

Safeguarding California: State Listening Tour

The California Natural Resources Agency released drafts for public comment of *Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans* on October 9th, 2015. This document contains implementation action plans that contain the state’s current actions and next steps related to the recommendations made in *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk*, the state’s climate adaptation strategy.

To gather feedback from around California and seek to further integrate local and regional adaptation work with state efforts, the Natural Resources Agency sought public comment at 6 public meetings. The Local Government Commission worked through the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaption to work with four regional hosts that organized listening sessions in Oakland, Fresno, Truckee, and San Diego. The Natural Resources Agency hosted two additional meetings in Sacramento and Los Angeles.

Notes from each of the six listening sessions are below. The notes are not minutes of the sessions, but rather represent key concepts and highlights, and have been taken by staff from the Natural Resources Agency who were present at all listening sessions.

The Natural Resources Agency is grateful for all of the comments received, and especially the help of LGC and the regional collaboratives of ARCCA for arranging robust participation.

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Bay Area Listening Session

October 12, 2015

6:00pm to 8:00pm

MetroCenter Auditorium

State attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA), Michael McCormick (OPR), Abe Doherty (OPC), Nick Sadrpour (OPC)

1. Presentations on Key Regional Adaptation Issues (see <http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/projects.html>; notes drawn from comments not largely contained in presentations)
 - a. Abigail Kroch, Directory of Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation at Contra Costa County Health Services
 - i. There are actions linked to reducing climate risk
 - ii. Sustainable food systems lessens poverty and vulnerability to climate threats
 - iii. Need for thinking through outcomes: What are dual benefits?
 - iv. Local Heat Vulnerability Report
 - b. Jose Lopez, East Oakland Community Organizer, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)
 - i. Connect toxic sites to climate change action. Toxic sites are a current and present problem that communities are ready to act around, and actions to address problems are enforceable.
 - ii. Regions should connect adaptation projects to problem sites.
 1. Note: useful tool- <http://www.toxicsites.us/>
 - c. Miriam Torres, Coastal Planner, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
 - i. See presentation; information about BCDC and ongoing projects
 - d. Jack Liebster, Planning Manager, Marin County Community Development Agency
 - i. Education opportunities among youth exploring SLR
 - ii. Provided model for local collaboration and regional support
 1. Steering committee of 2 elected officials from each jurisdiction and a staff member
 2. Technical Advisory Groups with one high-level staff
 - iii. Need for a 1 Stop Shop for resources and info for what is going on
 - iv. Need for better communication in sectors from state level to locals
 - e. Shirley Qian, Planner, Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority
 - i. Need for regional governance structure with SLR issues
 - ii. Cost-sharing a key issue
 - f. Margaret Gordon, Resilient Communities Initiative
 - i. Need for EJ communities to be at the table and doing the work
 - ii. Developed Climate EJ Checklist
 - g. Matt Gerhart, Deputy Program Manager, San Francisco Bay Area, State Coastal Conservancy

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- i. See presentation
 - h. Wendy Goodfriend, Senior Planner, BCDC (representing work by ABAG and BCDC)
 - i. Adapting to Rising Tides roadmap provides resources to planners and specifically addressed Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - ii. ABAG's website has a robust resilience program
- 2. Concepts drawn from discussion with attendees
 - a. Scenario planning for sudden SLR needed
 - b. Climate Central has valuable linkage between mitigation strategies and SLR
 - c. Draw in insurance/mortgage/banking industries and find a way to deal with disclosure limitations
 - d. Integrate private business perspective
 - i. Use regulation and partner with BCSH?

Central Valley Listening Session

October 13, 2015

6:00pm to 8:00pm

UC Merced Extension Center

State attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA)

1. Key Takeaways from Room Discussion
 - a. Arizona State University's adaptation guidebook for tribes a key source of help
 - i. Training sessions for tribes very helpful
 - b. Tribal engagement around watershed and air quality management will be helpful
 - c. North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians doing adaptation work
 - d. Solar panels on tribal homes is a key state action
 - e. Water Resource Plan at tribal level allows for grassroots action: household audits and meter incorporation
 - f. Tribal Ecological Knowledge is a key concept; allows for in-depth look at important plant species for culture
 - g. San Joaquin Greenprint could be a useful resource
 - h. Central Valley Flood Protection Plan is a key adaptation document, but how well does it incorporate future climate modeling?

