



Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program  
Technical Advisory Council

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
| 747 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 |  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Item 1** | Welcome

**Nuin-Tara Key:** Thank you for joining us, and thanks to the Sonoma County Ag and Space for hosting us. This is ICARP's second quarterly meeting. I'm Nuin-Tara Key. I'd like to introduce Mark Landman, who is the Councilmember of the City of Cotati, and Chair of both the RCPA Board of Directors and the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors. Mark is going to give some opening remarks.

**Mark Landman:** Welcome to Sonoma and thank you to the members of the ICARP TAC for inviting me today. I am a council member of the City of Cotati and Chair of the Regional Climate Protection Authority.

I was a teenager during the first Earth Day and I remember it well. I am heartened because despite all the challenges we face, we have come a long way from that first Earth Day. From my perspective, there is nothing better than leaving the planet better than we found it. How do you respond when there is a big problem? Here in Sonoma, when there is a big problem, we organize around it.

Sonoma was the first in the country to create a regional climate protection authority. The RCPA recognizes the cross-jurisdictional nature of addressing climate change; our 12 member board represents each of the 9 cities in the county. It is a great opportunity for local representatives to discuss the nexus of local and regional coordination. We try to provide an opportunity for small actions to become community and regional action. We do our best to fill gaps in local climate response. At its core, RCPA is the central hub for community action because we are more effective when we work together.

Each jurisdiction has its own goals. Communities everywhere have different capacities to reach GHG reductions. Through RCPA, we can track progress, which gives

us local accountability, which gives us regional measurement. Every community may be challenged individually, but combining our efforts allow us to achieve more than we could alone.

We also represent BayCAN which works across the Bay Area. RCPA makes our members stronger, but it also makes these partners stronger.

RCPA is working to advance low carbon recovery and smart resilience solutions. Our staff is working on post-wildfire evacuation routes that incorporate electric vehicle charging stations.

As another example, cities have recently begun considering certain goals and actions for resilience. Some cities want to meet certain standards, others don't. Many worry about whether their staff has enough time, or if they are duplicating their efforts.

In Sonoma County, RCPA staff will be preparing our resilience plan at the same time as our GHG plan and our strategic goals. That brings a template of resolutions for each city. We need greater buy-in and greater results across scales and jurisdictions. When we combine many small actions together, they create a greater impact. Thank you for facing these challenges along with us.

## **Item 2 | Roll Call**

Present: John Wentworth, Jessie Knapstein, Jason Greenspan, David Loya, Tom Collishaw, Karalee Browne, Amanda Hansen, Sona Mohnot, Kathleen Ave, Linda Helland, Nuin-Tara Key, Andrea Ouse, Laura Engeman, Michelle Passero, Brian Strong, Jana Ganion

Absent: Craig Adelman, Gloria Walton, Johnathan Parfrey, Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Elizabeth Rhoades, Jacob Alvarez

## **Item 3 | Approval of Draft Minutes from March Meeting**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Nuin-Tara Key explained that the morning portion of the meeting would focus on programmatic elements of ICARP, followed by a session on climate action in Sonoma County while the afternoon would consist of a workshop session around wildfire. She then asked for members to make corrections to the meeting minutes.

Andrea Ouse: I was absent, but I was not noted as absent.

Michelle Passero: There is a misspelling of my last name on page 3.

**ACTION:** Voting to Approve draft meeting minutes from the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting

Brian Strong: Motion to approve.

Jason Greenspan: Seconded.

Ayes: John Wentworth, Jessie Knapstein, Jason Greenspan, David Loya, Tom Collishaw, Karalee Browne, Kathleen Ave, Nuin-Tara Key, Laura Engeman, Michelle Passero, Brian Strong, and Jana Ganion.

Abstained: Andrea Ouse, Amanda Hansen, Sona Mohnot, and Linda Helland.

#### Item 4 | ICARP Update

DISCUSSION: Nuin-Tara Key introduced the presenters for a discussion on programmatic updates to ICARP since the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting. Megan Walton and Sarah Risher, representing CalOES, presented a high-level summary of the CalOES Adaptation Planning Guide (APG) draft process, including a timeline, an engagement schedule, and a summary of the APG's phased-approach. Nuin-Tara Key reiterated that, although OPR and OES have worked together closely on the report, OES is the lead for the APG project. All presentations for Item 4 may be found on the ICARP Meeting Page for the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Presentation: "Adaptation Planning Guide Update"**, Megan Walton and Sarah Risher, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

DISCUSSION:

Megan Walton: What are your reactions to the updated Phase approach?

