

Technical Advisory Council Oct. 23, 2026 - Staff Report

Table of Contents

2025-2026 ICARP Priorities	2
ICARP Highlights.....	3
California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment.....	4
Climate Services	5
Community Planning and Capacity Building – Recovery Support Function.....	7
Extreme Heat and Community Resilience.....	7
Regional Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program.....	10

2025-2026 ICARP Priorities

With guidance from the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (LCI) Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council (TAC), ICARP staff is implementing a suite of programmatic priorities for 2025-2026 centered on four themes:

Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities

Build lasting, respectful partnerships with California Native American Tribes and vulnerable communities by centering tribal sovereignty, expanding inclusive engagement opportunities, and aligning state efforts with local needs. Improve grant accessibility, ensure language access, support informed decision-making, and enhance community capacity through targeted training and technical assistance.

Showcase Impact Through Storytelling

Elevate the voices of local communities by sharing stories of climate resilience through accessible campaigns, case studies, and inclusive outreach. Highlight community-led successes, demonstrate the co-benefits of adaptation efforts, and use robust data to celebrate and track progress across California.

Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools

Develop and enhance data tools and resources to guide equitable local planning and climate adaptation. Support tribally-led and community-driven research, translate complex information for practical use, and coordinate regionally specific strategies that reflect shared priorities and respect Indigenous data governance.

Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action

Prioritize investments in frontline communities and foster cross-sector partnerships to drive equitable resilience outcomes. Leverage ICARP's coordinating role, provide technical and funding support for local efforts, and promote integrated, regionally driven approaches to climate adaptation across jurisdictions.

See Appendix A for the full list of priorities.

ICARP Highlights

- LCI continues to make progress toward the final publication of Fifth Climate Change Assessment materials and is working closely with key partners to host a series of webinars this summer and fall focused on regional and statewide reports, and presentations at the Resilient California Summit (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority*).
- LCI continues to work closely with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) to update the Adaptation Planning Guide (APG), a framework for local adaptation planning. The APG 3.0 update includes new data, tools, and resources in the state's portfolio to ensure users have access to the best available science (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools; Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- LCI received 65 applications for the second round of the Climate Ready Cohort and will commence classes with 15 new cohort members in January 2027. Climate vulnerability assessment from the first cohort along with a self-guided online curriculum version of the Climate Ready Cohort will be published on the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) in January 2027 (*Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities; Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).
- The Governor's Office officially released the 2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan in August. CNRA and LCI have organized and hosted rollout activities, including an international heat webinar and a CNRA Secretary Speaker Series. (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action, Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).
- The Extreme Heat Program attended construction milestone events with three Round 1 grantees. California Parenting Institute brought multiple funders together for a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the resilience center in Santa Rosa. Middletown Rancheria hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of 15 solar-powered mini-spilt systems throughout their community. And in Tulare County, the team is coordinating a ribbon cutting to celebrate the shade structures that have been completed at three parks (*Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities*).
- The Final Guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability were released on June 16 for Round 2 of Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program, officially launching the application process. The Full Application window closed on Oct. 13. Staff and third-party TA provider, Civix, hosted a range of one-on-one technical assistance sessions and workshops to promote the program and support applicants throughout the process. An announcement of awards is expected in early 2027 (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) grantees Public Health Institute and Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico successfully closed out their grant. Staff provided feedback on their case studies and final reports and confirmed receipt of deliverables (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

Staff Lead: [Elea Becker Lowe](#)

Background

California's Climate Assessment is a multi-year research effort with government, academic, tribal, and community partners to generate new data, original research, and syntheses on the ways climate change impacts California's diverse communities. 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, California Strategic Growth Council, and more than 1000 expert and community contributors. The Fifth Assessment includes the latest climate change projections and modeling for California's future climate; original research that fills gaps in the state's understanding of climate impacts; regional and topical reports uplifting community priorities throughout the state; decision-support tools; and a first-of-its-kind [Tribal Research Program](#). Through a community-driven research process, the Fifth Assessment is being uniquely developed to support on-the-ground implementation and decision-making at local, regional, tribal, and state levels, with a focus on the needs of communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Thanks to partnerships with diverse research teams, including academics, tribal communities, community representatives, practitioners, and other subject matter experts, the Fifth Assessment is in the process of delivering findings from nearly 70 reports and data products.

