



## State Adaptation Clearinghouse User Needs Assessment *Overview and Survey*

### Objectives

- Familiarize potential users with the Adaptation Clearinghouse and the role that it can play in the implementation of local and regional adaptation and resiliency efforts.
- Collect information from potential users to assist OPR staff in the design and content development of the Clearinghouse to insure that:
  - The Clearinghouse is a useful and effective resource for local agencies to use in adaptation planning and implementation
  - Information in the Clearinghouse is consistent with existing tools and resources to inform state and local adaptation efforts

### Survey

Open this Survey Monkey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7CBY2B>) to give feedback on the following overview and topic areas. **Survey link closes August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## Background: State Adaptation Clearinghouse

In 2015, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 246 (Wieckowski), which directed OPR to form the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP). The Program is designed to develop a cohesive and coordinated response to the impacts of climate change across State, local, and regional levels. One main component of the Program is the State Adaptation Clearinghouse, which serves as a centralized source of information and resources to assist decision makers at the state, tribal, regional, and local levels when planning for and implementing climate adaptation projects to promote resiliency across California.

The State Adaptation Clearinghouse will include:

- A searchable library of relevant white papers, case studies, multi-media stories, research articles, and climate adaptation best practices
- Tools and resources for adaptation research, planning, and projects
- Science and projection related guidance to support state-wide consistency and use of authoritative sources of information on science and projections
- Relevant policies and guidance to support climate adaptation efforts
- Connections to existing State tools and resources
  - Cal-Adapt
  - MyPlan and MyHazards
  - AB 2516 SLR Database
  - State guidance documents (SLR Guidance, State Hazard Mitigation Plan, General Plan Guidelines, etc.)

### Structure

The Adaptation Clearinghouse will be a user-friendly, searchable database that categorizes all information and is searchable using keywords and tags. The Clearinghouse will also utilize an ESRI Story Map that will display Clearinghouse information geographically, using multimedia and interactive features.

### Audience

The primary audience for the Adaptation Clearinghouse is public agencies, including state, tribal, local (city, county, special district) and regional governments.

While OPR is initially focused on supporting local public sector efforts, staff recognize that diverse partnerships between nonprofits, community-based organizations and private sector entities are required to realize successful local climate adaptation implementation. With this in mind, OPR is hosting a series of Adaptation Clearinghouse user workshops with state agencies, local and regional agencies, and nonprofits and community-based organizations.

The goal is to develop an Adaptation Clearinghouse that is easy to navigate and provides relevant resources across a diverse set of user needs.

# 1. Case Studies

## Existing Information

OPR developed a placeholder for the Clearinghouse on its webpage in January 2017. The existing Case Studies landing page currently points to the following:

- The **Governor's Office of Planning and Research** has many ongoing partnerships and programs to produce case studies of replicable best practices, some of which are highlighted in the Best Practice Pilot Program. OPR has completed a number of original case studies with support from AmeriCorps CivicSpark members across the State.
- The **Georgetown Adaptation Clearinghouse** provides resources that help policymakers at all levels of governments reduce or avoid the impacts of climate change to communities in the United States. The Adaptation Clearinghouse focuses on climate change impacts that adversely affect people and our built environment. Content focal areas include the water, coastal, transportation, infrastructure and public health sectors, and adaptation planning, policies, laws, and governance.
- The **Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE)** aims to build a shared knowledge base for managing natural and built systems in the face of rapid climate change. It helps users to find appropriate resources quickly by vetting and clearly organizing the best information available, building a community via an interactive online platform. CakeX consists of case studies, a virtual library, directory and tools and houses a variety of community forums for the discussion of current issues in climate adaptation.
- The **U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit** is a website designed to help people find and use tools, information, and subject matter expertise to build climate resilience, offering information from all across the U.S. federal government in one easy-to-use location. The goal of the Toolkit is to improve people's ability to understand and manage their climate-related risks and opportunities, and to help them make their communities and businesses more resilient to extreme events.
- The **Local Government Commission** is an active leader in California climate adaptation by playing an active partnership role in the Alliance for Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA), administering the Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program, CivicSpark, and much more. Visit their climate change resources page or browse current CivicSpark projects taking place throughout the state to stay up to date on some of their adaptation and resilience-focused work.
- The **Institute for Local Government** has a number of adaptation resources including case studies of climate adaptation plans in California to showcase the variety of formats adaptation planning can take and the many levels and forms of government that can make it happen. Through the GIS map, click on any local government to see the work they are doing on climate change.