Kathleen Ave: Streamlining is great, and less daunting for local governments who may not have capacity. But the proof is in the pudding: what will be the results from this? That ought to be studied. But conceptually, that's a good way to present it.

Sona Mohnot: I like the streamlined approach, and I like that the environmental justice piece is embedded. If it is siloed in its own category, people won't read it.

Karalee Browne: This is more digestible. This is the way locals look at the mitigation side too. They keep hearing those words like equity over and over without knowing how that translates to implementation. Embedding environmental justice shows them that it is just something they need to do, rather than something they can skip.

DISCUSSION (Continued)

Megan Walton: Making equity an everyday thing is something we struggle with for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan as well.

Linda Helland: How will you integrate equity into each phase, in terms of outreach and engagement?

Sarah Risher: That plan is not developed fully. During our second working group we heard that we need to do more outreach and have more equity pieces. We had three listening sessions in July. During our interviews, we heard that there was a demand for guidance and outreach in individual communities.

Linda Helland: We would provide review if you would like.

Sarah Risher: Yes, please.

David Loya: From a local government perspective, this is one of the drums I have been beating on so thank you for bringing forward this approach. I would add that it is worthwhile to have pilot-testing associated with rolling it out. I agree that the streamlined approach makes sense.

I also wondered about the outreach and engagement for this APG project itself and if it is being replicated? Arcata is doing planning and engagement, and there are only so many people who will come to provide input. We are trying to go to them, to talk to people who wouldn't otherwise come to planning meetings.

Megan Walton: Those are very good questions. We are responsible for reviewing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans before they go to FEMA. I agree that we need to look at other ways to socialize and market this work. We work with a myriad of stakeholders, including fire chiefs, public works departments, etc. We are talking about webinars, which would include SB 379 and SB 1000 and environmental justice and land use planning. This is becoming a common language with a lot of our staff at our agency and it is how we will give points to projects seeking grants.

Sarah Risher: One of the listening sessions is focused on community, collaboration, and coalition building. Locals want to know how to get new people engaged. We are gathering case studies on engagement.

Megan Walton: We would love it if you would volunteer to be one of the pilot projects, David.

Nuin-Tara Key: As we integrate the APG into the Clearinghouse, we need to present it accessibly.

Megan Walton: We will also have accessible versions for our vulnerable populations.

Jason Greenspan: I would like to talk a bit about SB 379. I think the simplified process is great, but if a local government were to go through the more simplified process, I

wouldn't want them to get to the last phase of the process and think that they are done for the next 15 years. So instead of presenting this as a linear process, I would suggest that the graphic be circular.

#### DISCUSSION (Continued)

Sarah Risher: We will adjust the design to make sure that it is continuous.

Kathleen Ave: This relates to your targeted audiences. My fundamental premise is that this document is not co-targeting the private sector. It is listed as a secondary audience. We can't keep putting the burden on local governments if we are going to accomplish what we need to. It feels like we are missing an opportunity to include the parts of the state that move the politicians.

The acceleration of impacts we are experiencing puts us in an emergency situation. We need to engage every aspect of our economy and society and beef up the elements of this work that speak to the private sector. We have seen the private sector trying to meet us, but there is a huge gap in how we operate.

Sarah Risher: We just finished the outline for the listening session, so information will go out this weekend or on Monday. We will make adaptation planning a local process by building up private partnerships.

Megan Walton: We can also leverage the private sector branch at OES.

Brian Strong: I agree about the private sector. The hazard and climate plan we work on focuses on private sectors because that is where we will see the greatest GHG reductions.

How are we making sure this is relevant to locals, and that it's updated? I am curious why OES is doing this versus OPR.

People seem to get stuck in one of these phases. We need to break that. That's why the integration is so relevant and important. There is a lot of research on outreach right now. You could fill a book with research on outreach.

Nuin-Tara Key: We are working with OES and the Natural Resources agency on this effort. OES is taking charge, but it is a collaborative interagency project. We have been able to use the work we have done in ICARP in a collaborative way. This new phased approach is the piece that has consistency. We are providing a common frame that we can plug in without having to publish and print four documents.

Megan Walton: We struggle with all of the resources, just like the locals do. We can't create this plan without collaboration. If we get a climate unit approved, like we hope, we can do annual updates to the APG and the SHMP.

Andrea Ouse: Thank you for all of your work. Cities in the most need are those with the least resources and budget. I would hate to see a striation of local governments – where better work is done for the better resourced communities, and the least amount is done for the ones that can do the least. More regional solutions can help mitigate the different types of political challenges that locals face when implementing plans. We need to make sure that we have the resources necessary to ensure communities can deal with it. We must focus on metrics. We need to understanding what the on the ground results are and how we can build on that to create a better program.

