



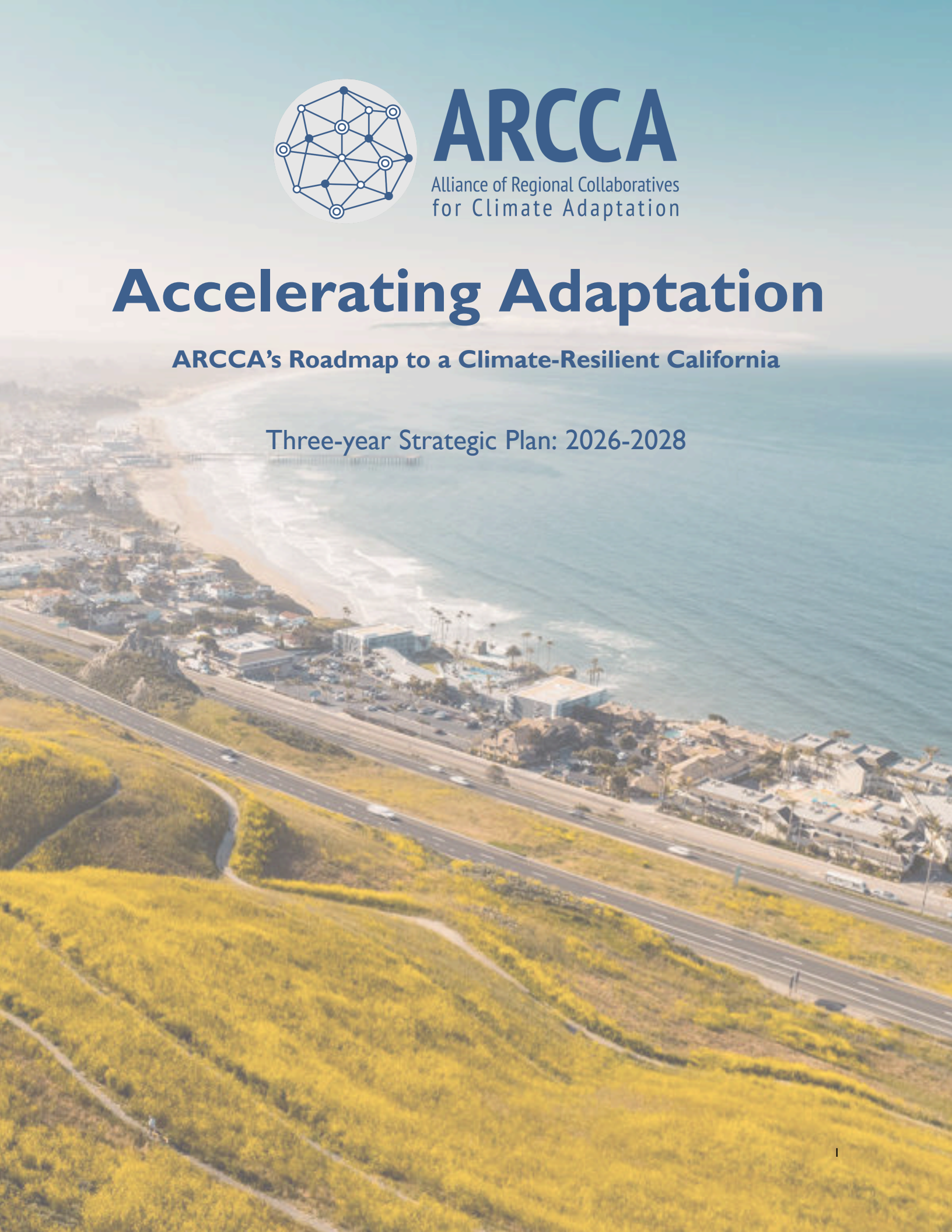
# ARCCA

Alliance of Regional Collaboratives  
for Climate Adaptation

# Accelerating Adaptation

**ARCCA's Roadmap to a Climate-Resilient California**

**Three-year Strategic Plan: 2026-2028**



# The Road Ahead



September 2026

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

We are excited to share ARCCA's three-year strategic plan - a focused, practical and ambitious roadmap aimed at rebuilding ARCCA's statewide reach and capacity to serve the eight regional collaborative members and advance climate adaptation in California.

We know the road ahead will not be easy. Delivering on ARCCA's three-year strategic plan will require investment, both in terms of staffing and funding. Our hope is that funders, partners, and members that invest in ARCCA know that their contributions are sustaining the critical infrastructure that connects regional leadership with state action, ensuring California's adaptation efforts are coordinated, equitable, and effective.