Recent Accomplishments

- LCI continues to make progress toward the final publication of Fifth Climate Change Assessment materials and is working closely with key partners to host a series of webinars this summer and fall focused on regional and statewide reports, and presentations at the Resilient California Summit (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority*).
- The Fifth Assessment team presented regional webinars for all nine Climate Assessment Regions: North Coast, San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast, Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Sierra Nevada, and Inland Deserts. These webinars analyzed the newest climate projections and uplifted the best available science and locally relevant information about climate change impacts for each region (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority; Showcase Impact Through Storytelling Priority*).
- The Statewide Summary is being finalized. The Statewide Summary provides a high-level overview of key findings from across the Fifth Assessment's research and data, and other relevant sources. We anticipate users across California accessing the Statewide Summary to learn about conclusions from the latest climate projections and understand the breadth of climate impacts across the state (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority*).

- The Fifth Assessment poster artist, Mariano Calvo, created posters featuring regionally significant flora and fauna for each of the nine Climate Assessment regions. Through artistic interpretation of the Fifth Assessment's findings, this project demonstrated the power of art to advance the conversation around climate while offering a student an opportunity for statewide exposure (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority; Showcase Impact Through Storytelling Priority*).
- The Fifth Assessment team has partnered with Indigenous Futures Society to support the final rollout of the Fifth Climate Change Assessment and plan tribal engagement opportunities to ensure California Native American tribes and Indigenous communities meaningfully engage with and access Fifth Assessment products. Indigenous Futures Society and LCI sent out award notices to Resilient California Summit Tribal Scholarship applicants. The awarded applicants come from 35 California Native American communities across the state (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools Priority; Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities*).
- With support from staff across LCI, multiple sessions at Resilient California Summit showcased research and data from California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools; Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).

Climate Services

Staff Lead: [Elea Becker Lowe](#) and Sierra Woodruff

Background

The ICARP Climate Services Program helps local, regional, and state public agencies; community-based organizations; and Tribes in California understand and use climate change information to advance climate adaptation. The program develops climate adaptation guidance and tools, helps people use climate change science and data, supports local adaptation planning and projects, and assists California public agencies and other organizations in making climate-resilient decisions and investments. The Climate Services Program's portfolio includes the Adaptation Clearinghouse, Cal-Adapt support, State Adaptation Guidance, technical assistance, and the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP).

Recent Accomplishments

- Staff provided technical assistance to Round 2 of LCI's Extreme Heat Program and LCI's Aliso Canyon Round of the Extreme Heat Program for the Northwest San Fernando Valley (Aliso Canyon Round). Both programs are using the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) to prioritize heat vulnerable communities for funding. Critically, the staff's familiarity with the VCP and other tools positioned them to help develop relevant pre-application and main application questions, provide informational webinars to prospective applicants, and serve as expert reviewers of applications received. Our work with these programs will provide the foundation for

continued use and adoption of the VCP in LCI and other state agency grant programs (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).