Sierra Nevada Listening Session

October 14, 2015

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Truckee Regional Airport, Community Room A

State attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA), Kim Carr (CALFIRE), Michael McCormick (OPR), Peter Coombe (DWR via phone)

1. Presentations on Key Local Issues
 - a. Diana Madsen (Sierra CAMP)
 - i. Education, Vulnerability Assessments, and advocacy are key pieces of local work
 - b. Doug Smith (Lahontan Water Board)
 - i. Barstow & South Lake Tahoe workshop on adaptation drew 100 people
 1. 400 suggestions from public (all posted on website: waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan)
 - ii. Decision to encourage and require stormwater capture
 - iii. Regulations on wastewater protection created
 - iv. Formation of three working groups with locals and water board staff
 1. Infrastructure
 2. Wetlands and flooding
 3. Storm drains
 - v. Many subsistence groundwater users have no voice in planning and policy processes
 1. No access to funds regarding water access
 - vi. There is an overabundance of information around climate adaptation- a portal is needed
 - c. John Singlaub (Ascent Environmental)
 - i. Angora Fire showed need for defensible space and treatment work
 - ii. Construction changes needed
 1. Connect to FireSafe
 2. Help people with private sector strategies
 - d. Steve Brink (CA Forestry Assoc.)
 - i. CALFIRE-USFS Partnership needed, with funding through “good neighbor authority”
 - ii. Emphasize water benefits of forest work
 - e. Brandon Sanders (Sierra Nevada Conservancy)
 - i. Healthy forests and watersheds a priority
 - ii. Create investment on the ground
 - iii. Watershed Improvement Program should be tied to work on USFS lands through good neighbor authority
 - f. Tony Lashbrook (Truckee Town Manager)
 - i. Doing work in a “retreat town”- only half of residences lived in year-round
 - ii. The shift caused by SB 743 from LOS to VMT is key

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- iii. Prop 1C necessitating COG work
 - iv. \$4 million grant to Truckee through AHSC shows need for planning in advance
 - v. Truckee can serve as a model for smart development in rural areas
2. Discussion Circle (names unfortunately too difficult to note)
- a. County-based regional approach is critical
 - b. Funding from state and federal sources needed
 - c. Problem with funding forest health comes from legislature cutting base funding after fire fee implementation
 - d. SRA fees go to residential beneficiaries; lawsuits are tying up funding
 - e. Nevada County: equitable distribution of state funding needed
 - f. Capacity of local staff needs to be built- state training on requirements, esp. in small counties, will be key for implementation
 - g. (Steve Frisch, Sierra Business Council)
 - i. recognize ecosystem values
 - ii. adaptation implementation requires public and private partnerships
 - iii. tie revenue streams to adaptation work
 - iv. incorporate resilience into all funding, and help small businesses
 - h. (Dave Poling?, Tahoe Mountain Sports)
 - i. Title 24 Energy requirements burdensome and confusing for small businesses
 - ii. Economic piece for resilience needs to be incorporated
 - iii. Cost of regulatory barriers for small businesses needs to be incorporated
 - iv. Education and youth outreach needed; use "Protect Our Winters" as a slogan
 - v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency doing education around environmental issues
 - i. Southern California legislators need to be convinced to invest in rural areas
 - j. Sustainable biomass infrastructure a key piece that provide forest health and economic benefits. Need to look into financial models for ecosystem work.
 - k. (Greg Jones, Sierra Business Council)
 - i. CPUC funding clearinghouse project: move towards a common application for GGRF and other grant programs
 - ii. CPUC can work with DACs on hard-to-reach regions
 - iii. Align state policy according to adaptation recommendations
 - l. More partnerships and educational outreach needed on timber harvesting