This strategic planning process has renewed our focus and clarified our central purpose: to serve as a convener and bridge-builder, bringing local voices to the state level and translating state priorities back to communities. We remain committed to empowering climate adaptation practitioners and collaboratives through education, peer learning, and networking, while also harnessing our collective power to influence climate adaptation policies and investments at the state level and beyond.

Since 2012, ARCCA has served as California's leading climate adaptation network. Acting as a unified voice, we are well-poised to accelerate momentum and shape the future of adaptation action across the State. We see an incredible opportunity to have an enduring impact as a network of networks, influencing how adaptation is resourced and prioritized across the State and Nation.

With this roadmap, ARCCA is ready to stand in support of our members, our partners, and our communities as we work toward a resilient California. We are grateful to the Resilient Cities Catalyst for providing the resources to make this roadmap possible.

With sincere gratitude and determination,

*The ARCCA Executive Committee*

## About ARCCA

Established in 2012, the Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) is a professional network that unites eight regional collaborative members into a statewide alliance. Combined, these eight regional collaboratives cover more than 80% of California's population.

Our members bring together public agencies, nonprofits, universities, community groups, and private partners to advance solutions that protect people, natural systems, and local economies.

ARCCA aims to create a robust network of organizations and professionals working to advance climate change adaptation in California. We do this by elevating local insights into statewide impact and fostering equitable, science-based climate adaptation across communities.



### ***Why ARCCA is Unique***

California has a number of climate adaptation initiatives and networks, but ARCCA is the only alliance that connects regional collaboratives into a coordinated, statewide voice. While state-led efforts like the California Resilience Partnership and the California Adaptation Strategy set policy frameworks, ARCCA provides the ongoing infrastructure that links regions with one another and with state leadership. By amplifying regional priorities, fostering cross-regional collaboration, and supporting the capacity of local practitioners, we ensure that adaptation in California is connected and not fragmented. In essence, ARCCA is well positioned to accelerate the transition from incremental to truly transformational adaptation at scale.

### ***Governance***

ARCCA is a fiscally sponsored project of the organization Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet, who manages fiscal and administrative tasks. ARCCA is governed by an Executive Committee comprised of representatives from each of the member regional collaboratives.

### ***Funding***

ARCCA operates with a very lean budget. Historically, ARCCA has generated funding from three sources - member fees and public and private grants. In the future, ARCCA is hoping to expand funding opportunities to meet the need of growing statewide policy, convening, and capacity building activities.

### ***ARCCA Affiliate Members***



# ARCCA Foundational Elements

## **Vision**

A climate-adapted California that leverages coordinated efforts to build resilience for people, natural systems, and local economies so that all communities, particularly underinvested communities, can thrive.

## **Mission**

To lead a statewide network of regional collaboratives advancing equitable, science-based climate adaptation—transforming collaboration into coordinated action and resilience for all California communities.

## **Guiding Principles & Key Values**

ARCCA, as a statewide alliance and convener of diverse stakeholders working in the evolving climate adaptation field, is uniquely positioned to catalyze, align, and sustain efforts to create a more resilient and just California. We recognize the opportunity we have to leverage our collective capacity to create a culture of equity and collaboration, supporting climate leaders in working together to embed equity into every layer of their work — in both processes and outcomes, and centering the leadership and voices of frontline communities in climate resilience initiatives.

In 2021, ARCCA's Guiding Principles were updated to guide our efforts towards the realization of an equitable and resilient future for all Californians. These principles outline our holistic approach to balancing social, environmental, and economic needs as we seek to mobilize and align local, regional, and state efforts to advance science-based climate adaptation solutions.

### **1. Consider the Equity, Health, and Safety of All Californians**

Adaptation is fundamentally about protecting people and nature, especially those who are and will be disproportionately impacted by climate change. Actions to reduce risk and build resilience must prioritize the health, safety, and wellbeing of California's most vulnerable communities. These include historically marginalized communities that experience the first and worst consequences of climate change and other injustices, particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and other marginalized communities that have shouldered the largest health burdens and face the greatest economic barriers.

*ARCCA seeks to support local and regional efforts to build resilience by co-creating solutions that simultaneously promote environmental justice, economic stability, and long-term resilience.*

### **2. Focus on the Regional Level**

Communities have a self-defined regional identity created by shared geography and mutual reliance on resources. The landscape-level impacts of climate change also demand regional collaboration to best leverage limited resources, avoid maladaptive practices, and advance impactful solutions. By collaborating at the regional scale, communities are more likely to be successful in building meaningful climate resilience, particularly by amplifying marginalized voices, prioritizing frontline communities, and aligning policies, plans, and programs.