## Information to be Added

### White Papers and Research Articles

OPR staff have begun preliminary research on research articles and white papers to include on the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

### Case Studies

OPR staff are working to collect case studies on a wide array of topics related to adaptation from across the state. Staff are currently looking for innovative, replicable policies, plans, projects, funding mechanisms, outreach activities, and more. The goal of the case studies provision is to provide ideas and mechanisms for state, local and regional entities who are either planning for climate change or implementing adaptation projects.

#### *Case Studies Process*

OPR staff is collecting case studies through the use of a *survey questionnaire* with detailed questions that feed into a standardized *case study template*. The template currently covers details such as, lead entities and partnerships, drivers for the project, engagement processes, climate impact areas, funding source(s), research and data, challenges and outcomes. In addition to OPR's targeted outreach, the survey questionnaire will be publicly available on the OPR Adaptation Clearinghouse website so that interested individuals can submit case studies for inclusion or consideration in the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

Case studies will be tagged using the following proposed key words and categories:

- Location
- State
- Zipcode
- Cost
- Funding Source
- Time
- Tools/Metrics used
- Activity Type
  - Planning
  - Research
  - Outreach or Engagement
  - Implementation
  - Education
  - Communication Campaign
  - Other
- Driver
  - Federal
  - SB 375
  - AB 32
  - SB 379
  - SB 1000
  - CEQA
  - Other
  - Elected Officials
  - Staff
  - Community Driven
- Climate Impact
  - Sea Level Rise
  - Drought
  - Extreme Events (Wildfires, Storms, Hurricanes)
  - Extreme Heat (including urban heat island)
- Topic (corresponds with Safeguarding sectors)
  - Agriculture
  - Biodiversity and Habitat
  - Emergency Management
  - Energy
  - Forestry
  - Land Use and Community Development
  - Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems and Resources
  - Public Health
  - Transportation
  - Water
- Urban
- Rural
- Environmental Justice and Equity

## 2. Tools and Resources

### Existing Resources

The science and projections page of the Clearinghouse currently points to the OEHHA Climate Indicators Report, the Fourth Climate Change Assessment, and Cal-Adapt Beta.

### Information to be added

The Clearinghouse has plans to include the following:

#### *Tools and Resources*

- The California Adaptation Planning Guide
- CalOES MyPlan and MyHazards
- Cal-Adapt
- 2516 Sea Level Rise Database resources
- CalTrans Vulnerability Assessments
- CDPH County Health Profiles
- Funding Wizard
- US Climate Resilience Toolkit

#### *Science and Projections*

- The Fourth Climate Change Assessment
- Cal-Adapt
- Links to locally generated information (TBD)
- National Climate Assessment
- “Lifting the Fog” tools and resources: <http://coastaladaptation.org/liftingthefog/>

*\*Please note that these lists are examples and are not exhaustive. OPR, with the input of state and local stakeholders, is curating a comprehensive list of resources by sector and impact.*

### 3. Policies and Guidance

#### Existing Resources

[\(See separate guidance document\)](#)

#### Information to be added

##### Local Action on Climate Change

Local governments have been working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) for years. This is in part due to community interest, and in part due to requirements in CEQA that all projects mitigate GHGs. Communities address GHGs through general plans, climate action plans, sustainability plans, or through project level analysis. Over 75% of local governments in California have some sort of comprehensive document on GHGs. A much smaller percentage (~5%) have adopted climate change *adaptation* plans<sup>1</sup>.

However, with the passage of SB 379 (Government Code [section 65302\(g\)\(4\)](#)) in 2015, local governments are now required to address climate change adaptation in their general plans. This bill shifts how a local government plans for the future. Instead of assuming a stationary environmental baseline, they must plan for a dynamic future that incorporates a changing climate. This may take a variety of forms. The process outlined in the legislation requires the use of Cal-Adapt and the Adaptation Planning Guide, in addition to other relevant data, to identify risks, address those risks, and monitor implementation (updating as appropriate). The ICARP Adaptation Clearinghouse will provide a resource for local governments that would like to address climate adaptation without having to reach out to numerous state agencies for information.

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 OPR Annual Planning Survey. [https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/2016\\_APS\\_final.pdf](https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/2016_APS_final.pdf)