- LCI continues to work closely with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and CNRA to update the Adaptation Planning Guide (APG), a framework for local adaptation planning. During the public comment period (Jul 27-Sep 9), staff organized and supported two in-person public engagement events, one in San Francisco and one in San Diego. The APG 3.0 update includes new data, tools, and resources in the state’s portfolio to ensure users have access to the best available science (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools; Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- The Climate Data Viewer (beta version) remains in beta testing. Staff presented the beta Climate Data Viewer at the Sacramento Valley, North Coast, Inland Deserts, and Sierra Nevada Catalyst Convenings, gathering input from attendees to improve the tool. Staff are now conducting targeted reviews with climate and tool experts at the state to gather additional feedback during this beta testing phase. Our goal is to ensure the Climate Data Viewer provides increased access to climate data for low-capacity users who do not have the technical expertise typically required to interact with climate data. We plan to make updates to the Climate Data Viewer (e.g., to the structure, indicators presented) based on feedback received during the beta testing phase (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).
- LCI received 65 applications for the second round of the Climate Ready Cohort and will commence classes with 15 new cohort members in January 2027. Climate vulnerability assessment from the first cohort along with a self-guided online curriculum version of the Climate Ready Cohort will be published on the VCP in January 2027. The self-guided curriculum and examples will allow future users of the VCP to easily replicate the process of developing their own climate vulnerability assessments using the tool. (*Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities; Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).
- Staff are working on a spatial analysis of LCI and SGC grant applicants, including both awarded and unawarded applications. This project will address questions of equity, distribution, and capacity in grant programs across the agency rather than as siloed grant programs. A mapping tool will be created to help grant teams understand where grants are being awarded, overlap in programs, and gaps in applicants. This work will have a lasting impact on how the agency communicates about the impact of their grant work. (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).
- At Resilient California Summit, staff hosted sessions in the “Tool Salon” to introduce attendees to state climate tools like the Vulnerable Communities Platform (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools; Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).

Looking Ahead

- In the coming months, LCI will be updating the Adaptation Clearinghouse, California’s consolidated searchable database of climate adaptation planning resources. We are working with a new contractor to make the site more reliable and

include new content from the Adaptation Planning Guide 3.0, Climate Ready Cohort, and California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. We are also exploring updates to the home page to make navigation more accessible for users and to provide a more transparent process for case study submission. Our goal is to ensure the Adaptation Clearinghouse remains up-to-date and representative of the breadth of adaptation work occurring in California (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).

Community Assistance – Recovery Support Function

Staff Lead: Sierra Woodruff

Background

In partnership with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (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.

Looking Ahead

- Following Governor Gavin Newsom proclaiming a state of emergency in September to bolster statewide El Nino preparedness, staff are tracking efforts to mobilize state resources ahead of potential winter storms and other impacts.
- Staff continue to coordinate with and support Community Assistance leads at Cal OES as they explore options for how lessons learned from the 2025 Los Angeles area fires and other disasters could be used to develop recovery framework guidance (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools; Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).

Extreme Heat and Community Resilience

Staff Lead: [Braden Kay](#)

Background

Extreme heat is a public health, climate resilience, and social equity problem that will impact every community in California. The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program (Extreme Heat Program) builds capacity for heat action planning and project implementation in the most heat-burdened communities through both grants and policy work.

The Extreme Heat Program invests in local, regional, and tribal heat reduction and mitigation efforts. In its first round of funding in FY 2024-25, the grant program awarded

nearly \$32 million across 45 projects in 23 counties to deliver practical, community-led solutions. Project examples include:

- **Solar-powered air conditioning for vulnerable households**, paired with workforce development opportunities to help local youth enter the growing green economy
- **Heat-proofing parks and green spaces**, alongside community-centered training programs that build awareness and readiness for extreme heat
- **Thirty-one new heat resilience planning projects**. Currently there are only 10–15 extreme heat plans nationwide, and this investment marks a pivotal step toward implementing accepted national practices for heat resilience planning.

With funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and the Climate Bond (Proposition 4), the program will support a second round of awards in FY 2025-26. Round 2 builds on lessons learned from Round 1. Early feedback was collected from over 500 community members across 10 input sessions in 2025 and a public comment period on the Draft Guidelines was held in early 2026. The Final Guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) were released in June 2026. The program is currently receiving Pre-Application Forms, which is the step required for applicants to receive and complete their Full Application Forms. The Full Application window closes on Oct. 13. A range of one-on-one technical assistance and workshops are scheduled to promote and support applications. An announcement of awards is expected to be made in early 2027.

