

# Technical Advisory Council

## Item 7: ICARP History Lesson

Oct. 25, 2024

### Overview

The Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council (TAC) was established to address the multifaceted and growing challenges posed by climate change to California. The history of ICARP TAC can be traced back to the passage of Senate Bill 246 (SB 246) in 2015, which laid the legal and operational framework for the creation of a coordinated statewide effort on climate adaptation and resiliency.

### Origins of ICARP: Senate Bill 246

SB 246, signed into law in 2015 and codified under Part 4.5 of the California Public Resources Code, was the result of the state's growing recognition of the need for a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation. As the Legislature acknowledged in Section 71352, while California had long been a global leader in climate mitigation – working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – the state also needed to intensify its efforts to build resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change. Given that these impacts were already occurring and would worsen over time, the state needed to invest in both mitigation and adaptation strategies to protect its people, environment, and economy.

The law emphasized that adaptation planning needed to be integrated at all levels of government – state, regional, and local – and that the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) was ideally positioned to lead this effort, given its established role in long-range planning and interagency coordination.

### Establishment of ICARP

SB 246 formally established the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program under the LCI by Jan. 1, 2017. ICARP's primary goal was to coordinate regional and local adaptation efforts with the state's overarching climate strategies, ensuring that efforts across California were aligned and mutually supportive. In addition to coordinating adaptation initiatives, ICARP placed a strong emphasis on climate equity, recognizing the need for adaptation strategies that not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also address the needs of vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by climate change (Public Resources Code, Section 71354).

### Role and Functions of the ICARP TAC

The ICARP TAC, as outlined in Section 71358 of the Public Resources Code, was established as an advisory body to provide scientific, technical, and regional expertise in

support of ICARP's goals. The TAC was created to meet at least three times a year and was composed of members with expertise in areas critical to climate adaptation, including public health, environmental justice, agriculture, transportation, housing, energy, natural resources, and local government.

The TAC's function was to facilitate coordination across state, regional, and local agencies by providing technical support and advice on how best to implement climate adaptation strategies. This council also played a pivotal role in informing state-led programs such as state planning processes and grant programs, as well as developing tools and guidelines to help local governments prepare for climate impacts.

## **Key Achievements**

Since its establishment, ICARP has played a critical role in shaping California's climate adaptation efforts. Through strategic leadership, ICARP has advanced climate resilience by integrating equity, fostering partnerships, and providing valuable resources for adaptation at the local, regional, and state levels. Below are key achievements that highlight ICARP's impact:

1. **Climate Adaptation Clearinghouse** - ICARP maintains the state's comprehensive Climate Adaptation Clearinghouse, a vital online resource that provides access to climate data, research, case studies, and planning tools. It facilitates the sharing of best practices and adaptation strategies across state, regional, and local agencies (Public Resources Code, Section 71360).
2. **Technical Support for Local and Regional Governments** - ICARP has been instrumental in developing tools and guidance for local and regional adaptation efforts. By coordinating with LCI, Strategic Growth Council, and other state agencies, ICARP ensures that local strategies align with state priorities and the latest climate science (Public Resources Code, Section 71354).
3. **Adaptation Planning Guide** - ICARP contributed to the Adaptation Planning Guide (APG), which supports local governments in developing regionally tailored climate adaptation strategies. The guide emphasizes resilience, public safety, and community-focused strategies and is updated to reflect new climate science and policies (Public Resources Code, Section 71356).
4. **Vision and Guiding Principles for Resilience** - In 2017, ICARP's TAC established a resilience vision and guiding principles, which have been integrated into key frameworks like the State Adaptation Strategy and regional adaptation frameworks. These principles serve as a foundation for statewide adaptation strategies, guiding efforts across various sectors. (See Appendix A).
5. **Climate Equity and Vulnerable Communities** - Central to ICARP's mission is climate equity. In 2018, ICARP developed a definition of vulnerable communities, providing local governments with tools to address climate vulnerability in compliance with legislative mandates. This framework has influenced key documents like Mapping Resilience and Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation.

