



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

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## Technical Advisory Council March 7, 2025 Staff Report

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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

In the last decade, Californians have endured severe droughts, floods, historic wildfires, rising seas, and record temperatures all driven by climate change. Building resilience to these impacts requires sustained investment in climate change research and science. At the direction of [SB 1320 \(Stern, 2020\)](#) and with funding from the [2021 Climate Budget](#), ICARP is coordinating California's Fifth 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 latest climate change projections and modeling about California's future climate, original research that fills gaps in our understanding of climate impacts, regional and topical synthesis reports uplifting community priorities throughout the state, decision-support tools, and a first-of-its-kind Tribal Research Program. The Fifth Assessment suite of reports, resources, and tools are due to roll out in mid-2026.

### Summary of Major 2025 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Author teams are developing original research, regional, and topical reports, with support from ICARP staff on research coordination, public engagement, and technical issues.
- Ongoing: ICARP staff and Fifth Assessment author teams are conducting public engagement to collaborate with diverse partners and uplift community priorities throughout the development of the Fifth Assessment.
- Q1-Q2: Develop an expert review process for Fifth Assessment deliverables, including recruiting experts and establishing an Editorial Board.
- Q1-Q2: Develop an outline for the Statewide Summary Report to highlight key findings across all Fifth Assessment deliverables.
- Q1-Q2: Finalize wildfire projections.
- Q2-Q3: Establish contracts with partners for Engagement, Rollout Event Planning & Marketing, Design and Translation, and Youth Art Competition administration.
- Q2-Q4: Host a statewide youth climate art competition.
- Q3-Q4: Draft the Statewide Summary Report
- Q3-Q4: Begin expert review process for Fifth Assessment deliverables on a rolling basis.

### Updates for Q1 2025

- Author teams for Statewide Topical Reports on "Climate Impacts to the Economy", "Racial Equity and Climate Justice", and "Climate Displacement and Migration" have been established.
- Staff are convening regular coordination opportunities across author teams to foster collaboration and align approaches on key issues.

- Staff are working with academic partners to develop an expert review process, including recruiting reviewers and editors.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Staff are developing a robust roll-out strategy for all Fifth Assessment deliverables, including a series of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities in 2026. The roll-out will present key findings and build the capacity of decision-makers, leaders, and other community partners to use Fifth Assessment resources to adapt to climate impacts and build resilience.

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

- Fifth Assessment Team requests support elevating the expert reviewer nomination and Editorial Board solicitation process throughout ICARP TAC networks.

## **Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program**

Staff Lead: Bryce Lewis-Smith

### **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 2025 Deliverables**

- Ongoing: Coordinate Tribal engagement for regional and topical report authors.
- Ongoing: Monthly Tribal Advisory Group Meetings.
- Ongoing: Round One grant recipients conduct original research.
- Ongoing: Tribal Advisory Group promotes Indigenous Knowledge integration into the Fifth Assessment.
- Q1: Outline Tribal Report author team and community engagement/work plan.
- Q1-Q2: Support lead author in recruiting the Tribal Report author team.
- Q2: Expand Tribal Advisory Group to include more regions (Central Coast, Inland Deserts, Los Angeles, SF Bay Area).
- Q2: Develop expert review process to ensure integrity of Tribal Research materials.
- Q2: Award funding for Round Two of the Tribal Research Grant Program.
- Q3: Invite grant awardees to share projects with the Fifth Assessment team.

### **Updates for Q1 2025**

- Renewed contracts for Tribal Advisory Group members through June 2026.
- Updated the Fifth Assessment's Tribal Contact List with NAHC updates.
- Released solicitation for nominations to expand Tribal Advisory Group regional representation.
- Presented Tribal Research Grant Program (TRGP) opportunities at conferences and gatherings.

### **Looking Ahead**

- Staff and Tribal Advisory Group to develop a respectful and appropriate review process with the Governor's Office and the Office of Tribal Affairs to maintain the integrity of Tribal Research Program materials.

## 2. Decision Support Tools and Guidance

### Adaptation Clearinghouse

Staff Lead: Hanna Bliska, Ben McMahan

#### 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 2025 Deliverables

- Ongoing: Continued update and quality control of database.
- Q1: Finalizing an update to the navigation architecture with developer, and plan to deploy "Adaptation Help Desk" in Q1 – the centralized TA platform for use on the Adaptation Clearinghouse, among other tools and resources.

