

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)

Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

May 16, 2025

SUMMARY

TAC Members Present:

- Abby Edwards, LCI
- Jacob Alvarez¹, City of Coachella
- Nathan Bengtsson, PG&E
- Kim Clark, Southern California Association of Governments
- Amanda Hansen, California Natural Resources Agency
- Lucy Levin, California Environmental Protection Agency²
- Denise Kadara, Allensworth Progressive Association
- David Loya, City of Arcata
- Nayamin Martinez, Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Robyn Fennig, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Jonathan Parfrey, Climate Resolve
- Daniel Woo, California Department of Public Health³

- Roberto Carlos Torres, Institute for Local Government
- Clare Winterton, The Solutions Project⁴
- John Wentworth, Town of Mammoth Lakes
- Michelle Passero, The Nature Conservancy
- Nina Bingham, California Department of Food and Agriculture⁵

TAC Members Absent:

- Alex Ghenis, Accessible Climate Strategies
- Darwin Moosavi, California State Transportation Agency
- Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Karalee Browne, Institute for Local Government
- Will Madrigal, Jr., Climate Science Alliance

Roll Call & Housekeeping

Sam Magill, Sacramento State University College of Continuing Education, reviewed the agenda and discussed meeting logistics for in person and online attendees. Interpreter Maya Fonseca provided instructions for any attendees requiring Spanish translation; no participants required Spanish translation. Azura Haley, LCI conducted a roll call. With 17 members present, a quorum was reached, and the meeting was called to order.

¹ Participated remotely; location publicly accessible in compliance with the Bagley Keene Open Meetings Act

² Alternate for Sarah Izant, California Environmental Protection Agency

³ Alternate for Linda Helland, California Department of Public Health

⁴ Alternate for Gloria Walton, The Solutions Project

⁵ Alternate for Virginia Jameson, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes

Magill led discussion and approval of the March 7, 2025, TAC meeting minutes. After a brief introduction, the following conversation was recorded:

- No discussion was provided.

Public Comment

None.

Jonathan Parfrey made a motion to approve the March 7, 2025, meeting minutes. Nathan Bengtsson seconded. With 15 ayes, 0 notes, and 2 abstentions, the minutes were approved.

Aye: Abby Edwards, Jacob Alvarez, Nathan Bengtsson, Kim Clark, Amanda Hansen, Lucy Levin, Denise Kadara, David Loya, Nayamin Martinez, Robyn Fennig, Jonathan Parfrey, Roberto Carlos Torres, Clare Winterton, John Wentworth, Michelle Passero, Nina Bingham

No: None.

Abstain: Daniel Woo, Michelle Passero

TAC Member Report Out

LCI

Abby Edwards provided opening remarks and recognition of TAC members, including:

- TAC member Denise Kadara and the Allensworth Progressive Association were recently awarded the 2025 Good Neighbor Award from the American Red Cross for their efforts during the March 2023 flood crisis.
- TAC members Kim Clark, Denise Kadara, Jonathan Parfrey, David Loya, Clesi Bennett (alternate for Amanda Hansen), Linda Helland, and ICARP staff members Kim Danco, Cora Ballek, Ben McMahan, and Azura Haley participated in the recent TAC Vulnerable Communities Subcommittee to develop a frevised definition for vulnerable communities.
- TAC member Roberto Carlos Torres was appointed as Senior Environmental Justice Coordinator for the San Francisco Department of the Environment.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Daniel Woo, CDPH, provided updates on behalf of the department, noting that the primary updates focused on two broad categories: communication, health guidance, and technical assistance; research, data, science, and surveillance.

CDPH continues the release of health guidance related to extreme heat for local health jurisdictions and community service providers such as notices to pause sporting events and strenuous activities. It also recently released the CDPH Guide to Health Equity-Centered Local Heat Planning, a guidance document aimed at assisting local governments with the incorporation of healthy equity into new or existing heat action. A range of other guidance for populations vulnerable to extreme heat such as pregnant individuals is also available. Additional partnerships and educational opportunities are provided to counties and communities throughout the state, such as a pilot project with Tulare County to work with community health workers, energy service providers, and medical patients to provide energy efficient cooling options and home weatherization.