Laura Engeman: A HMP is uniquely not just related to planning. When San Diego did its first update in the last version, there was an effort to bring in other people with other perspectives. Eighty percent of the people we brought in didn't know that there was any mitigation element to the HMP; they thought it was another plan.

If there is a funding incentive at the end of this, we can bring people to the table. We need to be inclusive. The first two phases are for planners but phase 3 and 4 are not the strength of planners. We need other people at the tale. We need to ask people where the funding availability is. What are hazard mitigation strategies that address multiple hazards? Our fire folks are only going to be able to do fire prevention. Don't frame it as just an HMP. Bring in creative solutions. Get it out of the planning box and into the doing box.

Having quantitative fiscal impacts of catastrophic events will help bring people to the table. We should be asking businesses to start thinking about publishing and talking about what those impacts are to them so that we can explain that to FEMA. Local government staff usually have their hands tied.

Michelle Passero: To what extent are you thinking about climate planning and GHG planning synergistically? What do you do to reduce risk and hazard in terms of efficiency? You already have a lot of local governments asking questions about resilience. What are you doing to reduce the work around multiple plans related to government?

Megan Walton: We would be remiss if we didn't consider climate adaptation and mitigation. We need to make that connection.

Sarah Risher: We have talked about having projects for both adaptation and mitigation. We have considered having sectors next to each strategy so that those co-adaptive strategies can be seen across sectors.

Jessie Knapstein: From a private sector perspective, you would be surprised how welcome resiliency and adaptation planning would be. We've been getting requests on an ad hoc basis for SB379. We have some stock language, but local governments and business often don't know how to reach us or communicate with us. There are private sector entities already working on this. Kate Gordon started the corporate climate

resilience network that started making a framework for financial impacts. Integration between all of those would be good.

Public Comment:

Lucy Andrews: I suggest thinking about technical assistance. State Water Resources Control Board representatives from all urban water retailers came and had a workshop together. It was a \$3 million program that reached every water assistance program.

**Staff Presentation: “Adaptation Clearinghouse Analytics, Progress, and Next Steps”**, Annie Carroll, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research

Sona Mohnot: What was the general makeup for the attendees for the webinars?

Annie Carroll: It really depended on the partners for each webinar. Our partners used their list serves to raise awareness for the events, and so our audience largely depended on their networks. Generally, we had many local planners attending webinars, a surprisingly high number from local water boards who were seeking guidance on SB 379, and a fair number of people from the private sector.

Jason Greenspan: How did your inland south regional webinar go? What impacts were they most focused on?

Annie Carroll: About 20 attendees attended the Inland South Webinar. As it usually happens with webinars, there was a fair amount of radio silence on the other end so I can’t attest to the types of impacts they were most worried about. There was a water district that was particularly concerned about SB 379.

**Presentation: “Compass Planning Tool for Coastal Resilience”**, Kelsey Ducklow, California Coastal Commission

Nuin-Tara Key: From the state’s perspective, it was helpful to go through this exercise to understand what we expect locals to do.

Amanda Hansen: I used to work with the Governor in New York after Sandy. The planning that went into that was on an extremely compressed schedule. I’m new to California and I am still learning these plans, so I’d like to hear from the local governments in the room to rationalize the process and make it easier to make the planning feed right into implementation. Planning is important but the point is implementation.

John Wentworth: I represent a rural jurisdiction in Eastern California. Maybe offline we can talk about it.

Nuin-Tara Key: In our next agenda item we will also have a chance to discuss those issues.

Jason Greenspan: I saw three examples from Southern California in the planning documents you used for the Compass. Manhattan Beach has something pending. Can you talk about it? We're doing a regional climate adaptation framework and we're trying to see what climate stressors people are working on.

Kelsey Ducklow: I can find out.

Nuin-Tara Key: There was a lot of need and interest around this tool, especially from local governments. I kept hearing locals saying "can we have one of these for wildfire and other impacts?" The Compass is a coastal resource. There are great ideas that could carry over to the rest of the state, but we are beginning to consider it as the first in a series of tools. For each of our plans, we need to think about plan alignment. I can't make any commitments about what that would look like. But I think we could come back and talk about that need and what it would look like.

David Loya: I am curious about the origin of this work.

Kelsey Ducklow: At first we were looking at how different modeling tools, like FEMA's, could work together. Then we brought in guidance documents. We realized that it is not just about the tools but also the planning process. We were seeing a lack of implementation, so we wanted to explore how you get funding from OES and other plans.

