance efforts to facilitate interagency alignment and collaboration, including the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) on updates to the [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#) and other key State guidance and policy documents.

### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Plan Alignment - distribution of plan alignment booklets at public events.
- Ongoing: collaboration with State partners on climate resilience-related guidance.
- Q2: Plan Alignment – Pilot Workshop.
- Q1-2: Resilience Guidebook - Engage with agency collaborators regarding needs and gaps, and to identify priority areas for updates.
- Q4: Resilience Guidebook - Draft update to Guidebook released for feedback and input.

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff distributed free plan alignment booklets at OPR's Resilience Nexus Event and the CalOES Mitigation Summit and continue to seek other distribution and partnership opportunities.
- OPR's Planning and Community Development Team will be launching an update process for the State's General Plan Guidelines in 2024. Key priorities include integrating additional climate risk, adaptation and resilience policy and guidance updates throughout the new Guidelines. The updated Guidelines will be updated over the course of the next two years, with anticipated release in 2026.

### Looking Ahead

- Staff are planning a pilot plan alignment workshop with a volunteer community to demonstrate toolkit principles and test implementation of the best practices. Staff will document the process and outcomes as a model for other communities.

### Follow-ups for Council

- To request a printed plan alignment booklet, send your mailing address to [icarp@opr.ca.gov](mailto: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: [Michael Maguire](#) / 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 2024 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 Q1 2024

- 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: [Michael Maguire](#) / 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 2024 Deliverables**

- Q1: Staff will amend the MOU to dissolve the partnership.

### **Updates for Q1 2024**

- HCD and ICARP Staff reflected on the terms of the CDBG-MIT MOU and the past TAC discussions on this item. Because these agenda items rarely resulted in public feedback on the program, Staff felt that the purpose of the MOU was not being supported.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development no longer requires a public advisory committee in this program, so Staff determined that this partnership to leverage the TAC as the CDBG-MIT Citizen Advisory Committee was no longer necessary.
- Staff developed an amendment to the MOU to dissolve the agreement, which HCD and OPR's legal and leadership have approved.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Staff will continue to coordinate with HCD and will bring agenda items on CDBG-MIT to the Council as beneficial to the program and TAC.

### **Follow-ups for Council**

- None at this time.

## Technical Assistance

Staff Lead: TBD

### Background / Framing Context

OPR Climate Services aims to build the capacity of adaptation practitioners by providing targeted, customized technical assistance (TA). Following research, practitioner interviews, a user needs assessment in 2023, and a review of public feedback from multiple OPR climate adaptation programs, the Climate Services team is prioritizing the need for more direct, personalized technical assistance from the State to support California adaptation practitioners. Beginning in 2024, Climate Services staff are piloting new TA services that provide advisory, connective, and problem-solving support to current and prospective users of the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Cal-Adapt, Vulnerable Communities Platform, Adaptation Planning Guide, and others – including State agency staff, local government staff, and regional and community-based practitioners. In helping build practitioners' knowledge, capacity, and ability to use these tools and resources, Climate Services aims to help advance local, regional, and state adaptation goals and actions.

### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Ongoing: State & Federal TA navigation & coordination efforts.
- Q2-Q4: Launch Pilot of an Adaptation Help Desk on the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Vulnerable Communities Platform and Cal-Adapt.

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff have begun developing the inaugural Adaptation Help Desk on the Adaptation Clearinghouse, which will serve as a portal for practitioners to access technical assistance from ICARP's Climate Services team and other State technical assistance services and adaptation resources. The Help Desk is planned for public launch later in 2024.

### Looking Ahead

- Staff are launching coordination efforts to evaluate opportunities for interagency collaboration, and to potentially leverage the TA resources of other State agency programs.

### Follow-ups for Council

- Technical assistance providers (including State, Federal, and non-government entities) interested in coordinating to support the provision of accessible adaptation support services may contact [Ben McMahan](#).

## 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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1-Q4: Outreach and engagement to California Native American tribes to inform the Tribal User Needs Assessment.
- Q1-Q4: Staff will establish an advisory group, composed of state agencies to inform the development of a guidebook on how to align state climate resilience funding programs with federal hazard mitigation assistance funding.

#### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff have partnered with the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) to lead outreach and engagement with California Native American tribes to inform the Tribal User Needs Assessment.
- Staff have created a survey for tribal leadership, tribal government staff, and tribal community members to understand challenges tribes face to implement climate resilience adaptation planning efforts.
- OPR is currently in the process of recruiting and hiring an Assistant Planner to support the Tribal User Needs Assessment portfolio.

#### Looking Ahead

- Staff will share updates on the outreach and engagement efforts for Tribal User Needs Assessment in the upcoming quarter.