CDPH also provides significant resources in research, data, science and surveillance related to extreme heat. A department-wide syndromic surveillance effort to track heat-related illnesses is underway, looking at annual reporting data to create a health-hub website to house all heat-related illness information. This information has been used to identify excess mortality during extreme heat events and will use predictive analytics to estimate deaths in the future before official data is available.

Finally, Woo added that CDPH colleagues in the Occupational Health Branch are working on protecting worker health through the Heat Effects and Tracking (HEAT) program. HEAT information is provided in support of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CalOSHA).

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on the State agency updates listed above. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/member responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- Nathan Bengtsson thanked Woo for the presentation and asked how CDPH addresses potential underreporting in historical information.
 - Woo acknowledged this is an issue. Literature shows heat is a particular stressor on individuals with cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary conditions. Flagging all of those conditions and triangulating them with heat events is a work in progress.
- Nayamin Martinez asked if collateral materials are available for heat vulnerable populations, even for individuals not typically considered at increased risk (such as individuals who live/work inside, but don't have adequate cooling) or when some cooling measures are in place but may not be sufficient (such as shading and breaks for farm workers).
 - Woo noted most guidance is provided to local agencies and organizations, but CDPH recognizes a need to provide guidance in plain language for the general public. Partners such as the Berkeley National Lab have developed guidance for cooling measures for vulnerable populations and low-income households.
- Parfrey asked if the TAC can request information from CalOSHA related to enforcement of outdoor heat standards for workers. He also asked if the Tulare County pilot project results will be released to the public.
 - Woo confirmed the project includes an evaluation phase; results are expected 6 months after the project concludes.

ICARP Programmatic Updates

Edwards introduced new ICARP staff members Colin Green and Slobadan "Bob" Krstic. Following staff introductions, Dolores Barajas, ICARP Regional Resilience Grant Program provided additional ICARP updates:

- The California 5th Climate Assessment team received 7 nominations for the new Tribal advisory committee. This committee includes Tribal representation across all Assessment regions and will provide guidance on all research products and State volunteer reports.
- Climate Services continues development of the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) to help users understand what worsening climate risk look like across all California communities.
- ICARP continues to execute grants for extreme heat, the Adaptation Planning Grant Program, and the Regional Resilience Grant program, including 47 Round 1 grants beginning this summer, debriefing Round 2 applicants, and technical assistance workshops for grantees.

- A Recovery Needs Assessment was developed in partnership with CalOES to support recovery from the Los Angeles wildfires and inform opportunities to support and accelerate resilient building in LA.

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion of the ICARP Programmatic Updates with TAC members. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- John Wentworth asked if staff are aware of any recent restrictions working with federal partners on recovery efforts.
 - Edwards noted that ICARP works on capacity building and community planning for recovery support in partnership with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The people ICARP has worked with at FEMA have been very responsive. Robyn Fennig, OES, noted coordination with FEMA is rapidly evolving. Despite mandates from FEMA leadership in Washington, D.C., staff on the ground deployed to support disaster and recovery efforts continue to remain strong partners. The Recovery Needs Assessment mentioned in the updates displays that partnership and substantiates which resources (particularly at the federal level) are needed for recovery. There has been some pressure to conclude big services on the public assistance side of recovery efforts.
- Clare Winterton noted that grassroots climate justice organizations are aware of significant shifts creating federal funding gaps.
 - Edwards confirmed that a number of federal grants focused on community building and guidance on extreme heat have been paused. ICARP is working to identify those gaps and determine how to fill them as needed.
- Michelle Passero said pre-hazard mitigation funding may not be available in the near term and asked how this will affect ICARP and OES work.
 - Fennig confirmed the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program was cancelled totaling \$865 million with additional management costs. How this will impact future work is still unknown. FEMA is reviewing grant opportunities and requests, but this review is ongoing. State Hazard Mitigation Planning funds may also be impacted.
- Parfrey noted the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) is required for compliance with State law such as SB 379. Would a federal effort to eliminate LHMPs impact compliance with State laws?
 - Fennig responded if people incorporate LHMP information into their General Plans, they are eligible for additional funding. AB 2140 increases the cost share communities can receive if they have LHMPs in place.
- Parfrey asked if the Recovery Needs Assessment is available for public review.
 - Fennig responded it is still in draft form and offered to share it with the TAC when it is available. California was the last state to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, available to all communities in California for mitigation planning and implementation. Only entities that have a federally approved Hazard Mitigation Grant Plan are eligible for that funding.
- Wentworth asked Chair Edwards for guidance on how the TAC can provide legislative recommendations in light of changes to federal funding changes.
 - Edwards noted the TAC is not a legislative advisory body necessarily but can provide guidance to ICARP. This item will appear on the next TAC agenda.
- Kadara asked if any grants were made to communities in the Central Valley with significant farmworker populations.

