



## California @ 50 Million: The Environmental Goals and Policy Report



The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is preparing an Environmental Goals and Policy Report (EGPR) for California. The EGPR will provide an overview of the state's environmental goals, keys steps to achieving these goals, and develop a framework of metrics and indicators to help inform decision making, at all levels, to help track progress toward reaching these goals.

California has established a series of ambitious environmental goals (e.g., the Renewable Portfolio Standard and the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals), including efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, develop a clean economy, and provide clean air and water for all residents. By 2050, California will have reached a population of 50 million residents. The decisions that are made to accommodate this growth need to be made with the achievement of these environmental goals in mind.

OPR is seeking to prepare an EGPR that is aspirational and forward-looking, broad and inclusive, and engaging and interactive. To do this, we will be reaching out to decision makers and stakeholders at the state, regional and local levels to help define the environmental goals and identify key steps for achieving them. We will also be working with experts and stakeholders from all regions of the state to identify and develop key metrics and indicators. These metrics and indicators can then be used to inform policy and investment decisions to be consistent with the state's environmental goals.

In the spring of 2013, we will hold workshops and meetings around the state to inform this effort.

This effort will be conducted throughout 2012 and 2013. Please subscribe to the EGPR list-serve to receive updates on EGPR activities. To learn more and view progress updates, visit the [EGPR webpage](#).

### The Origins of the Environmental Goals and Policy Report

Assembly Bill (AB) 2070, passed in 1970, created the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and called for OPR to prepare and maintain an EGPR. AB 2070 arose from recommendations made by the Assembly Select Committee on Environmental Quality. The Select Committee was established in 1970 in response to the growing public concern about the environment. The committee included key legislative leaders and produced an "Environmental Bill of Rights."<sup>1</sup>

### EGPR Requirements

The EGPR is required to take a 20-30 perspective and to provide a statement of approved environmental goals and objectives. These goals are to include those directed at land use, population growth and distribution, conservation of natural resources, and air and water quality. The EGPR is also to include a statement of programs and policies required to implement the state's environmental goals. Finally, the EGPR is required to be consistent with the state's planning priorities, which were established in 2002.<sup>2</sup>

### State Planning Priorities

In 2002, Governor Davis signed AB 857 (Wiggins) establishing the state's planning priorities. AB 857 included the requirement that the EGPR be consistent with the state's planning priorities. The law establishes three planning priorities: To promote infill development and equity; to protect open space, agricultural, and other natural land resources; and to ensure that new development that is not infill uses land efficiently and is adjacent to other developed areas.<sup>3</sup>

### An Urban Strategy for California

The [1978 Urban Strategy](#), adopted via Executive Order by Governor Brown, is the only EGPR to have been prepared and adopted. The Urban Strategy laid out an action plan to address issues facing the state's urban areas. The action plan was broad and inclusive and included steps to address environmental quality, resource protection, land use, infrastructure, financing, safety, and health.

<sup>1</sup> Calavita, Nico. 1995. California Environmental Goals and Policy Report, Part I: Legislative History of the Environmental Goals and Policy Report. Faculty Fellows Program, Center for California Studies, California State University.

<sup>2</sup> EGPR Requirements are contained in California Government Code, Section 65041.

<sup>3</sup> State Planning Priorities are contained in California Government Code Section 65041.1