Additional notes:

- Institutionalizing the Angora Fire Restoration Monitoring Protocol:
http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/monitoring_study_group/msg_archived_documents/msg_archived_documents/_california_tahoe_conservancy_angora_monitoring_protocol_4-08.pdf
- Figure out how to return some of the SRA money back to counties (and the issue of \$42 million sitting in the bank that the legislature has not yet allocated)

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- Create an education/capacity building program specific to fire/fuel load management for local staff
- Subsidize biomass - it can't survive in the competitive marketplace according to the speakers - there was uniform consensus on this point
- "renewable sustainable biomass" as a means to meet many of the State's near term emissions goals if ramped up properly
- Providing fire response options for businesses that tend to have inventory loss (food industry) or excess inventory (retail) when fire/smoke causes loss of tourism dollars
- Consensus on the need for an educational curriculum that responds to the changing paradigm and climate issues
- The Urban/Rural workshop will address a little of this next week but the idea that metro regions should be investing in Sierra Forest Mgmt for natural systems benefits
- We should be thinking about the front counter at a planning department when implementing goals/policies. How will developers and planners respond?
- A "Hard to Reach" definition by the CPUC is causing issues on resource allocation (I don't remember details here but it sounded like CPUC was defining this term for urban environments which was causing issues in the Sierras.
- While doing load reduction efforts think about public access. Access roads should also be constructed with the intent of creating better public access/parking/interpretive signage - this links to education and access for all residents to learn about the forest and why salvage logging and load reduction are necessary parts of managing the forest.
- Note: Valley Vision is working on a business resiliency initiative and Sierra Camp will be doing a pilot in Tahoe

High-level concepts from notes:

1. Institutionalization for consideration of climate change in cross agency coordination, documents, etc
2. Funding to get the work done
3. Education - for kids, tourists, residents, staff
4. Better support of regional coordination and collaboration efforts
5. Definitions - we need to come together on what certain definitions are (see "hard to reach" discussion above)
6. Biomass - need a huge initiative to process

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7. Local Capacity building - temporary and longer term solutions (CivicSpark was brought up as an example of a functional program)
8. Everything we propose needs to also work at the front counter at a planning department
9. Think about unintended policy outcomes before things play out on the ground

San Diego Listening Session

October 15, 2015

6:00pm to 8:00pm

Port of San Diego

State attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA), Jose Lara (CalOES, via phone), Lauma Jurkevics (DWR, via phone)

1. Jason Giffen (Port of San Diego)
 - a. Welcome from host organization and introductions
 - b. New Climate Action Plan for Port adopted
2. Brendan Reed (San Diego Airport)
 - a. Concern from locals about continuity of state policy around adaptation. There has been a lack of a consistent contact for locals around state adaptation policy.
 - b. Is there a way to look 20, 30 years out in state adaptation policy?
 - c. Overview of San Diego Climate Collaborative
 - i. Founded 2012
 - ii. 16 members
 - iii. 3 initiatives:
 1. Climate and Energy Planning
 2. Building capacity through trainings
 3. Raise profile of regional leadership
 - d. Example projects at the regional level (including suggestions from audience)
 - i. San Diego Foundation's report "San Diego: 2050 is calling"
 1. Regional vulnerability assessment
 - ii. Sea-level Rise Adaptation Strategy (2012)
 - iii. Tijuana River Estuary work: Climate Understanding and Resilience
 - iv. Port of San Diego work: Living Shoreline planning and implementation
 - v. Urban Forestry
 - vi. Energy Coalition work: local generation and storage
 - vii. County of San Diego: multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans
 - viii. San Diego Airport: Adaptive water management with flooding, stormwater, on-site reuse, and "internal water microgrid"
 - ix. Scripps' work to help communities comply with federal flood insurance and improve local ratings
3. Frank Landis (Native Plant Society)
 - a. CALFIRE's vegetation treatment program in San Diego region is not responsive to local conditions, and there is a lack of communication with land developers there
 - b. Climate change adaptation is not being undertaken holistically
 - c. CEQA is a powerful tool to address adaptation at project level
4. James Nakagawa
 - a. SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies should be tied to adaptation
 - b. Ensure adaptation implementation through grant requirements