- Barajas confirmed 2 Regional Resilience Grants were made in the Central Valley, including a Fresno State planning project and a Merced implementation project associated with water infrastructure. There were not extreme heat-specific projects in the Central Valley.

ICARP TAC Charter Update

Edwards led a review of the revised TAC Charter, noting that key changes and clarifications have been made based on comments received at the March 7th meeting. Changes include:

- Addition of a TAC member from the education field to ensure youth are represented on the TAC.
- Clarification of conflict of interest and TAC recusal guidance.

Guidance from ICARP counsel on conflict-of-interest rules was also sent to TAC members.

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on the Charter. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- Fennig expressed appreciation for the additional guidance on conflict of interest, noting that it helps clarify rules to avoid situations where a significant number of TAC members feel a need to recuse themselves if no reasonable conflict exists.
- Jacob Alvarez asked where education is included in the revised Charter.
 - Edwards confirmed the change is included on page 3.

Public Comment

None.

Alvarez made a motion to approve the revised TAC Charter. Wentworth seconded. With 16 ayes, 0 notes, and 1 abstention, the item was approved.

Aye: Abby Edwards, Amanda Hansen, David Loya, Denise Kadara, Clare Winterton, Jacob Alvarez, John Wentworth, Jonathan Parfrey, Kim Clark, Michelle Passero, Nathan Bengtsson, Nayamin Martinez, Roberto Carlos Torres, Robyn Fennig, Lucy Levin, Nina Bingham

No: None

Abstain: Daniel Woo

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grantee Spotlight

Edwards introduced Braden Kay to walk through the Community Resilience Grantee Spotlight. Kay introduced his team, who has been instrumental in executing 47 grants over the last two years. The presentation included overviews of the Community Resilience Grant program and highlights for specific grantees. The program (conducted in partnership with OES), launched in 2023 with listening sessions and the development of grant guidelines, with all grants expected to end in 2027. Listening sessions to shape grant guidelines were conducted with communities deeply affected by climate change, including farm workers, labor, health care, older adults, and a wide array of State agencies active in this space. This collaborative coalition was critical in the design of the overall program. Additionally, it was clear that many organizations and communities may not be ready for a large planning or implementation grant, so the program included small grants accessible by smaller Tribes and communities. When combined with larger infrastructure

improvement and planning grants, a total of \$32.6 million for 47 communities in 24 counties was awarded through the program. Specific grants highlighted in the presentation included:

- \$247,100 for a Kings County Office of Emergency Services Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Plan.
- \$249,99.69 for the Kings Partnership for Prevention to build partnerships with the most vulnerable communities in the region.
- \$749,931 to Ventura County for a community-driven, county-wide extreme heat action plan.
- \$739,680 for the Comite de Civico del Valle in Imperial County, a community-driven process to develop a local heat action plan (including 1-2 demonstration projects).
- \$449,900 for a Sacramento Regional Transit District implementation grant to construct heat resistant bus shelters.
- \$3,478,434.14 for a Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians implementation grant to install a climate resilient microgrid system at the community gym and plant native trees.
- \$2,339,969.98 for a Lake County implementation grant to provide solar mini-split cooling/heating units in 60 homes of seniors and individuals with chronic health conditions.
- \$3,969,934.43 for an LA County implementation grant to make shade, restroom, and water infrastructure improvements at three parks, as well as a community heat resilience education.
- \$2,452,661.46 for an implementation grant to the Public Health Institute for a cooling center “hub” in Tulare County and capacity building with farmworkers for increased heat resilience activities.

Kay closed by noting that future rounds are expected beginning in 2026 through 2030 and beyond using a variety of funding streams such as the Aliso Canyon Settlement Agreement, Proposition 4, and others.