Kathleen Ave: I think it's a great guide. I like the crosswalk section and the tricky spots, so I would like to see it expand to other impacts. With that said, as someone in the Sacramento Valley, I look at sea level rise in a way that I didn't 10 years ago because the Central Valley is more effected by climate impacts like SLR than you might think.

Public Comment:

Cecily Condon, Permit Sonoma: I was in a meeting about the hazard mitigation grant funds. Has there been successful plans for Sea Level Rise adaptation based on mitigation funds? At the lower level of the Russian River we have a lot of flooding issues.

Kelsey Ducklow: We need to make them more focused on hazard mitigation and sea level rise resilience.

**Staff Presentation: "Scoping ICARP Technical Advisory Council Annual Report"**, Jenn Phillips, Governor's Office of Planning and Research



## DISCUSSION:

John Wentworth: We were able to get things done through an SB 1 Grant, but the constituents are often missed in that process. The public had no idea what this was or what it means. It would be helpful if we could translate this into lay language that jurisdictions can lay out. They want a tangible actionable way to do outreach. That is critically important to get constituent priorities. Huge swaths of the state are missing out because they don't know how to reach out to state legislators. We also need something we can use to talk to other states.

David Loya: What is the adoption date for this, and does it coincide with when new members are coming on?

Nuin-Tara Key: That is a great point because we have two year staggered terms.

Brian Strong: There are so many plans going out right now, let's think about all of their cycles too.

Karalee Browne: I support an annual report, but we need to see if it moves the needle. We want to see the work you've done make simple resources into a more robust opportunity to represent various stakeholders.

Amanda Hansen: You're on a 5 year cycle, and the state is on a three year cycle for adaptation strategies. We need to explore the extent to which this can be used on an annual cycle to help prioritize things for the state.

Andrea Ouse: Moving the needle is important. My bias is toward the practitioner. It is great to see an annual report, but we also need to have deliverables.

There are so many types of opportunities that could be sewn together into a meaningful menu for local governments given the different priorities coming in the next year. I think it's a great opportunity, but we need to do it quickly. There are a number of things that are happening but it would be great to have a tangible wish list given all of the work we have been doing.

Laura Engeman: I know how hard it is for state employees to get this done, but the report is not going to mean a lot. The best way to quantify the value of the TAC is to highlight who is at the table. In terms of content, I have two thoughts. First, having a dashboard-type tool that shows what quantitative metrics we are using. That would include the amount of resources added to the Clearinghouse with different focus areas, including environmental justice. We need to look for ways we can highlight Clearinghouse. We should list the three priority areas we are hitting. From a local government perspective, I would be thrilled to see that OPR is tackling the same issues that we are. We are a resource hub, but we want to tell them that we are keeping up with the times and the issues. Second, we should pull in testimonies from this group for a qualitative approach. We should be graphics heavy and have about 5 pages.

## DISCUSSION (Continued)

John Wentworth: 5 pages maximum.

Michelle Passero: I'm struggling with the term "report". I like the idea of a report for identifying gaps and change. But talking about the report in advance seems like the tail wagging the dog. Having a report that could identify gaps or highlight synergies and case studies that work could lead to greater impact and change. I don't know if that is an annual report or just a report.

Nuin-Tara Key: The idea behind using SB 379 in the report was to identify key gaps and challenges that locals are facing. What can the state, and OPR specifically, do to help respond to those gaps? We will be presenting it in a way that moves us towards finding solutions. The APG is framing it in that way, which is why we were thinking of using SB 379 as an initial topic.

Brian Strong: Our biggest challenge is going to be getting people to care. We should be marketing to explain what we are and what we are trying to achieve. There is a political side to this too. How do you institutionalize this in a way that makes it long-term? It should address what we achieved and where we are going. It should touch on metrics and outcome oriented things. How are we achieving integration? How many hits are we getting on the clearinghouse? What projects are going to be on the cover? We need to break into regional and small government. We should make it something the press would be interested in.

Jana Ganion: I support the report, particularly if the report is longer and rolls up the work of the group and the legislative mandates. It is important to create a high-level document that generates excitement. We have a few key audiences. From a tribal perspective, I use California's policies to move the needle across the country. I would agree that the executive summary should be short, graphics heavy, and address the highlights of the last year.

Jessie Knapstein: I'm having trouble squaring our goals. It sounds like everyone here works on mitigation too. It sounds like we are describing the scoping plan, which is led by ARB and they generate press. Rather than having two different discussions, how do we integrate what is happening in mitigation with adaptation.

Karalee Browne: That's what I was thinking.

Nuin-Tara Key: This report would be done in the context of the States' Adaptation strategy. It is important for us to think about how this report will be additive to the States' overall goals.