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5. Allison Wood
 - a. Utilize more local research
6. Michael Nguyen
 - a. Include over-arching long-term vision for adaptation
 - b. A clear framework for how to do adaptation work, as well as monitoring and evaluation, is needed
 - c. Longer programmatic cycle (rather than 3 years) should be used to improve certainty and allow implementation of local efforts
7. Brendan Reed
 - a. Michael McCormick of OPR has been a consistent and valuable resource for locals to informally seek advice about state policy; more continuity and stability in this area would be helpful
8. Magela Manasjan
 - a. Need for diverse voices in adaptation policy
 - b. Engage Environmental Justice community early and often
9. Brendan Reed
 - a. SANDAG has community-based organization outreach, as well as focus on military, border, and tribal outreach
 - b. Utilizing local capacity can be key for communication with different groups
10. Frank Landis
 - a. Using local CEQA announcement lists to communicate about adaptation could also draw in interested groups
11. Cory Downs
 - a. Green Business programs are a valuable resource to be able to reach interested local businesses
12. James Nakagawa
 - a. Current judicial ruling states that CEQA cannot involve adaptation (or effect of environment on people), so threats like sea-level rise can only be addressed through specific laws like the Coastal Act
13. Bill Tippets
 - a. Children and Nature groups are important for youth education
14. Lauma Jurkevics (DWR)
 - a. Groups like Water Education Foundation and their Water Education for Teachers program can help
 - b. Amber Pairis: Climate Science Alliance
15. Bill Tippets
 - a. California Coastal Commission's sea-level rise guidance is pseudo-regulatory
 - b. San Diego Regional Water Control Board is showing regional leadership on adaptation through drought response
16. James Nakagawa
 - a. International engagement, especially on watershed and ocean issues in San Diego region, is important

Sacramento Public Workshop

October 26, 2015

10:00am – 12:00pm

California Energy Commission

State Attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA), Louise Bedsworth (OPR), Nick Sadrpour (OPC), Paul McDougall (HCD), Megan Walton (CalOES), Russ Henly (CNRA), Mackenzie Wieser (SGC), Liz Grassi (SGC), Emily Alejandrino (DWR), Carolyn cook (CDFA), Whitney Albright (CDFW), Dantte Rada (DOC), Dorette English (CDPH)

1. Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust
 - a. Thanks for one spot that pulls in information and highlights where there is need
 - b. There are ongoing challenges with sectors and silos; Forests, Biodiversity, and Water are separate, for example
 - c. Silos make it difficult to focus on “systems,” like connecting upper watershed -> agriculture
 - d. There is a need to identify Natural and Working Lands in an integrated way
 - e. Land Use sector might make sense, but we need special focus on rural landscapes/ecosystems
2. JR DeLaRosa, CNRA
 - a. The hope is to connect urban/rural communities with new Land Use sector
 - b. Past sector-based approach comes from ease for state: budgeting, accountability
 - c. There is value in regional, landscape level approach that will be reflected in Safeguarding update
3. Emily Wasley-Seyller, CADMUS
 - a. Work on small business resilience is important
 - b. White House initiative emphasizes that public-private dialogue is important
 - c. State funding will be key for improving economic resilience
4. Larry Greene, SAQMD
 - a. There is a valuable opportunity to put on paper how regional process might take place
 - b. State funding for regional approach will be helpful
 - c. ARCCA is reviewing entire plan and will submit a substantial set of written comments
 - d. It be key to think about process and structure of adaptation policy moving forward
 - e. Business Resilience Initiative (Valley Vision)
5. Louis Bloomberg, TNC
 - a. Review underway that will lead to written comments
 - b. Impressed with great progress by state
 - c. Continue breaking down silos contained in sectors
 - d. In final draft, focus on cross-sector integration
 - e. Positive that natural infrastructure is in many sectors
 - f. Think about using public health to do more cross-sector references
 - g. Next Steps are uneven across sectors; some are specific, some are more general. Bringing all sectors up to par would be useful.