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on the Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grantee Spotlight. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- Kim Clark asked what challenges were encountered by grantees regarding long-term maintenance and operations of projects.
 - Kay responded the grant guidelines allowed for an extra period of time to pay for long-term operations and maintenance for implementation grants. However, most grants have a 5-year liquidation timeline where all funds must be spent; ICARP continues to look at opportunities to extend these timelines and provide additional technical assistance to grantees.
- Bengtsson noted PG&E has similar grant programs and has encountered challenges getting funds to grantees and asked to connect with Kay offline to discuss workarounds. He also asked how the program addressed ensuring an equitable distribution of funds throughout all impacted communities.
 - Kay said future grant rounds may include a requirement to expend funds on developing community partnerships to increase the social infrastructure and ability for organizations to access programs like this. The small planning grants also allow organizations that typically have not had the capacity to administer larger awards to access the program.
- Winterton echoed the need to increase access to programs by organizations with lower capacity to administer large awards.
 - Staff responded creating a pre-award process to work directly with grantees to build capacity and provide support throughout the grants for things like budget management and scope execution.

- Fennig asked how the team tracks successes, challenges, and outcomes, and tells success stories to the public.
 - Kay noted that project partners such as the UCLA Luskin Center are tasked with developing case studies.
- Carlos Torres highlighted the importance of creating grant awards to work with unhoused populations. While grant awards are focused on extreme heat resilience, addressing the root causes of homelessness have a direct connection to resilience overall. Capacity building is also critical with these programs to ensure long-term sustainability of funded efforts.
 - Kay noted ICARP is working hard on capacity building. Research also shows that working on root causes is critically important: substance abuse has been linked to 80% of heat related deaths in Phoenix; a similar situation is likely in LA.
- Wentworth said a geographic technical analysis could be useful to focus on areas where extreme heat is a major challenge. He also suggested the Job's First Program could be a good model to address some of the root cause questions noted above.

Vulnerable Communities Definition Subcommittee

Edwards introduced Cora Ballek, ICARP, to walk through recent findings from the Vulnerable Communities Definition Subcommittee and the suggested changes to the vulnerable communities definition. At the direction of the TAC on March 7th, the Subcommittee was convened to review the existing definition with a focus on the final sentence of the definition: *...These factors include, but are not limited to race, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, income inequality, and disability.* In addition to the TAC members listed in Edwards' opening remarks, the Subcommittee consulted with four key agencies/organizations including CDPH, the Transgender Health and Wellness Center, the Gender Equity Policy Institute, and the LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert to revise the definition.

Ballek noted the TAC and members of the public raised a concern that women and gender minorities were not explicitly mentioned in the definition. A gender minority for the purposes of discussion is defined as someone who is transgender, intersex, non-binary, agender, two-spirit, or any other gender diverse individual. Increased climate impacts to women and gender diverse populations are acknowledged but represent a common data gap for practitioners in climate resilience. Moreover, since 2021 a record 886 anti-trans bills have been introduced across the US, including 44 federal bills. A revised definition to include these climate-vulnerable populations works as a vehicle for setting climate adaptation priorities and ensuring the needs of vulnerable communities are considered and addressed.

Clark then provided key findings from Subcommittee discussions to modify the definition, including:

- INCLUDE: gender *or* gender identity, but not both
- INCLUDE: gender and/or gender identity
- INCLUDE: sex and gender identity
- INCLUDE: gender or gender and gender identity
- Add a statement on intersectionality
- EXCLUDE: sex
- EXCLUDE: gender identity alone
- EXCLUDE: identification
- Include a broader discussion of climate impacts for women and gender minorities in a forthcoming update to the LCI "Defining Vulnerable Communities" document.

Based on these findings, the Subcommittee recommended the following modification to the vulnerable communities definition: *...These factors include, but are not limited to, race, class, gender, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality. People facing multiple forms of marginalization and inequality will experience climate change impacts more intensely and face more barriers to recovery.*

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on the revised vulnerable communities definition. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- TAC members thanked the Subcommittee, Clark, and Ballek for their work on the revised definition.
- Amanda Hansen asked if the sentence on marginalization was intended to be all inclusive, or if the definition is intended as a catch all for other forms of marginalization (such as lack of access to healthcare).
 - Clark said it was intended to look at marginalization and inequality more broadly, as opposed to a constrained set of factors and issues. TAC and Subcommittee member David Loya concurred.
- TAC members provided a variety of edits, made in real time, to the definition. This revised definition reads:
 - *...These disproportionate effects are caused by physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factor(s), which are exacerbated by climate impacts. These factors include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, income inequality, and disability. People facing multiple forms of marginalization and inequality will confront more intense climate change impacts and barriers to recovery.*