#### Updates for Q1 2025

- Ongoing: Climate Services staff continue to develop centralized TA platform ("Adaptation Help Desk") for use on the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Vulnerable Communities Platform and Cal-Adapt. We continue to work with our contractor to develop the help desk framework, which will emphasize user needs identified in our User Needs Assessment and provide support for low-capacity users in navigating State adaptation resources.
- Ongoing: The vision has evolved for the Help Desk to assist users in identifying at the onset which clusters of resources would be most applicable to their work across the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Vulnerable Communities Platform, and Cal-Adapt, as well as other State adaptation resources.

#### Looking Ahead

- Q2: Materials from Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) Technical Assistance (TA) Convenings will be incorporated into the Adaptation Clearinghouse, including but not limited to case study presentations by invited speakers and materials from interactive activities conducted.
- Q2-Q3: Develop and launch Adaptation Help Desk to support users of the Adaptation Clearinghouse along with those of other tools and platforms.

#### 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 Support

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#), Hanna Bliska

### 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. Updates to the Cal-Adapt platform are underway, with Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine offering a comprehensive way to more easily access the updated climate projections data. Given the complexity of working with these data, the Climate Services team is providing support on the use of these data. A particular area of focus will be to help support a broader use of these data and tools, and to make them more accessible and usable.

### Summary of Major 2025 Deliverables

- Finalize climate data layers for use in the Vulnerable Communities Platform
- Develop parallel R/Python support documentation & notebooks to assist with targeted applications for climate data
- Provide support for Cal-Adapt users for non energy sector stakeholders
- Academic and interagency coordination to further refine priority areas for decision support tools
- Update data acquisition process to integrate new Cal-Adapt data into the Sustainability Roadmaps, develop replicable process for other partners

### Updates for Q1 2025

- Q1: Climate Services staff assisted with the development of the author guidance for the Fifth Assessment. This support allowed staff to support a coordinated effort for Fifth Assessment authors, ensuring teams use the best available climate and sea-level rise projections in their reports and have the analytic support they need to analyze and interpret complex data.

### Looking Ahead

- Q1-Q2: Continue to support Fifth Assessment authors with technical assistance for climate data as their reports are developed in 2025.
- Ongoing: Support for use of Cal-Adapt data, and integration of data updates into the Vulnerable Communities Platform

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

## State Adaptation Guidance

Staff Lead: [Ben McMahan](#)

### 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 2025 Deliverables

- Coordinate with DGS and other interagency partners to initiate review and redesign the Sustainability Roadmaps Template as part of the update cycle. This overhaul will work to incorporate updates to climate data and streamline the review process.
- Interagency review of updates and edits to the Planning & Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook – this will focus on updated data from the Fifth Assessment, and updated guidance for SSP scenarios using these data.

### Updates for Q1 2025

- Initial review of the Planning and Investing for a Resilient California Guidebook is complete, identifying priority areas for updates to keep in line with new climate data and new SSPs (scenarios)
- The Plan Alignment Toolkit for Extreme Heat project is on hold as we await clarity on EPA funding.
- Adaptation Clearinghouse Held Desk, focusing on common user workflows, is ready for deployment and will offer ongoing guidance around adaptation planning.

### Looking Ahead

- We will be recruiting for reviewers for the updated planning and investing guidebooks later this Spring.

### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.



## 3. Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources

### Community Planning and Capacity Building – Recovery Support Function

Staff Lead: [Michael Maguire](#)

#### Background / Framing Context

In partnership with Cal OES, LCI 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. LCI, 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 2025 Deliverables

- Q1 – Q4: LCI will support Cal OES in the development of a long-term recovery plan in Los Angeles County in response to the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, and others that occurred in the 2025 LA Firestorm.
- Q1 – Q4: LCI, under the Climate Services Team, will lead the development of a case study to evaluate the vulnerabilities in Los Angeles County that exacerbated the fire fighting conditions in response to the Palisades Fire, Eaton Fire, and others that occurred in the 2025 LA Firestorm.
- Q1 – Q4: LCI will support CPCB with recovery planning in any additional natural disasters and extreme climate events that impact California throughout the 2025 calendar year.

#### Updates for Q1 2025

- LCI is engaged with Cal OES and our CPCB partners to coordinate the development of a long-term recovery plan in Los Angeles County following the 2025 LA Firestorm.

#### Looking Ahead

- LCI and Cal OES will explore opportunities to systematically develop pre-disaster long-term recovery plans in vulnerable communities throughout California, in advance of natural disasters or extreme climate events.
- LCI and Cal OES will continue to hold bi-weekly calls with our state and federal CPCB partners, to coordinate on existing deliverables and address future disaster response and recovery needs as they arise.

#### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

## Technical Assistance

Staff Lead: Hanna Bliska

### Background / Framing Context

The Climate Services (CS) program 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 climate adaptation programs at LCI, the Climate Services team is prioritizing the need for more direct, personalized technical assistance from the State to support California adaptation practitioners. In 2025, Climate Services staff will continue to develop and implement 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 2025 Deliverables

- Q1: Supported two technical assistance convenings for APGP grantees in January with case studies and interactive activities.
- Q1: Supported development of author guidance for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment by providing expert advice on use and utility of different climate and sea-level rise data sources.

### Updates for Q1 2025

- Q1: Provided technical assistance to APGP grantees through two technical assistance convenings in January. The convenings included case studies of collaborative engagement and strategic storytelling, as well as guided, interactive activities to support grantees in applying lessons learned from case studies in their own projects. Climate Services staff anticipate ongoing technical assistance support to APGP grantees, and experiences from this process will inform future technical assistance efforts.
- Ongoing: Developing centralized TA platform ("Adaptation Help Desk") for use on the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Vulnerable Communities Platform and Cal-Adapt. The vision has evolved to having technical assistance integrated across the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Vulnerable Communities Platform, and Cal-Adapt to assist users in identifying at the onset which resources would be most applicable to their work in addition to later providing assistance with more specific use of these platforms.

### Looking Ahead

- Q2-Q3: Climate Services staff plan to hold additional technical assistance convenings with the APGP grantees. We will also identify opportunities to support additional LCI grantees, from programs such as the RRGP.

- Q2-Q3: Develop and launch centralized TA platform (“Adaptation Help Desk”) to support users of the Vulnerable Communities Platform, along with those of other tools and platforms.

**Follow-ups for Council**

- We welcome feedback and suggestions for improving our technical assistance offerings as we build this program.

## 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 2025 Deliverables

- Staff will close out its CTP FY 2022 grant on 09/30/2025. All grant deliverables will be submitted to FEMA. The two deliverables include a Tribal User Needs Assessment and a Guidebook discussing how to align state and federal funding programs. This assessment aims to advance LCI's understanding of Tribal climate resilience efforts, challenges, and resource needs across California and inform our agency's next steps to support California Native American Tribes. The guidebook will document lessons learned, best practices, challenges, and opportunities to align state climate resilience funding programs with FEMA's HMA grant programs.

#### Updates for Q1 2025

- Staff are reviewing feedback on the draft Tribal User Needs Assessment from its Tribal Consultant, the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA). This feedback will be incorporated into the final report.
- Staff is continuing to draft the framework for the guidebook on how to align state climate resilience funding programs with FEMA's HMA grant programs.

#### Looking Ahead

- Q2 - Q3: Staff will share the revised Tribal User Needs Assessment with LCI staff for review and input.
- Q2 - Q3: Staff will share the draft Guidebook with LCI staff for review and input.

#### 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 2025 Deliverables

- Q1: Staff is working with grantees to revise workplans and budgets for Round 1
- Q2: Staff will finalize contracts with Round One grantees and host kickoff meetings with each grantee team. Staff will also host debrief meetings with applicants that were not funded in Round One to give them feedback in case they want to apply to future rounds.
- Q2: Staff will host listening sessions for in order to get feedback on the grant program that could be used to shape future rounds including Round 2.
- Q3: Staff will release of the EHCRGP Round 2 NOFA and solicit grant proposals.
- Q4: Submissions for Round 2 will be due by the end of the end or in Q1 2026.

### Updates for Q1 2025

- The team is working through contracting with 49 first round grantees.

### Looking Ahead

- The team will release the second round of funding for EHCRP program. Timing of this release is dependent on Prop 4.

### Follow-ups for Council

- The EHCRP team will present a comprehensive update on the program during the Q2 TAC meeting.

## ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program

Staff Lead: Sarah Samdin

### 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 2025 Deliverables

- Q1: In January, staff hosted two technical assistance convenings with APGP R1 Grantees. The first convening focused on Case Studies for Collaborative Engagement and the second convening focused on Strategic Storytelling. APGP grantees learned about effective strategies to engage diverse audiences from the Town of Corte Madera. Southern California Association of Regional Governments (SCAG) shared best practices and lessons learned from piloting its Climate Talks Box to identify effective communication strategies to communicate the impacts of climate change.
- Q2 – Q4: Staff will continue to develop technical assistance workshops and materials for grantees focused on a variety of topics including, navigating and implementing strategies from the Adaptation Planning Guide and strategies to leverage and identify sustainable long-term funding and financing opportunities.

### Updates for Q1 2025

- APGP Grantees will complete their Midterm Reports by 02/28, a key grant reporting requirement that captures milestones, accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned. This report will serve as a guide for the final case study grantees will submit at grant closeout.