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- h. Investments in adaptation are possible through bond funds, capital outlay projects
 - i. Happy to see emphasis on metrics and indicators; is there a way to integrate metrics into EGPR?
 - j. How will all the adaptation tools be managed?
 - k. Focus on DACs should include all vulnerable communities- including rural communities not identified through CalEnviroScreen
 - l. In the new LUCD plan, avoid sector language to focus on integrated endeavor of adaptation
6. JR DeLaRosa, CNRA
- a. Metrics will be done through TAG
 - b. Tools can be compiled by TAG, OPR clearinghouse
7. Nick Sadrpour, OPC
- a. Consider user needs with tools will be crucial, looking at SLR viewer example
8. Chris Brown, 350 Sacramento
- a. Water use efficiency model can prove valuable to adaptation efforts
 - b. Mandatory efficiency is a valuable lesson: standards lead to more innovation
 - c. Low-impact development should be included in LUCD while also focusing on already developed space
 - d. Adequate water supply planning: crucial area to focus on, develop oversight
 - e. EcoRestore (DWR): only mentions Delta, but also should look at upper watershed; look at regional Sierra work and connect it to EcoRestore
9. Sekita Grant, Greenlining Institute
- a. Building resilient communities is key for CA's future
 - b. Social justice focus is critical for vulnerable communities/populations
 - c. Recognize and plan for impacts in vulnerable populations, especially focusing on vulnerable groups within vulnerable populations (like seniors). This layered approach will be helpful to identify most vulnerable in society.
 - d. Systemic problems need to be addressed; written comments will provide more specificity
 - e. Building non-traditional partnerships will be key to move past early adopters to bring in outside groups in the EJ, faith-based, and social justice areas.
 - f. Building broader coalitions happens through outreach and communications
 - g. There is a need for more research on social impacts and social solutions
 - h. Stronger inclusion efforts will get vulnerable communities to participate in planning
 - i. Implementation is very crucial to get mobilized community base
 - j. How will money, information, science, technical assistance, and implementation strategies be provided?
10. JR DeLaRosa, CNRA
- a. Having better vulnerability assessments that can really look at local level (like Oakland ART) will be important for DACs
 - b. Climate science discussions have emphasized incorporating social science research to understand behavioral issues (how do we communicate and spur grassroots action)

- c. Projects with cross-sectoral benefits should be prioritized

11. Dorette English, CDPH

- a. CalBRACE program in all 58 counties doing critical work in vulnerable populations, and has already completed climate vulnerability assessments for 10
- b. Local groundtruthing is underway by engaging with local public health departments
- c. The main issue moving forward is that grassroots engagement is resource-intensive
- d. There is also a need for climate-related public health professional development
- e. Connecting the dots from state to local agencies to local communities will require authentic and robust engagement and mobilization

12. Judy Robinson, Sustainability Manager for Sacramento County

- a. Different grant programs allow for education about cross-sector possibilities. Health in All Policies is an example of successful integration.
- b. Look at all funding sources to identify multiple benefits
- c. Silos are an issue across state government, including with adaptation policy.
- d. We have a lot of existing inadequacies in infrastructure, and using a systems approach will be helpful.
- e. Integrating health, planning, and resilience is a key next step- planners and public health professionals have been hard to bring together at the local level.
- f. No matter where (General Plan updates, CBDG grants, Housing elements, etc), focus has to be on bringing people together
- g. Developers need master plans for well into the future
- h. Providing guidance on how to do holistic systems planning will be key
- i. Looking proactively at regulatory barriers to local resilience initiatives in order to streamline resilience and adaptation work will be key
- j. In addition to incentives, sticks like making Green Building Code more forceful will be needed for comprehensive adaptation action
- k. Emergency response standards are one example that can be worked on to integrate resilience and streamline action
 - i. For example, fire departments currently won't budge on roadway widths for safer, more resilient streets. How do we work together to make sure all needs are met?
- l. Look at what communities can do to reduce vulnerability