Public Comment

- Pilar Zuniga, UC Berkeley, noted giving people agency to participate in climate resilience discussions is an important factor for inclusion in the definition. She noted in her work, there is a desire to say these communities are “made vulnerable or face marginalization” by existing systems, as opposed to be marginalized individually.
- Nancy Cohen, Gender Policy Equity Institute, thanked the Subcommittee for its efforts, and supported the addition of “gender” to the definition to advance gender equity for all people. This is particularly important given the state of discussions around gender minorities throughout the county. The definition represents a landmark achievement: international climate agreements recognize gender as a major social factor of vulnerability, and this measure lays the foundation for California to join our democratic peers around the world.

Clark made a motion to approve the revised vulnerable communities definition as written above. Loya seconded. With 17 ayes, 0 notes, and 0 abstention, the item was approved.

Aye: Abby Edwards, Amanda Hansen, David Loya, Denise Kadara, Clare Winterton, Jacob Alvarez, John Wentworth, Jonathan Parfrey, Kim Clark, Michelle Passero, Nathan Bengtsson, Nayamin Martinez, Roberto Carlos Torres, Robyn Fennig, Lucy Levin, Nina Bingham, Daniel Woo

No: None

Abstain: None

Extreme Heat Action Plan

Edwards introduced CNRA Deputy Secretary Amanda Hansen to walk through the Extreme Heat Action Plan. The Plan is a partnership between multiple State agencies and is led by CNRA for addressing extreme heat

risks in California and works to incorporate the many plans, reports, and efforts underway throughout State government into a single, comprehensive strategy. The Plan is organized into 4 major “action tracks”:

- Build public awareness and notification
- Strengthen community services and response
- Increase the resilience of our built environment
- Utilize nature-based solutions

Hansen noted SB 306 requires the Plan to be updated every three years, with the next iteration due in 2026. This timing is intended to coincide with the release of State Adaptation Strategy. For the 2026 update, 5 main questions were presented for TAC input, including:

1. What does success look like for the Plan?
2. How can we best engage the public the Plan?
3. Are there any specific points of progress made between 2022 and 2026 that are particularly important/meaningful to you?
4. Were there any critical gaps in the 2022 Plan that you would like to see addressed in the 2026 Plan update?
5. How can we make the 2026 Plan more useful/relevant?

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on the Plan update. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- Passero asked if the Plan team and TAC should also consider how much extreme heat impacts wildlife, since the Plan focuses primarily on impacts to human populations.
 - Hansen noted the concept is incorporated throughout the Plan, but impacts to wildlife are not specifically called out. This could be identified as a gap in the Plan for further consideration.
- Martinez noted that disconnection between state-level plans on work being done on the group is a consistent issue and asked if there are metrics included in the Plan to track progress and integration with on-the-ground efforts. Storytelling to showcase successes is very important. Martinez also asked if efforts to improve homes would be included in the “strengthening community service...” or “built environment” action tracks.
 - Kay responded its included in the built environment track.
 - Hansen noted the Plan is intended to set out what the State believes it needs to do (as opposed to local governments) but needs to include ways for that community-level input to be included.
- Nina Bingham said one gap could be a need to include information on impacts to agriculture and livestock, since those issues aren’t necessarily included in the “nature-based solutions” action track.
- Carlos Torres noted the Plan needs to address both communities that are already experiencing extreme heat, as well as those such as San Francisco that haven’t as much in the past but aren’t as well prepared to address it in the future. More outreach is needed to these communities. Additionally, while there has been some attention paid to strategies like the development of cool zones, transportation TO those cool zones is not. A holistic approach to accessing these types of strategies is important to reduce barriers.
- Martinez noted that while some strategies for extreme heat may be available in urban areas, California is unique by also having rural communities with no access to these services. The Plan should ensure it applies to all communities.
- Fennig noted the TAC can be a mechanism for identifying and addressing gaps for all extreme heat planning efforts in State agencies. If presentations are needed, Fennig asked