## DISCUSSION (Continued)

Amanda Hansen: I've been thinking about how California's Adaptation Strategy (Safeguarding) can drive state priorities, as the scoping plan from CARB does. Similarly, if our report can have a similar effect it would be most valuable.

Jason Greenspan: At the granular level, we could be making SB 379 more approachable. There has been a broad suite of climate legislation in the last 10 years. The report could highlight OPR's work and regional work on SB 379. The report could be setting up a roadmap for what local and regional governments are facing and what regional housing assessments will have to face. It could say something like, "here are the new challenges that local and regional governments have experienced."

Tom Collishaw: I don't work in climate adaptation, but SB 379 is infused in what we do around water and housing, and it is especially crucial for local governments' disaster preparedness.

We also need to recognize local, remote communities. Often, local representatives don't speak their populations' language. I support a short annual report that thinks beyond local government. Often, what can end up being the de facto local government is a school district or a CBO and local conduits.

Sona Mohnot: The report should focus on the problem statement (why the group exists). It is crucial to integrate environmental justice and equity, as well as mitigation and adaptation. We need to discuss the consequences of what will happen if we *don't* take that approach. It can be difficult to understand why we use those solutions. We need to help others who don't work on this to understand why we are working on it.

John Wentworth: We need to think about how to differentiate this group from the policy mandates. This group's value lies in identifying and elevating challenges when they come up. There are members of the TAC who are not in the bureaucracy, but that identify problems and who can feed them back to policy makers. In terms of our charter, that makes us relevant.

Nuin-Tara Key: We will keep iterating on this point, and there may be a chance to reconvene and have a workgroup. We could do that in the intervening months between quarterly meetings. We could even have a remote meeting on this subject specifically.

## Public Comment:

Morgan Gray, PhD, Pepperwood Preserve: I would like to see this be high-level and graphical. I would suggest that you change the name from "report" to something else. I would suggest identifying the goal for the group. Does this group have a logo?

Nuin-Tara Key: No, we do not.

Action: None

**Item 5 | Climate Action in Sonoma County**

Presentations:

**“Climate Action and Extreme Events: Data, Planning, and Action for Resilience in Sonoma County”** Karen Gaffney, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

**“Regional Collaboration to Advance Climate Action: Needs, Challenges and Opportunities in Sonoma County”**, Aleka Seville, Regional Climate Protection Authority

**“San Francisco Estuary Institute’s Adaptation Atlas”**, Julie Beagle, San Francisco Estuary Institute

DISCUSSION:

David Loya: Would you qualify this as ‘best available science’?

Julie Beagle: Yes.

Kathleen Ave: Is there an urban growth planning district?

Karen Gaffney: There are 9.

Kathleen Ave: Is that a flexible boundary or is that just a politically accepted boundary?

Mark Landen: It is in-place and it is well recognized.

Karen Gaffney: They are sunsetted, so they are changeable.

Kathleen Ave: Aleka, are you a doing a consumption based inventory?

Aleka Seville: There is a report coming out about consumption-based inventories that can be useful. Cities who have done it have not been able to operationalize it. We are putting the onus on local governments. SB 743 is going to make that more complicated. I am not sure that local government is the best messenger for that.

Brian Strong: The cost-benefit analysis is very helpful for moving the bar on some of these things that we don't have. Julie, if the regional bond measures didn't pass, would we have been able to create this Atlas?

Julie Beagle: There was a longer trajectory that allowed us to create the Atlas. Scientists updated the research on loss of wetlands in the 1990s and then updated it again in 2015. This was about the time of the Endangered Species Act. People began asking "what are the benefits?"

Brian Strong: The exciting thing about measure AA is that you can actually do this work.

John Wentworth: In a traditional staffing organizational chart, there is no 'resilience' person. We can do everything you want to do, but not with a traditional organizational chart.

Laura Engeman: When I started at The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, we had zero staff. But when I left 4 years later, they had 10. It is important to recognize that those staff were in different departments. There is a difference between capacity and positions.

Break

## **Item 6 | Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience Planning for Wildfire-Affected People and Communities**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Nuin-Tara Key: Welcome back. For some context setting before we dive in: in the last few council meetings, we have had some questions around wildfire impacts on communities, including in this county. We are trying to decide what our unique role is, recognizing there are a number of actors who are central to doing the work. There are two questions that I see.

The first is the insurance question, which is not part of our agenda today but is still on our radar and in our discussions. We are talking to California Department of Insurance so that we can set up a connection between us and their SB 30 work group. We will bring more information about that to the September meeting.