*ARCCA prioritizes collaboration on adaptation within and across regions, focuses efforts where there is common ground, and supports all regions, whether members, non-members, or future members, as a statewide resource.*

### 3. Empower Collaboration Across All Sectors and Levels of Leadership

In order to accelerate durable and effective solutions, build capacity for local and regional action, overcome barriers to success, and elevate the needs of those most impacted by climate change, we must establish and expand alliances, collaboratives, networks and community partnerships across the state. These collaborative efforts should include public, private, nonprofit, and community-based partners working across sectors to deliver comprehensive adaptation solutions.

*ARCCA provides platforms for information sharing and mutual learning, coordinates adaptation policy engagement, organizes statewide convenings, and serves as a liaison between regions and the State.*

### 4. Prioritize Forward-Looking Adaptation Actions

Adaptation strategies should be comprehensive, provide multiple benefits and be incorporated into existing plans, policies and decision-making processes. Strategies must, first and foremost, be equitably devised and implemented, centering the leadership and address the unequal burden faced by frontline communities; they should not only consider the inequities of the past and present, but those that might emerge in the future as the impacts of climate change worsen. Effective strategies will also incorporate best-available science, adaptive management techniques, regular monitoring and evaluation, and efforts to build long-term capacity. In order to maintain the valuable ecosystem services that communities rely upon, nature-based strategies should also be prioritized.

*ARCCA will remain responsive to the needs of its members and California's diverse communities by elevating equitable and forward-looking adaptation frameworks, strategies, and practices among its membership and State leadership.*

## How We Achieve Our Vision of a Resilient California

### ***Accelerated Impact – Secure and Grow Sustainable Funding***

We influence the emerging field of adaptation finance to support organizational sustainability and enduring impact. ARCCA is committed to ensuring both the alliance and its collaboratives have the financial resources needed to achieve ambitious adaptation goals.

### ***Actionable Policy – Advance a Unified Statewide Policy Agenda***

We champion coordinated, equitable, and science-based adaptation policy. ARCCA serves as a trusted leader for regional collaboratives, bringing local priorities to the state table to help shape legislation, policy regulation, and budget decisions.

### ***Strengthened Capacity – Empower Practitioners & Collaboratives***

We bolster the professional growth and technical capacity of adaptation practitioners, regional teams, leaders, partner organizations. ARCCA raises the baseline of knowledge and leadership needed to accelerate adaptation statewide through workshops, toolkits, and learning opportunities.

### ***Amplified Regional Voices – Connect, Convene, & Cultivate A Community of Practice***

We support the largest climate adaptation network in the state of California. ARCCA will connect and convene collaboratives and practitioners to cultivate a diverse community of practice that strives to align strategies, share lessons learned, and enhance collective impact.