- Parfrey asked Hansen to describe the interaction between the Plan and the California Climate Adaptation Strategy. He also asked if CNRA is open to the development of a scorecard to determine the Plan's effectiveness.
 - Hansen responded the Strategy is a reflection of the State's overall approach to building climate resilience. The Plan is one piece of a larger conversation and focused on actions to address extreme heat. Regarding a scorecard, while CNRA does want to track successes and lessons learned, producing progress indicators is not as easy as a checklist marking something off as a success. Work is ongoing to determine how best to track progress for the Strategy and the Plan to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Alvarez noted the Plan needs to include a section on the impacts of extreme heat on air quality. He also reiterated the need to connect cooling areas so people can access them as easily as possible.
- Wentworth expressed a need to educate people on what extreme heat actually is- it's more than just an occasional hot day and has unique risks and impacts. Moreover, it needs to explicitly state in plain language that extreme heat IS climate change and is occurring now.
- Bengtsson noted there is a clear nexus between changes in heat and demand for energy. Utilities are actively looking at the issue. He also reiterated that people do not understand that extreme heat is a real issue with unique risks and challenges associated with it.

Extreme Heat Case Study: Climate Resolve

Parfrey introduced an extreme heat case study from Climate Resolve. Climate Resolve staff members Catherine Balthazar and Enrique Huerta shared information on efforts in Boyle Heights in LA. Located just east of downtown LA, the community is surrounded by five major highways and industrial facilities. Minimal green infrastructure and lack of tree canopy usually increased the heat in Boyle Heights by 10-15 degrees compared to surrounding neighborhoods. As a result, Climate Resolve launched the Buffer Zone Project to implement a variety of cooling, greening, and pollution mitigation strategies.

The Project is conducted in partnership with Promesa Boyle Heights and local promotoras to increase collective power, community activism, and advocacy. Trainings conducted with promotoras allow them to educate neighbors on climate impacts and give them the tools to lead implementation of climate resilience strategies. The Project also includes significant direct outreach and the establishment of community ambassadors to share strategies with the community at large. A central tenet of the effort is to ensure data shared with community members is connected to lived experience of all residents.

In addition to the Project, Climate Resolve is also working to create a hub for information on grant writing to implement Project lessons learned and access funding when it becomes available. This work has led to successful funding for a native plant nursery for the Fernandeno Tatavium band of Mission Indians and the development of a Community Resilience Center. Climate Resolve also led an effort to increase the prevalence of cool roofs, walls, and pavements to help reduce surface and ambient temperatures in the built environment through legislative efforts (SB 655, right to cooling) and on-the-ground implementation projects like the Pacoima Cool Communities project.

Cal Heat Score

Edwards introduced Walker Wieland, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to walk through the CalHeat Score platform. CalHeat Score is the California extreme heat scoring system, designed to create a clear metric for what qualifies as an extreme heat event using forecasts and real-time temperature information. Wieland agreed that, as noted by multiple TAC members, extreme heat events have serious risks associated with them the public doesn't always fully understand. This program is envisioned to help identify risks in real time and connect communities with local resources during extreme heat events.

CalHeat Score works by displaying temperatures for every zip code in California on a 1-4 ranking system for extreme heat risk (with 1 meaning low risk up to 4, or extreme risk). It is an interactive mapping tool showing zip codes across the state; the clickable interface allows individuals to pinpoint their location, understand the current risk level in real-time, and provides important public health and cooling resources for that area. More information on CalHeatScore is available online at <https://calheatscore.calepa.ca.gov/>.

TAC Member Discussion

Edwards led a discussion session with TAC members on CalHeatScore. The input and questions received are as follows; chair/staff responses are provided below as sub-bullets:

- Martinez asked if this platform can be integrated into or inform the vulnerable communities platform.
 - Edwards said both tools are expected to be complimentary, but serving different purposes. Aligning on indicators for both systems will be important.
- Bengtsson said he would recommend this tool to the PG&E health and safety team.
- Martinez suggested the tool could be modified to issue text alerts to farm workers, their employers, and CalOSHA when extreme heat is expected for a particular area.
- Kadara suggested the tool should explain risk particularly to children and infants, since they are often more vulnerable to extreme heat events.
 - Wieland agreed and suggested they could be added to future cohorts for the tool.
- Bengtsson noted that SDG&E recently completed their climate adaptation and vulnerability assessment, and Southern California Edison filed their community engagement plan.

General Public Comment

None recorded.

Closing Comments and Adjourn

Edwards closed the meeting. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for August 22nd. One topic for consideration on August 22nd is the appointment of a TAC vice chair.