13. Melinda Terry, Flood Control Association

- a. Integration across sectors is needed
- b. Look across sectors at the extremes- droughts and floods help integration
- c. Getting health officials to make connections to climate-related impacts (like blue green algae) can help spur integrated local action
- d. Transportation is a great cross-over section
- e. Next Steps sections in the plans are often too planning based; more focus on action is needed.
- f. Greater funding for the CA Conservation Corps can be a key adaptation boost (fire and flood protection, as well as habitat restoration)

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- g. Pre-planning for extreme events, like levee breaches onto ag fields to save urban areas, can be a key action
 - h. Look at extreme events first, then reverse plan for cross-sector integration
- 14. Emily Wasley Seyler, CADMUS Group
 - a. Looking at decisions instead of impacts
 - b. There are two areas to highlight in terms of economic resilience:
 - i. Supply chain risk from regional to international vulnerability
 - ii. Telecommunication risk, especially ground-level telecommunication infrastructure
 - c. State of MA is an example where they looked at vulnerability assessment for the State and then analyzed where microgrids would be most beneficial
- 15. Louis Bloomberg, The Nature Conservancy
 - a. TNC Oxnard/Ventura project on sea-level rise with Coastal Commission and utilities built resilience
 - b. TNC Delta project is restoring managed wetlands
- 16. Dorette English
 - a. The Health in All Policies model from SGC is a potential model

Los Angeles Public Workshop

October 27, 2015

1:30pm – 3:30pm

Junipero Serra Building

State attendees: JR DeLaRosa (CNRA), Joey Wall (CNRA), Dorette English (CDPH via phone)

1. Cecile Buncio, City of Los Angeles
 - a. Stormwater resilience measures are included in a plan for action that was produced in collaboration with US/EPA.
 - i. The City is looking at local impacts, and has found the need for emergency generators.
 - b. Funding is needed to support local implementation of resilience measures.
 - c. The Healthy Soils program and its work with compost could include green waste as a diversion credit. A market for compost is needed, and the state should play a role along with municipalities and private entities.
2. Krista Kline, LARC
 - a. Adaptation work in LA City and Region is very difficult
 - b. Adaptation Funding Wizard would be a key tool; LARC is interested in creating resources
3. Geoff Danker, Southern California Gas
 - a. If the plans are to be actionable, prioritization among sector needs will be difficult
 - b. A list of sources of funding that sort by user needs will be useful for implementation
 - c. Existing funding sources are listed for certain projects, but there is nowhere to go for aspirational goals
4. JR DeLaRosa, CNRA
 - a. Part of the challenge is coming up with an organizational structure for adaptation decisions
5. Krista Kline, LARC
 - a. There is a need to create a framework around climate adaptation that can incorporate a focus on climate impacts and sectors)
 - b. Public Health shows the overlap of different impacts within a sector: heat, vector control, air quality, connections to other sector threats (flooding, fires and their connection to air quality)
6. David Fink, ClimateResolve
 - a. LA City Sustainability Plan includes climate adaptation metrics:
 - i. It set a target of cooling city 1.75 degrees by 2025 and 2.5 degrees by 2035
 - ii. It includes humidity and air mass type to understand how heat is going to affect populations
 - b. By 2017 there will be a climate adaptation plan for whole city
 - c. LA Vulnerability Map work also underway at LARC
7. Celine Gallon, Regional Water Quality Control Board
 - a. The Water Plan includes SWRCB, but the 9 regional boards would be really good to talk to for regional accomplishments and efforts

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- b. There is a lack of communication among RWQB
- c. The regional board in LA has a climate plan
- d. Stormwater permits have been adapted from LA model
- e. There is a lot happening at regional levels