

Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program
Technical Advisory Council
Vision and Principles Workgroup

July 18th, 2017
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Background

The ICARP Technical Advisory Council is working to establish a vision and principles to guide adaptation and resiliency efforts across the state. At its first meeting, the Council established this as a priority, and has since established a Vision and Principles Workgroup to develop this content. OPR staff presented a proposed draft vision and principles framework to the Council at its last quarterly meeting on June 16. The direction from that discussion was to bring together the Vision and Principles Workgroup two more times before the next quarterly meeting to further define the vision and principles content. The following are the newest refined iterations of the vision and principles that respond to the Council's discussion on June 16 during the Vision and Principles agenda item.

The goal of the June 18 workgroup meeting is to finalize the vision and principles language for the full TAC's adoption at the September quarterly TAC meeting. Assuming this goal is met, the August 10 workgroup meeting will focus on identifying a series of implementation actions and corresponding measurable targets. These will also be presented to the full Council for discussion at the September TAC meeting.

Draft Vision Summary

Version 1 takes out the word 'survive' and the list of impacts. It also calls out vulnerable populations. Version 1 also brings in 'urgency' and thinking in the long-term. Lastly, it incorporates the characteristics as described in the previously presented vision framework.

Version 2 is very similar to Version 1 but also includes the previous risk reduction statement (from Version 3 of the previously presented vision framework).

Discussion Questions

1. In both versions, the second sentence includes the language, "the most innovative state in the union." Do we want to include this statement? How is this measured or defined?
2. In both versions, the first characteristic uses the language "so that they cannot simply survive climate-related events, but thrive despite and after these events." Is this something we want to include (specifically, the word survive)?
3. In version 2, is it important to include the additional sentence, "Working across all levels of governance, the State will be prepared for not only changing average conditions, but also punctuated extreme events"?

Version 1

All Californians will thrive in the face of a changing climate. The most innovative state in the union will meet the challenges of current and future climate impacts by taking bold pro-active actions to protect our economy, our quality of life and all people, especially the most vulnerable. California will meet these goals with urgency, while achieving the following long-term characteristics:

- **People and communities** can respond to changing average conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption and maximizes equity and protection of the most vulnerable so that they cannot simply survive climate-related events, but thrive despite and after these events.
- **Natural systems** can adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change.
- **Infrastructure and built systems** can withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate conditions, while continuing to provide critical services.

Version 2

All Californians will thrive in the face of a changing climate. The most innovative state in the union will meet the challenges of current and future climate impacts by taking bold pro-active actions to protect our economy, our quality of life and all people, especially the most vulnerable. Working across all levels of governance, the state will be prepared for not only changing average conditions, but also punctuated extreme events. California will meet these goals with urgency, while achieving the following long-term characteristics:

- **People and communities** can respond to changing average conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption and maximizes equity and protection of the most vulnerable so that they cannot simply survive climate-related events, but thrive despite and after these events.
- **Natural systems** can adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change.
- **Infrastructure and built systems** can withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate conditions, while continuing to provide critical services.

Draft Principles Summary

Version 1 reorganizes the principles to include the more explicit and actionable principles at the top of the list. The definition of maladaptation is modified to include the element of avoiding missed opportunities. An additional principle has been added to call out both immediate actions and thinking in the long-term by employing adaptive management approaches.

Version 2 is the same as version 1, but attempts to consolidate the last two principles into one.

Discussion Questions

1. Do these modifications represent the comments made at the last Council discussion? Does anything else need to be added or removed?
2. In principle 3, do we want to take the approach of listing the natural system functions, “water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, jobs, and quality of life amenities”? If so, is anything missing?
3. For principle 4 (A or B), which describes the additional definition of maladaptation more accurately?
4. Which version (1 or 2) is preferred? If version 2 is preferred (consolidating the number of principles) can we prioritize the concepts in principle 6?

Version 1

California will achieve this vision by undertaking processes that:

1. Prioritize **integrated** climate actions, those that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate impacts, as well as actions that provide **multiple benefits**.
2. Prioritize actions that promote **equity**, foster community resilience and protect the most vulnerable. Explicitly include disadvantaged communities, which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts.
3. Prioritize actions that utilize **natural and green infrastructure** solutions and enhance and protect natural resources. Focus on natural system function and services in addition to risk reduction including water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, jobs, and quality of life amenities.
4. 4a) Avoid **maladaptation** by avoiding responses that worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another; and by taking all fiscal and decision-making opportunities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
4b) Avoid **maladaptation** by avoiding responses that worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another. Avoid missed opportunities to prepare for climate but taking future climate risks into consideration in all planning and investment decisions.
5. Base all planning, policy and investment decisions on the **best-available science**, including local and traditional knowledge, including consideration of future climate conditions out to 2050 and 2100.
6. Employ **adaptive and flexible governance** approaches by utilizing **collaborative partnerships** across scales and between sectors to accelerate effective problem solving. Promote adaptation actions at the regional and landscape scales.
7. Take **immediate actions** to reduce present and near future (<20 years) climate change risks for all California residents, especially the most vulnerable; do so while also **thinking in the long term** and preparing to respond to continual changes in climate, ecology, and economics using adaptive management feedback loops that incorporate regular monitoring.

Version 2

California will achieve this vision by undertaking processes that:

1. Prioritize **integrated** climate actions, those that both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to climate impacts, and actions that provide **multiple benefits**.
2. Prioritize actions that promote **equity**, foster community resilience and protect the most vulnerable. Explicitly include disadvantaged communities, which are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts.
3. Prioritize actions that utilize **natural and green infrastructure** solutions and enhance and protect natural resources. Focus on natural system function and services in addition to risk reduction including water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, recreation, jobs, and quality of life amenities.
4. 4a) Avoid **maladaptation** by avoiding responses that worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another; and by taking all fiscal and decision-making opportunities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
4b) Avoid **maladaptation** by avoiding responses that worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another. Avoid missed opportunities to prepare for climate but taking future climate risks into consideration in all planning and investment decisions.
5. Base all planning, policy and investment decisions on the **best-available science**, including local and traditional knowledge, including consideration of future climate conditions out to 2050 and 2100.
6. Employ **adaptive, flexible, and collaborative** governance approaches across scales and between sectors to accelerate effective problem solving. Take **immediate actions** to reduce present and near future (<20 years) climate change risks for all California residents, especially vulnerable populations; do so while also **thinking in the long term** and preparing to respond to continual changes in climate, ecology, and economics using adaptive management feedback loops that incorporate regular monitoring.