**Looking Ahead**

- Staff received application feedback requests from 47 applicants from R2. Staff are finalizing application feedback and will share qualitative notes with applicants by April 2025.

**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 has developed the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (Regional Resilience Grant Program, RRGP) that funds planning and implementation resilience projects on a regional scale. Available to CA Native American Tribes, public entities, community-based organizations, and academic institutions, the Regional Resilience Grant Program supports diverse partnerships in advancing resilience addressing multiple climate risks. In 2023, the program awarded \$21.8M in grants to 16 projects. Awards were offered through a competitive process and through 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 2025 Deliverables

- In January, staff completed 16 check-in meetings with each grantee as required by the program. Staff identified progress to date, challenges, support needs and opportunities for collaboration. Staff met with several grantees in their region.

## Updates for Q1 2025

- On March 4<sup>th</sup>, staff are hosting a grantee workshop, which will focus on community engagement best practices to support funded projects. As part of RRGP's technical assistance to grantees, the workshop will also offer a peer-to-peer learning opportunity.

## Looking Ahead

- In the spring, staff will coordinate quarterly check-in meetings with all grantees including several in-person site visits.

## 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 2025 Deliverables

- Q1: The VCP version 1.0 will be finalized and launched publicly. The Climate Services team will lead a communications campaign to promote the VCP to regional climate collaboratives, regional planning agencies, relevant state agencies, CBO networks, and academic networks.
- Q2: The VCP Pilot Communities Program will begin. This training program will help lower-capacity organizations build the skills needed to create climate vulnerability assessments using the VCP. We will recruit 10-15 representatives from CBOs and local governments across a wide range of regions, climate impacts, etc. to join the training cohort.

#### Updates for Q1 2025

- Entered into contract with the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) for the Pilot Communities Program to assist in identifying participants, developing curriculum, and facilitating classes and community workshops.

#### Looking Ahead

- Q2-Q3: The curriculum and engagement plan for the VCP Pilot Communities Program will be developed over the next few months and recruitment for trainees will begin in July.
- Q1-Q3: VCP rollout will start in March with informational materials shared on social media and newsletters and will continue over Q2. Presentations and live demos will be held at upcoming LCI/SGC events.

#### Follow-ups for Council

- Please let us know of any groups, networks, or organizations that we can reach out to as part of VCP promotion, as well as any events where the VCP can be presented.

## 6. Additional Special Initiatives

### California Climate Adaptation Strategy

Staff Lead: [Elea Becker Lowe](#)

#### 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 led the development of California's 2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy in partnership with LCI, through ICARP, and input from other State Agencies. [AB 1384 \(Gabriel, 2022\)](#) requires the 2025 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

- Q4: Update Draft 2025 Strategy – State Agencies participated in another round of review to update the Strategy with the most current climate actions and priorities and refine metrics to track progress toward meeting the Strategies goals and priorities.

#### Updates for Q1 2025

- Release final 2025 Strategy.

#### Looking Ahead

- CNRA will release the final 2025 Strategy.

#### Follow-ups for Council

- None at this time.

# The California Extreme Heat Action Plan

Staff Lead: [Braden Kay](#)

## Background / Framing Context

Building on the foundation of the 2022 Extreme Heat Action Plan (EHAP) and in alignment with California’s broader climate resilience efforts, LCI and CNRA are co-developing the 2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan to reflect current state actions and priorities. Mandated by SB 306 (Caballero, 2023), this update ensures California’s approach to extreme heat adaptation remains strategic, data-driven, and responsive to evolving climate risks.

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](#)”).

Developing the 2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan involves several key workstreams: (1) assessing progress on implementation of the 2022 plan and identifying gaps and new priorities; (2) integrating the latest climate science, public health data, and case studies; (3) engaging local governments, Tribal nations, and community-based organizations through targeted community outreach; and (4) ongoing evaluation efforts for state level extreme heat resilience strategies.

## Summary of Major 2025 Deliverables

- Q2 and Q3: CNRA and ICARP will host listening sessions, focus groups, and other public engagement to gather input for the 2026 EHAP update.
- Q3-Q4: The team will draft the EHAP update, with the release planned for Q2 2026.

## Updates for Q1 2025

- Q1: CNRA and ICARP will develop the timeline and engagement strategy for the EHAP update.

## Looking Ahead

- The team will develop an engagement plan, launch listening sessions and focus groups to inform the update. The team will look to the TAC for feedback and engagement with update.

## Follow-ups for Council

- The team will present on the EHAP update during the Q2 TAC meeting.