



## **Technical Advisory Council**

### **Item 10: LA Fires Rapid Assessment Case Study**

March 7, 2025

#### **Introduction**

The recent fires in the Los Angeles region were a destructive reminder of the potential of wind-driven fires in the region, and the role that a changing climate plays in exacerbating landscape conditions that enhances risk for these events. They also highlight long term challenges related to historical and lived experience in communities, land use planning, community resilience, and the need for adaptation actions that anticipate these more and more frequent, and more and more impactful, events. Preliminary assessments and new stories highlight several factors that likely affected the outcomes of these neighborhoods, including the age and density of homes, defensible space compliance, the challenge identifying the type of structure (e.g. primary home vs. ADU) and impact on housing needs, wildfire-focused building codes (Chapter 7A), and proximity to the Wildland Urban Interface and Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

#### **Los Angeles Region – Rapid Assessment Case Study**

The Climate Services team will present the results of a preliminary analysis of the LA fires, using the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires as case studies. This will emphasize the underlying historical context, what can be understood from a rapid assessment of data in the aftermath of a disaster, and the questions this might help raise going forward as it relates to recovery that emphasizes community resilience. It will also preview ICARP and Climate Services tools and resources (Vulnerable Communities Platform) designed to map the intersecting climate and social vulnerability in order to prioritize adaptation actions. This is a model for a nimble response that ensures our work is both responsive to emergent events and informs long-term adaptation planning. Insights and feedback from the Technical Advisory Council can be leveraged to shape this response and the questions we investigate.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- How do we prioritize rapid recovery and response, while still encouraging wildfire resilient decisions?

- Are there opportunities for reframing community resilience efforts to emphasize whole of community protection from wildfire, in addition to the parcel-level protections that defensible space can provide?
- What are the challenges as the new climate normal expands our definition of communities at risk to wildfire?
- What other considerations, related to additional social or environmental factors or others, would be important for us to include in a future analysis?
- What additional questions does this analysis raise?