The other piece is around making sure that local communities have the tools and resources that they need. We are lucky to have ILG here to help us organize this session around the wildfire toolkit.

Before the wildfire session, we want to talk about the activities at the state level around wildfire risk reduction, and the complex intersection of wildfire, risk and utilities. We are going to have two presentations to help inform our discussion around this toolkit. With that, I'll invite Evan Johnson and Angie Lottes.

**Presentation: “Governor Newsom’s Strike Force and the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery”,** Evan Johnson, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research

Evan Johnson: I am Evan Johnson and I’m the Executive Officer of the Commission of the Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery. The commission focused on wildfires that are utility related. I am going to talk about what is happening at the local level and at the state level. I’ll start by saying California is moving into an era of catastrophic wildfire. To provide some context, fifteen of the twenty most devastating wildfires have occurred since 2000.

The State has prioritized mitigation and preparedness. The Governor has fast tracked a myriad of projects, mobilized the State Guard for fire prevention, and set aside a billion dollars in funding for wildfire response. There are lots of efforts in the Governor’s Office around Energy and Wildfire.

Ten percent of wildfires are started by utility infrastructure. We have to provide energy and utilities, so some utility-caused wildfires are inevitable. However, wildfires associated with utilities often cause more damage because they are associated with wind events and are often in areas with high population density. With that in mind, the state has marshalled three efforts:

The first is the SB 901 Commission, which has a series of responses to utilities and wildfire. The SB 901 Commission focuses on how the utilities manage and prepare to reduce wildfire risk, how they manage the costs associated with those risks. From those discussions, they created a series of recommendations.

The second effort consists of the Strike Force, which focuses on energy sector activities, mitigation, cost recovery, and utilities management. SB 901 required that the states’ major utilities put together wildfire mitigation plans to help deal with wildfire. The proceedings associated with that have been finalized. The new legislation that has been proposed has come from that group’s work.

The Strike Force recommended a new wildfire safety division in the PUC focused on wildfire mitigation in the utilities for best science and current climate modeling. The Strike Force has been looking at wildfire mitigation strategies in utilities around the state. I can talk more at length if you have questions.

The Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery also worked on issues related to the insurance industry. The Commission determined that we are not at a point of crisis in insurance - we have a backstop if we need it. Rates are going up, but they’re not at a crisis level. However, we are headed towards a crisis. With that in mind, we made suggestions to keep the industry from getting to the point of crisis but also appropriately priced the cost of risk in a community. They proposed that the insurance industry set standards for community and home hardening against fire. If a community meets those goals, the insurance industry would have to write insurance for anyone in the admitted community. If they took the proper steps, they would be guaranteed.

**Presentation: “Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report”,** Angie Lottes, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)

Angie Lottes: My name is Angie Lottes, and I am Cal Fire's Assistant Deputy for Climate and Energy. I spend most of my time talking about forests, but I occasionally work on other things, like the Governor's Executive Order to produce a report on community vulnerability to wildfire across the state. It resulted in some wonderful things – including the National Guard being deployed to the Wildland Urban Interface. They are making great progress. There are some other things that can help us look at the communities that are at risk of being burned. The process of identifying those towns is well documented. Cal Fire just switched its format to be ADA compliant, so the report is down but email me and I can get it to you.

Geographic Information Systems Fire Resource and Assessment Program (GIS FRAP) pulled a lot of information about ingress and egress (which are impediments to people getting out of their community when it is burning) and came up with 35 projects that need to be done in October. The strategies they identified prioritize defensible space. If it had been set in law, it would have been slower but better refined. We are doing the opposite: we created a plan quickly, and we are refining it now.

The process of putting together the report was interesting. We got back some interesting strategies about the full suite of work that we will need to do before the next fire season. We did a lot of work to compile those things. There are folks who can choose to move forward on them.

Per our panel topic, Cal Fire has been addressing wildfire and resilience planning for a while. Our work can be summarized first and foremost as “we put fires out”. We also work with the forest service when fires occur in forest service areas. They may not put fires out themselves. Third, we reintroduce fire crews into the communities of California for prescribed burns. Fourth, we create the Vegetation Management Plan, which helps train people in fire management around grasslands. Fifth is the Forest Health Grant Program, which will spend one third of SB 901 funding on forests near watersheds to make them resilient to fire.

**Presentation: “Workshop Session to Inform and Prepare a Local Agency Toolkit for Disaster Preparedness and Wildfire Resiliency”,** Karalee Browne and Erica Manuel, Institute for Local Government

Karalee Browne: At LGC, we are working on a wildfire toolkit. We were lucky enough to work with OES and the Federal Reserve Bank. Sean McGlynn, the City Manager of Santa Rosa, is with us. He spent time in Malibu and Paradise sharing his story and best practices. We want to get everyone's ideas for where this toolkit could go, but first we wanted Sean to be able to share some of what he has learned from his experiences.