The Extreme Heat and Community Resilience portfolio also includes the Extreme Heat Action Plan. This plan outlines a strategic and comprehensive set of state actions to address extreme heat. Actions in the plan are organized around four tracks: building public awareness, strengthening community response, increasing the resilience of our built environment, and utilizing nature-based solutions. These tracks include established and recommended state actions to address extreme heat. California committed to updating the Extreme Heat Action Plan every three years (SB 306, Caballero 2023) to promote comprehensive, coordinated, and effective state and local government action on extreme heat.

The Extreme Heat Program is also working with the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), the California Department of Insurance, Cal OES, and the California Department of Public Health in support of the development and dissemination of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA) CalHeatScore. The CalHeatScore tool can be used by local governments, tribes, community-based organizations, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and other institutions to protect the most vulnerable Californians from deadly heat waves through increased awareness and intentional preparedness.

Recent Accomplishments

- **2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan (EHAP)**. The Governor's Office officially released the 2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan in August. CNRA and LCI have organized and hosted rollout activities, including an international heat webinar and a CNRA Secretary Speaker Series. (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action, Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).
- **CalHeatScore (CHS) Outreach**. The Extreme Heat Program, in partnership with OEHHA, officially released a CalHeatScore user guide in August. The user guide

provides instruction to both individuals and institutions on how CalHeatScore can be used to prepare for, and take action on, extreme heat events. The program is also partnering with OEHHA to develop and pilot a social media communications toolkit. The toolkit will serve as a resource to communicate heat health risks to Californians and build awareness of the tool. It will ultimately inform the development of a statewide communications plan for CalHeatScore. (*Expand Localized Data, Research, and Tools*).

- **Round 1 General Update.** Grantees are submitting mid-term reports which are being reviewed by program staff. (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- **Round 1 Grantee Visits.** The Extreme Heat Program attended construction milestone events with three grantees. California Parenting Institute brought multiple funders together for a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the resilience center in Santa Rosa. Middletown Rancheria hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of 15 solar-powered mini-split systems throughout their community. And in Tulare County the team is coordinating a ribbon cutting to celebrate the shade structures that have been completed at three parks (*Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities*).
- **Round 1 Peer Learning Program.** Program staff and contractor Climate Resolve hosted a grantee convening on October 19. The convening provided opportunities for peer learning around storytelling and funding and financing. To prime the storytelling portion of the convening, staff hosted a virtual workshop with Yates Creative. The workshop helped grantees identify the "Why" that drives their work and develop language that illuminates the power of their stories (*Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities; Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).
- **Round 2.** The Final Guidelines and Notice of Funding Availability were released on June 16, officially launching the application process. The Full Application window closed on Oct. 13. Staff and third-party TA provider, Civix, hosted a range of one-on-one technical assistance sessions and workshops to promote the program and support applicants throughout the process. An announcement of awards is expected in early 2027 (*Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- **Aliso Canyon Round of EHCRP.** LCI, through the Extreme Heat Program, received funding through the Aliso Canyon Recovery Account (AB 157, Budget Act of 2024) to fund local assistance projects within the "Aliso Canyon Disaster Area" in the City of Los Angeles communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, North Hills, Canoga Park, Reseda, Winnetka, West Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa. This program is currently paused pending updates.

Regional Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program

Staff Lead: [Dolores Barajas](#)

Background

ICARP developed the Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program to fund planning and implementation of resilience projects on a regional scale. Available to California Native American Tribes, public entities, community-based organizations, and academic institutions, the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) supports diverse partnerships in advancing resilience to multiple climate risks. In 2023, the program awarded \$21.8 million 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, including improving regional climate resilience and reducing 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.

Recent Accomplishments

- **Grant Closeouts:**
 - On September 3, RRGP grantee Public Health Institute was the first grantee to successfully close out their grant. Staff provided feedback on their case study and final report and confirmed receipt of deliverables (*Showcase Impact Through Storytelling; Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
 - On September 30, RRGP grantee Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico successfully closed out their grant. Staff provided feedback on their case study and final report and confirmed receipt of deliverables, including the grantee was able to treat more acres than originally projected (*Showcase Impact Through Storytelling; Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action*).
- **Implementation Updates:**
 - On August 25, RRGP grantee Nevada County presented a case study of their grant deliverables and lessons learned at the Sierra Nevada Catalyst Convening, hosted by LCI in Sacramento. (*Showcase Impact Through Storytelling; Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities*).