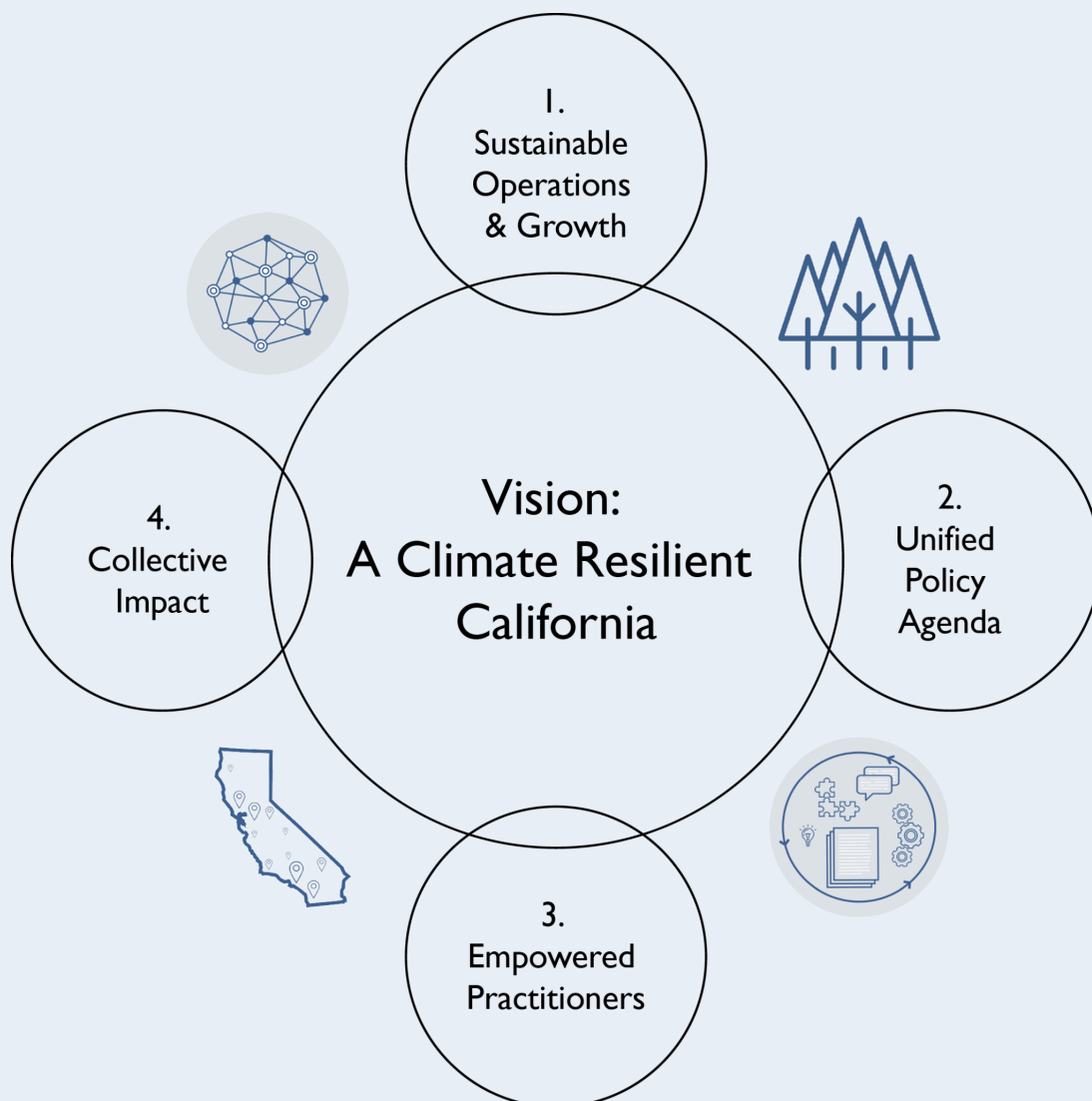
# ARCCA Strategic Plan | Roadmap to a Climate Resilient California

## *Strategic Plan Focus Areas*

The strategic plan outlines ARCCA's priorities for the next three years. **Our priority is to rebuild ARCCA's capacity so we can fully support regional collaboratives and advance a strong, collective agenda to influence state policy and investment in climate adaptation.**

The focus of this plan is clear: strengthen the roots of ARCCA to prepare for future growth. By investing in our foundation now, ARCCA will be ready to amplify regional voices, accelerate climate adaptation action, and drive lasting impact across California.

For the next three years, ARCCA will focus on four strategic focal areas, as illustrated in the graphic below. In the following section of this plan, we unpack each of these areas by identifying key goals, objectives, and tactics, or actions.



# Strategic Focus Area I: Resource ARCCA's Operational Foundation and Capacity for Growth

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Rebuilding ARCCA's internal capacity is essential to delivering on its mission. Over the next three years, ARCCA will focus on hiring staff, clarifying governance, and improving systems to ensure long-term effectiveness and impact. Without sustained funding, adaptation goals remain out of reach. ARCCA is committed to ensuring both the alliance and its collaboratives have the resources needed to implement effective, equitable, and durable adaptation strategies.

## Goal 1.1: Secure sustainable resources for organizational operations.

### Key Objectives:

1. **Create tools to guide ARCCA.**
  - a. Approve a three-year strategic plan
  - b. Approve an annual budget
  - c. Approve an Executive Committee governance plan
2. **Establish staff capacity to guide ARCCA's work.**
  - a. Hire program support in FY 2026-27
3. **Secure stable funding to support ARCCA's operations and staff.**
  - a. Develop and implement a fundraising plan for ARCCA operations that includes diverse funding streams
  - b. Cultivate philanthropic and public partnerships
    - i. Pursue Private Foundation funding
    - ii. Pursue state and federal funding
    - iii. Identify a benefactor
  - c. Re-engage existing member base

## Goal 1.2: Facilitate flow of funding to sustain and grow the network.

### Key Objectives:

1. **Increase the flow of resources to regional collaboratives.**
  - a. Track and share grant opportunities
2. **Facilitate flow of resources to frontline communities via regional collaboratives.**
  - a. Assist with grant writing and provide other technical assistance
3. **Identify opportunities for attracting and cultivating new member collaboratives.**
  - a. Develop a process for cultivating new members
  - b. Ensure membership materials are up-to-date and clear on our value proposition

## Strategic Focus Area 2: Advance a Unified Adaptation Policy Agenda

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ARCCA plays a critical role in ensuring California's state-level policies and investments reflect the priorities and realities of regions on the ground. By serving as a trusted liaison, ARCCA translates local and regional needs into state action while keeping members informed about evolving legislation, budgets, and regulatory mandates. A unified policy agenda will strengthen the voice of regional collaboratives and ensure adaptation resources are actionable and equitably distributed.