Sean McGlynn: The challenge is that you have your state and federal partners, but it is still a local issue. The program doesn't address individuals in crisis. Community leaders struggle in these events. This kind of work takes us away from what we're dealing with on a daily basis. There is a gap in understanding how best practices are applied. FEMA and CalOES ask us to work as if they're not in the room.

Luckily, I have connections from my time in New York working for Bloomberg in Puerto Rico. They were able to walk me through some things I would have been afraid to talk about. I learned that we don't have to be afraid of consultants. We struggled to stay connected to the community but maintain a 40 thousand foot view. You are in charge of your community, which is why a toolkit is good for managers and elected officials. We need to take a "prepare, respond, recover" approach. Recovery starts in the planning process for the response.

I was lucky because I had connections outside of my community, but I have seen the struggle in other communities that do not have those connections. Some smaller communities are eaten by the bureaucracy.

For example, FEMA wants to expedite process, which would require you to act quickly, but fast processes do not always yield the best results. It would be great to have a tool that asks those strategic questions, and not get run over by the process. That's our biggest threat.

I was in a discussion where the person I was speaking to stopped me and said, 'we are just talking about 10 households.' Those ten households are not important to them but they are to us. How do you maintain those types of working relationships, while finishing the work that's right for our community so that we can be equal partners at the table?

Erica Manuel: I am Erica Manuel, the Executive Director of ILG. I wrote down some of the themes that I heard throughout the meeting today: alignment, coordination, simplifying communication, making an impact, building capacity, planning and implementing, addressing equity, working across-jurisdictions, creating scalability, empowering local agencies of all sizes to make sure that they are not eaten up by bureaucracy. At ILG, we are working on all of these issues, but we would like to hear more from you.

We are going to break into three small groups that will include both TAC members and members of the public. The first group will focus on "preparing" for wildfire, the second will talk about "responding" to wildfire, and the third will discuss "recovering" from wildfire. After the small groups have had a chance to iterate in smaller groups, we will reconvene as a larger group and share what we learned.

#### DISCUSSION:

Technical Advisory Council members and members of the public organized themselves into three small groups where they suggested resources, strategies, and best practices for ILG to include in its wildfire toolkit.

John Wentworth: In my rural area of Mammoth Lakes, communications is a problem. Our radios don't align across jurisdictions, which impedes our ability to communicate during wildfires and other disasters.

Jason Greenspan: When cross-jurisdictional disasters and issues arise, we realize that there are no regional or inter-local agreements in place that would allow us to



immediately begin coordinating and filling in the gaps. Often, that type of cross-jurisdictional agreements only arise during the “recovery” phase, when jurisdictions are overwhelmed by the issues at hand.

Nuin-Tara Key: From what I have heard in Southern California, even equipment sharing agreements don’t work. They have to figure out the logistics while they are in the middle of a disaster. In most cases, those agreements have not been examined in 25 to 40 years, and there is no agreement about accepted terminology. The terms that we use today are different than they were two decades ago.

Jana Ganion: In Blue Lake Rancheria, we see another gap: tribes aren’t involved or included in regional planning. It would be valuable to include tribes in that effort, not only because they are often vulnerable communities, but also because they have resources and institutional knowledge that are still relatively unknown elsewhere.

Michelle Passero: We also need to think about planning as a regional activity that goes beyond political boundaries so that we can streamline some of these responses.

Erica Manuel: Sean, in your experience, did people know who needed to convene?

Sean McGlynn: I knew a lot of people who thought they knew. The system is fragmented. People must be willing to give up power for the common good, which is a challenging exercise for the community and elected officials. People must be willing to trust each other.

Anne Crealock: Often, people are using MOUs that define responsibilities that aren’t actually assigned to anyone.

Erica Manuel: Yes, and both OES and FEMA inherently have chains of command, but locals don’t necessarily have that same regimented structure.

Sean McGlynn: My advice is this: don’t find individual communities; find consortiums.

John Wentworth: And practice. Training and role playing takes people out of their comfort zones and forces them to see themselves in new roles and with new responsibilities.

Erica Manuel: If you were to fund regional entities to do this work, how would you choose the regions?

Sean McGlynn: I would start with the counties or multiple counties. We need to get our own house in order before we start working with others.