- On September 15, RRGP grantee Redwood Coast Energy Authority presented a case study of their grant deliverables and lessons learned at the North Coast Catalyst Convening, hosted by LCI in Sacramento. (*Showcase Impact Through Storytelling; Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities*).
- On October 6, RRGP grantee Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico hosted CNRA and LCI staff for a filming of their ancestral lands and examples of landscape treatments to reduce wildfire risk through the RRGP grant (*Showcase Impact Through Storytelling*).

Looking Ahead

- RRGP staff will continue to support grantees as projects approach closeout. Three contracts, LeGrand Athlone Water District, UCLA, and Paradise Recreation and Parks District are undergoing no-cost contract extensions.

Appendix A

Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities

- A. Deepen partnerships with California Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities that meaningfully respond to tribal feedback, include consistent and reliable engagement opportunities, and honor and respect tribal sovereignty.
- B. Foster meaningful ongoing relationships with grantees, local governments, youth, and vulnerable communities.
- C. Strengthen participatory and equitable grant processes that prioritize community needs and enhance accessibility to state funds.
- D. Evaluate and address shortcomings in community support and engagement to better align state efforts with local priorities.
- E. Align public engagement, technical assistance, policies, investments, and state-funded research to meet the diverse needs and contexts across regions. This includes providing language access for non-English speaking communities.
- F. Build capacity in vulnerable communities through focused technical assistance and training programs.
- G. Guarantee reliable public access to statewide and locally specific information to support informed decision-making.

Showcase Impact Through Storytelling

- A. Develop tailored outreach campaigns, case studies, and storytelling initiatives to demonstrate the tangible outcomes of climate adaptation investments. Ensure outreach and storytelling are conducted in a way to meet the needs of vulnerable communities, including persons with disabilities and the hearing impaired.
- B. Highlight locally led efforts and success stories across California communities to inspire action and enhance public understanding.
- C. Uplift tribal voices, stories, and perspectives, highlighting the work California Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities have done since time immemorial.
- D. Track, analyze, and celebrate investments, policy adoption, and project implementation with robust data to ensure long-term progress.
- E. Communicate the co-benefits of resilience efforts, such as job creation, improved health, cost savings from disasters, and opportunities for innovative economic models (e.g., worker-owned cooperatives).

Expand Localized Data, Research and Tools

- Further develop and leverage informational resources, frameworks, and tools to guide local governments in assessing vulnerabilities and implementing adaptation actions.
- Identify shared regional and local priorities to streamline efforts, avoid duplicative processes, and ensure consistent messaging.
- Expand decision-support tools and data resources to deliver equity-centered guidance, enhance local planning capacity, and support resilience-oriented recovery from climate impacts.
- Support low-capacity users with technical assistance, translating complex data and information into actionable insights for projects and plans.

- Fund tribally-led research and knowledge sharing that respects Indigenous data governance and acknowledges the unique relationships and histories of tribes in California.
- Develop regionally-specific action-based research that uplifts local priorities through a community-driven research model.

Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action

- A. Prioritize investments in climate adaptation and resilience efforts in the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- B. Utilize ICARP's role as an interagency connector to advance a comprehensive and coordinated response across state agencies for equitable climate adaptation and resilience outcomes.
- C. Foster and invest in diverse partnerships among public, private, tribal, and community-based entities.
- D. Support access to multiple funding mechanisms for local projects.
- E. Provide technical assistance to align plans, accelerating the development and implementation of holistic resilience plans.
- F. Provide technical assistance, evaluation, and case studies for climate adaptation infrastructure and programs.
- G. Identify opportunities to fund regional resilience efforts that help interconnected and diverse communities build resilience across jurisdictional boundaries.