6. **Adaptation Finance and Investment** - ICARP has made significant contributions to adaptation financing by releasing the Climate Adaptation Finance and Investment in California guide. This resource helps local governments navigate public finance options and develop strategies for long-term resilience.
7. **Public Engagement and Collaboration** - ICARP's quarterly TAC meetings foster collaboration between state officials, local governments, experts, and the public. These forums have addressed critical topics like wildfire preparedness, sea-level rise, and innovative financing. All materials from these meetings are publicly accessible, ensuring transparency and community engagement.
8. **California 5<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Assessment** – In 2022 the program launched the Fifth Climate Change Assessment. Building on the strong foundation set by previous Assessments, the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) is leading implementation of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment) in partnership with the California Energy Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Strategic Growth Council.
9. **Statewide Interagency Efforts** - The program also played a key role in supporting the California Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Extreme Heat Action Plan, integrating significant public input through workshops and listening sessions.
10. **Plan Alignment** - ICARP developed the Plan Alignment Toolkit in 2022, which provides best practices for wildfire and flood planning.
11. **Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources** - ICARP has built valuable partnerships with various state and local entities. Notable initiatives include the Wildfire Recovery Peer Learning Network, collaboration with the Department of Housing and Community Development on the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program, and a policy brief on disaster recovery and hazard mitigation.
12. **Adaptation and Resilience Grant Programs** – The ICARP team developed three new grant programs, the Regional Resilience, Extreme Heat and Community Resilience, and Adaptation Planning Grant Programs, authorized in the 2021 State Climate Budget to fund local, regional, and tribal climate adaptation and resilience efforts across the state.

Through these achievements, ICARP has solidified its leadership in advancing climate resilience and adaptation across California, ensuring that communities are better equipped to face climate challenges while maintaining equity at the forefront of all efforts.

## Looking Forward

As California continues to face increasing climate risks, the role of the ICARP TAC will remain crucial. With a focus on developing equitable, science-based strategies that benefit communities across the state, the TAC will continue to provide leadership and guidance on climate adaptation. Through its work with LCI and other agencies, the ICARP TAC ensures that adaptation and resilience planning are integrated into the state's broader climate policy, safeguarding California's communities, economy, and natural resources for generations to come.

## **Citations:**

- Public Resources Code, Part 4.5, Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program [71350-71361].
- Senate Bill 246 (Stats. 2015, Ch. 606, Sec. 1).

## **Appendix A: Vision and Guiding Principles for Resilience Established 2017**

### **Vision**

All Californians thrive in the face of a changing climate. Leading with innovation, California meets the challenge of climate change by taking bold actions to protect our economy, our quality of life, and all people. The state's most vulnerable communities are prioritized in these actions. Working across all levels of government, the state is prepared for both gradual changes and extreme events. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is standard practice in government and business throughout the state. California meets these goals with urgency, while achieving the following long-term outcomes:

All people and communities respond to changing average conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption and maximizes equity and protection of the most vulnerable.

Natural systems adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change.

Infrastructure and built systems withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate, while continuing to provide essential services.

### **Priorities**

- Prioritize integrated climate actions, those that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate impacts, as well as actions that provide multiple benefits.
- Prioritize actions that promote equity, foster community resilience, and protect the most vulnerable. Explicitly include communities that are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts.
- Prioritize natural and green infrastructure solutions to enhance and protect natural resources, as well as urban environments. Preserve and restore ecological systems (or engineered systems that use ecological processes) that enhance natural system functions, services, and quality and that reduce risk, including but not limited to actions that improve water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, coastal resources, human health, recreation and jobs.
- Avoid maladaptation by making decisions that do not worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another. Identify and take all opportunities to prepare for climate change in all planning and investment decisions.

- Base all planning, policy, and investment decisions on the best-available science, including local and traditional knowledge, including consideration of future climate conditions out to 2050 and 2100, and beyond.
- Employ adaptive and flexible governance approaches by utilizing collaborative partnership across scales and between sectors to accelerate effective problem solving. Promote mitigation and adaptation actions at the regional and landscape scales.
- Take immediate actions to reduce present and near future (within 20 years) climate change risks for all Californians; do so while also thinking in the long term and responding to continual changes in climate, ecology, and economics using adaptive management that incorporates regular monitoring.