#### 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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Round 1 Request for Proposals opens
- Q2: Round 1 RFP closes and application review
- Q3: Round 1 Awards, and Revisions of grant guidelines for Round 2 (If funding is available)
- Q4: Round 2 Request for Proposals and contracting for Round 1 Awardees

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Weekly workshops to support potential grantees including presentations by leading national practitioners
- Intent to apply form for applicants wanting individual TA is due March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Technical assistance for applicants available through contract with Civix with priorities given to tribes and disadvantaged communities

### Looking Ahead

- Grant applications for Round 1 due on April 23<sup>rd</sup>

### 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 funding 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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Round 2 Draft Guidelines, Round 2 Request for Proposals (RFP) opens
- Q2: Round 2 RFP closes, R1 project implementation and capacity building
- Q3: Application Review & Awards, R1 project implementation and capacity building
- Q4: Round 3 Draft Guideline Release

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Draft Round 2 Guidelines are available for public comment until February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm.
- Round 2 Request for Proposals and Final Guidelines available

### Looking Ahead

- The Round 2 application window will be open through mid May

### 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 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 regional-scale partnerships in advancing resilience through planning and project implementation grants. The program will administer grants competitively and by funding set-asides.

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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Submit report to the Legislature on RRGP's progress and regional resilience recommendations. (Complete)
- Q2: Execute grant agreements with 16 awardees announced in December 2023.
- Q3: Grantee technical assistance and capacity building.

## Updates for Q1 2024

- RRGP staff held 16 kick-off meetings with grantee partnerships to execute grant agreements and over 40 meetings with declined applicants to provide application feedback.

## Looking Ahead

- RRGP staff, along with a third-party consultant, are providing technical assistance and capacity building services to grantees.

## 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) identifying, combining, and visualizing data in a way that can best illustrate climate vulnerability; (2) convening an interagency state technical workgroup to advise on best practices; (3) engagement with vulnerable communities through listening sessions and pilot community partnerships; and (4) technical assistance and support from ESRI.

#### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Partner with ESRI to build web-hub to house the platform and prototype the climate hazard and sensitivity map viewer application.
- Q1: Engage with Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) to identify optimal extreme heat, wildfire, drought, flooding/SLR risk and vulnerability data.
- Q2: Prototype climate vulnerability tool comparison and resource springboard applications.
- Q3-4: Organize case studies in partnership with communities to solicit feedback on usability of VCP prototype, collect on-the-ground experiences with climate change to fill in data gaps on the platform, and serve as examples of how experiential knowledge can be combined with climate risk data to foster inclusive adaptation planning.

#### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff presented overview, demos, and updates regarding the VCP at the Climate Resilience Nexus event and provided opportunities for feedback.

#### Looking Ahead

- Staff will continue to work with ESRI to build the VCP and will engage subject matter experts in ITWG to identify and validate data

#### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.



## 6. Additional Special Initiatives

### California Climate Adaptation Strategy

Staff Lead: [Abby Edwards](#), [Braden Kay](#) / Council Manager, TBD

#### Background / Framing Context

California prepares a comprehensive statewide climate adaptation strategy every three years ([AB 1482](#), Gordon, 2015). Previous strategies were released in 2009, 2014, and 2018. Beginning with 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. [AB 1384 \(Gabriel, 2022\)](#) requires the 2024 Strategy and subsequent updates to place greater emphasis on the needs of vulnerable communities. The Strategy statute also requires annual reporting on implementation progress.

The Strategy shows how the state's existing, planned, and resourced climate adaptation efforts fit together to achieve broad climate resilience priorities. It also specifies needed actions, with timeframes and metrics, to drive progress and enable accountability. By organizing around outcome-based priorities, rather than individual sectors, the Strategy promotes a coordinated, integrated approach to climate resilience. The Strategy exists as an interactive website that 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 2024 Deliverables

- Q1: Release Draft 2024 Strategy, onboard contracting firm, gather information from state agencies for 2021 Strategy's 2023 Implementation Report
- Q2: Public engagement and workshops on Draft 2024 Strategy, release and promote 2021 Strategy's 2023 Implementation Report
- Q3: Release final 2024 Strategy
- Q4: Scoping of annual implementation report

#### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff have requested updated progress indicators and examples of success stories or case studies from state agencies, which will support content development underway for the 2023 Implementation Report to the 2021 Strategy.
- Staff are identifying a contractor to support the 2024 Strategy update.
- The Draft 2024 Strategy is available for public comment.

#### Looking Ahead

- Staff will begin public outreach and engagement to collect input on the Draft 2024 Strategy
- CNRA will release the 2023 Implementation Report to the 2021 Strategy.

#### Follow-ups for Council

- Contact Staff if you would like to recommend and help facilitate a connection to a standing working group or other convening that could support outreach for the 2024 Draft Strategy.

## 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](#)"). In 2023, [SB 306 \(Caballero, 2023\)](#) directed OPR and CNRA to update the Extreme Heat Action Plan every three years, beginning July 1, 2026.

### Summary of Major 2024 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Extreme Heat Action Plan process planning and scoping

### Updates for Q1 2024

- Staff are planning and scoping the update process for the Extreme Heat Action Plan

### Looking Ahead

- Review of progress on Extreme Heat Action Plan goals and actions

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.