### **Goal 2.1: Develop and advance a statewide adaptation policy platform informed by regional input to ensure state investments prioritize equitable, science-based adaptation solutions.**

#### **Key Objectives:**

- 1. Lead and Evolve Adaptation Policy Working Group (APWG).**
  - a. Convene APWG on a monthly basis
  - b. Identify policy experts to co-lead meetings and/or give relevant presentation
  - c. Develop a Working Group Charter that includes meeting goals, roles, decision-making process for setting annual policy agenda, etc.
  - d. Develop plan for growing/evolving WG activities
- 2. Leverage APWG to co-develop a strong policy platform.**
  - a. Establish a small working group consisting of key policy players to develop the platform
  - b. Circulate among members and affiliates to guide decision-making and policy engagement/advocacy

### **Goal 2.2: Strengthen ARCCA's presence and influence in legislative and state agency processes.**

#### **Key Objectives:**

- 1. Leverage Legislative Tracker.**
  - a. Maintain and expand the Legislative Tracker (based on ARCCA Annual Policy Agenda) to monitor bills and budget actions (LARC to lead efforts)
  - b. Develop and submit comment letters on behalf of ARCCA members focused on key policy, bills, regulatory rules, budget actions, etc.
- 2. Support regional collaboratives by serving as a strong link to statewide policy.**
  - a. Host legislative briefings and training sessions for members
  - b. Establish a consistent presence 'on the ground' by planning and coordinating key visits to Sacramento
  - c. Build relationships with legislators, agency leaders, and staff by planning and coordinating meetings and info sessions

## Strategic Focus Area 3: Empower Practitioners & Collaboratives

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For California to meet the scale of climate risks, practitioners and collaboratives need the skills, resources, and knowledge to act. ARCCA supports this growth by curating tools, advancing professional development, and facilitating learning opportunities that prepare practitioners to implement and lead.

### Goal 3.1: Facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, and leadership.

#### Key Objectives:

1. **Build the capacity of statewide practitioners to implement and coordinate on high quality climate adaptation implementation work.**
  - a. Develop tools and training to support professional and workforce development
  - b. Conduct audit of existing ARCCA tools and training
  - c. Explore train-the-trainer offerings and assess other workforce needs
2. **Support regional collaboratives by serving as a strong link to statewide policy.**
  - a. Host legislative briefings and training sessions for members

### Goal 3.2: Support a strong, consistent communications effort that celebrates the work in the regions and shares knowledge on key adaptation topics to build statewide capacity for a climate-adapted California.

#### Key Objectives:

1. **Implement a strong statewide communications plan to elevate and inform about climate adaptation action and issues.**
  - a. Update LinkedIn Page and invite new followers
  - b. Update website and fact sheet
  - c. Relaunch ARCCA newsletter via Canva, LinkedIn, and/or other social media platform
2. **Share results and early wins.**
  - a. Integrate into ARCCA platforms: website, newsletters, media, etc.

## Strategic Focus Area 4: Cultivate Collective Impact

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ARCCA represents the largest climate adaptation network in the state of California. ARCCA will connect and convene collaboratives and practitioners to align strategies, share lessons learned, and enhance collective impact. Through these efforts, ARCCA will amplify regional voices for adaptation, while cultivating a diverse statewide community of practice.

### Goal 4.1: Coordinate a state-wide community of practice.

#### Key Objectives:

1. **Serve as a “network of networks” by connecting collaboratives, affiliates, and practitioners.**
  - a. Promote member collaboratives, identify new partnerships, engage with broader cross-sector communities of practice
2. **Cultivate the network by advancing best practices to move forward in a coordinated and strategic structure.**
  - a. Create a virtual forum for sharing, aligning, and generating collective action through peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and trainings
  - b. Identify opportunities to collaborate on proposals, share resources, and provide technical assistance

### Goal 4.2: Connect & convene practitioners.

#### Key Objectives:

1. **Host high quality in-person convenings to strengthen peer-to-peer learning among regional collaboratives.**
  - a. Host quarterly member convenings
  - b. Host annual in-person gathering
2. **Host high quality convenings to build the capacity of and connections amongst all statewide adaptation practitioners.**
  - a. Host a biennial statewide adaptation conference in collaboration with key partners (starting in 2027)
  - b. Host virtual learning sessions focused on emerging issues (quarterly or bi-annual)