



Technical Advisory Council

Item 8: APGP Showcase Discussion Paper

Mar. 6, 2026

Introduction

The **ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP)** helps fill local, regional, and Tribal planning needs by supporting communities across the state to identify climate resilience priorities, build capacity, and develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects. APGP provides flexible funding to meet multi-sector and multi-hazard planning needs, including but not limited to land use, transportation, housing, natural resource management, public infrastructure, and hazard mitigation.

Round 1 of the APGP invested **\$8 million** across 14 climate adaptation planning projects led by partnerships made up of local, regional, Tribal governments, non-profits, and academic institutions. APGP supports projects that prioritize vulnerable communities and address the greatest climate risks. APGP allows communities to fill multiple local and state planning requirements, while simultaneously encouraging applicants to plan for implementation funding, such as federal, philanthropic, and other state grant programs.

In January, APGP Round 1 concluded, marking the culmination of the program. APGP has resulted in 14 new or updated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans and strategies, and 4 new or updated General Plan Elements to address the impacts of climate change. Through meaningful and intentional partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), California Native American Tribes, and academic institutions, APGP grantees developed and implemented robust community engagement strategies, ensuring that every plan and strategy reflected the needs and priorities of those most impacted by climate hazards.

Today, you will hear presentations from three APGP grantees highlighting lessons learned, challenges faced, and innovative approaches taken to develop their adaptation plans, as well as opportunities for replicating this work in other communities and informing broader state-level climate adaptation and resilience initiatives.

Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Shade Equity Master Plan

The Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Shade Equity Master Plan, the first rural plan of its kind, provides a blueprint for the County of Riverside, special districts, and private landowners to maximize shade coverage across the region, reducing heat burden and

improving thermal comfort for the valley's climate-vulnerable communities. Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), a design and urban planning non-profit that has been working with ECV communities since 2011, led the project in partnership with UCLA Luskin Center's Dr. Kelly Turner and her team and the Oasis Leadership Committee (OLC), a local resident-led advocacy group.

Few rural communities have done this level of planning around heat and shade equity. This project is an innovative example that lays the groundwork for other rural communities to learn from and expand on. This project was closely developed with input from over 400 community members who provided direct input through engagement at community events, six mobile pop-ups, and 32 dinner table dialogues – small, private workshops hosted in family homes.

The plan outlines the community and stakeholder engagement process and results; detailed heat study maps for each exposure setting; and design guidelines to address the heat burden and provide adequate shade as a cooling strategy. Finally, the plan includes a series of policy and program recommendations for each exposure setting so that Riverside County departments and ECV-serving districts can better plan for shade interventions when developing or retrofitting the exposure setting typology.

Ramona-Barona Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan

The [Ramona-Barona Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan \(CARP\)](#) is led by the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) in partnership with the Barona Band of Mission Indians. The CARP aims to identify the region's most pressing climate threats, establish a coordinated strategy to address those risks, and create a framework for integrating resilience into future planning and decision-making. Major emission sources in the region include transportation, energy use, and solid waste. The region's natural and working lands such as shrublands, grasslands, and oak woodlands serve as important carbon sinks.

The plan reflects a shared commitment among RMWD, the Ramona community, and the Barona Band of Mission Indians (Barona) to safeguard natural resources, honor cultural heritage, and support community well-being. The intended outcome is to deliver actionable resilience strategies that align with community values and reduce vulnerability, enhance emergency preparedness, and position the region to thrive in the face of climate change.

The project aims to build stronger coordination in rural unincorporated San Diego County, and establish a roadmap to increase community resilience. The CARP reflects the unique cultural and resilience needs of the region while building on County of San Diego resilience efforts. The CARP incorporates climate legislation such as SB 379, SB 32, and AB 1279 and helps bridge geographical, political, social, and institutional barriers.

City of San Rafael Sea Level Rise Collaborative

The Sea Level Rise Collaborative is a joint effort of the City of San Rafael, the Canal Alliance, the County of Marin, the Multicultural Center of Marin, and researchers at the University of California, Berkeley to understand, plan, and reduce flood risks in East San

Rafael, one of the Bay Area's most climate-vulnerable areas. It brings together local agencies, community groups, and technical experts. Together, they assessed hazards and co-created an engagement process to explore potential sea level rise adaptation strategies.

This project refined the understanding of physical flood risks and engaged community members, particularly youth, in community science efforts through community High Tide Days. The project also conducted vulnerability assessment and asset mapping which identified critical infrastructure, housing, and access routes at risk under multiple sea-level-rise scenarios through technical analysis. Finally, the project worked to develop community-prioritized adaptation actions; many of which centered around preparing for an emergency and building resilience in the short term.

These community-driven efforts have resulted in a Final Sea Level Rise Feasibility Planning Study outlining the impacts of flood-related hazards in San Rafael and identifying tradeoffs and benefits for three potential adaptation alternatives.

Discussion Questions

- As this funding marks the end of APGP, how can ICARP continue to support communities in advancing their climate adaptation and resilience planning efforts?
- What role can storytelling, data, and community engagement play in keeping these priorities visible and supported?