DISCUSSION (Continued)

Nuin-Tara Key: We must figure out how we fund a consortium, but still recognize that the people sitting at the table will change. We need to decide how to create funding mechanisms that we can share with each other, but that are also flexible and scalable depending on the region.

John Wentworth: The state should incentivize people to meet with each other. Free stuff works!

Karalee Browne: Funding from SB 1072 may be used to address regional planning.

Laura Engeman: During the recovery phase, we must look at the places where people went post-disaster. In my experience, there are rarely places to put the support groups that want to help. We have to work with the surrounding jurisdictions to be able to house people and feed them.

Angie Lottes: Talk to Chico about that!

Laura Engeman: Unfortunately, we have examples of family members traveling 30 miles to find a hotel to stay in while they help their relatives recover after a disaster.

Sean McGlynn: It is almost impossible to get people to move back into the community after a disaster. In order to settle some of these issues, we may need to challenge some environmental regulations, like CEQA.

Erica Manuel: There is a roll for the private sector. We need to consider the impact of the business community as we think of regional collaboration.

We would like to think about how we might leverage this ICARP TAC and its Clearinghouse to develop the toolkit.

Nuin-Tara Key: We would be interested in being a resource. First, we will continue to engage with our quarterly meetings where we can. Second, the Tahoe Conservancy wrote a public letter requesting that we find the right networks to test and pilot the toolkit before it's fully done. This group could help think through those possible pilot sites.

John Wentworth: It is challenging to define regions and sub regions in California. Impacts do not necessarily align with geographic boundaries. Dead trees in the west side of the Sierras are going to be burned by the state and the smoke is going to impact the east side of the state.

Erica Manuel: Do you recommend any modeling and toolkits for the "what if" scenario?

John Wentworth: You might need to use the Clearinghouse to get some intelligence on all of that.

Nuin-Tara Key: As we are doing with the APG, we would be interested to explore ways to share your final product on the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

Jenn Phillips: We are expanding our partnership with Cal-Adapt. How do we pull these pieces together? How do we reflect the other mapping and visualization tools related to fire on the Clearinghouse?

Erica Manuel: We would like to ask you about design: I like the idea of a flip chart (similar to the Coastal Plan Alignment Compass), because it is useful to have tools that are easily accessible without internet access. Do you prefer having it online or as a tangible resource?

Megan Walton: The Plan Alignment Compass was great on the Clearinghouse. For design elements, it is important to get local government feedback. We do after-action reports. Apps would also help, since most people have phones.

Angie: Cal Fire has a "Ready, Set, Go" app.

Nuin-Tara Key: Think of it as a suite of different modules. Have model language that includes everything, but where one single thing can be pulled out.

Lucy Andrews: Recognize that there are response teams organized around different people and different structures of staffing.

Erica Manuel: We want to create a key steering community with key leaders and stakeholders. Please tell us the groups who should be involved. We will report through ICARP.

Public Comment: none

Action: none

#### Item 7 | General Public Comment

Anne Crealock, Sonoma Water: At FireSmart Lake Sonoma, we rely on a lot of water that we don't control. We provide water to over 600,000 residents. We became a water supplier before October 2017 and didn't get funding until November 2017. We started our engagement by meeting our neighbors in our primary drinking watershed. We spent many months trying to figure out what our process would be. We met with potential practitioners and held 7 workshops in the region, including the Lake Sonoma watershed. We had stakeholders ranging from foresters to Cal Fire to tribes, etc. We elevated landowners to be experts with us, which is what we wrote about in our case study on the Clearinghouse. There are fire safe councils in some of our communities, so we

applied for a Cal Fire Prevention grant. We worked with the UC Cooperative to train at-risk youth to participate in transportation and public works. We worked with the community to prevent wildfire by focusing on defensible space, especially around roadside vegetation. Please take a look at the case study.

Public Comment:

Lucy Andrews: Cal-Adapt has a user feedback survey to better understand who uses Cal-Adapt and for what purposes so that we can expand the available tools, build a seamless user experience, and support climate change adaptation across California.

Item 8 | Closing, Future Agenda Items, Meeting Adjourned

Nuin-Tara Key: The next meeting is September 20<sup>th</sup>, but we are still working on a location. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting is on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Does anyone have any thoughts for future agenda items, such as continuing our discussions on insurance, the annual report, or updating programmatic elements?

Jessie Knapstein: The CPUC is working through their Adaptation Order Instituting Rulemaking, maybe they can give an update on this at the next meeting.

Sona Mohnot: Greenlining has developed two reports on centering equity tools and policies. We would love to discuss those.

Laura Engeman: We could possibly discuss adaptation pathways with OPC. We have been thinking about these things in terms of social science and adaptation.