

# Resiliency Guidebook

# Equity Checklist

Executive Order B-30-15 directed State agencies to integrate climate change into all planning and investment, including accounting for current and future climate conditions in infrastructure investment. OPR was directed to convene a Technical Advisory Group to develop guidance to support implementation of the Executive Order.

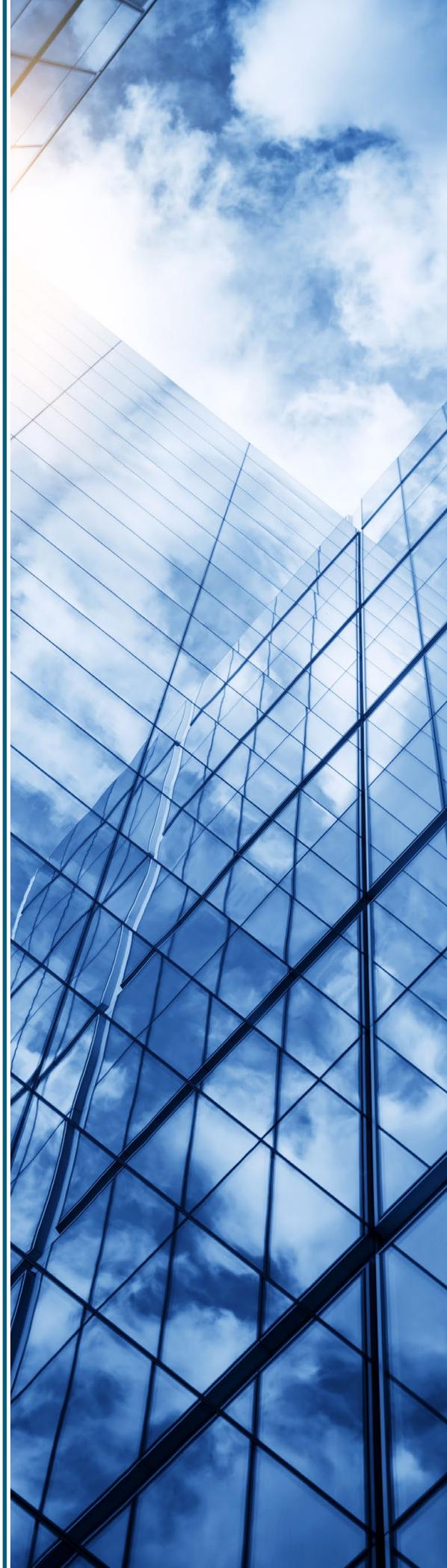
The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) included members from nearly every State agency, local and regional governments, non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector. The TAG produced a guidance document called [“Planning and Investing for a Resilient California: A Guidebook for State Agencies.”](#) This document provides high-level guidance on what future conditions to plan for and how State agencies should approach planning differently in light of a changing climate.

The Executive Order also mandated that because “climate change will disproportionately affect the state’s most vulnerable people”, all “State agencies’ planning and investments shall...protect the state’s most vulnerable populations”. This was the first mandate in the United States requiring all state agencies to plan for climate change and to protect vulnerable people while doing so.

The following checklist was created by the Equity and Vulnerable Communities subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Group, facilitated by the Climate Change and Health Equity Program of the California Department of Public Health<sup>1</sup> and is intended to assist State agencies to ensure that plans and investments identify and protect the State’s most vulnerable populations. This checklist can be used alongside any decision-making process to improve equitable outcomes.

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1. Members of the Equity and Vulnerable Communities subcommittee included Abe Doherty, Alex Leumer, Alex Ghenis, Aleecia Gutierrez, Angelica Ruiz, Arsenio Mataka, Ben Russak, Brian Beveridge, Carolyn Angius, Claire Jahns, Colin Bailey, Eve Mordaunt, Jamesine Rogers Gibson, Jana Ganion, Julia Ekstrom, Jose Lara, JR DeLaRosa, Kathleen Ave, Kathy Dervin, Kerri Timmer, Kirsten Andrews-Schwind, Linda Helland, Linda Rudolph, Lisa Bates, Margaret Gordon, Marianna Grossman, Megan Walton, Michael McCormick, Michelle Hasson, Monica Palmeira, Nuin-Tara Key, Paul McDougall, Sam Diaz, Solange Gould, Sonya Ziaja, Stacy Farfan, and Tracey Delaney



- » Which vulnerable populations may be impacted by or could benefit from your policy, initiative, program or budget?
  - › Have you identified these populations based on population characteristics, location, or both?

The tools in the sidebar can be used to identify vulnerable communities by census tract. The tool selected should be responsive to the particular infrastructure and help identify the particular climate exposures or vulnerabilities inherent in that infrastructure.

- » Have you designed a process to collaborate with vulnerable populations?
  - › Which best practices for meaningful engagement are you implementing? (see Community Engagement Best Practices)?
  - › Are you sharing as much decision-making power as feasible (see the [Spectrum of Public Participation](#))?
  - › Is there a need for formal agreements to define collaboration, and if so how will you develop them (see example in Community Engagement Best Practices)?
- » How may the policy, initiative, program or budget increase racial equity?
- » How may the policy, initiative, program or budget decrease inequality in income or wealth?
- » How may the policy, initiative, program or budget ensure safety and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities?
- » What mechanisms will you use to assure particular benefit to low-income or otherwise vulnerable populations? For example:
  - › Provide extra financial incentives, investments, or resources
  - › Provide higher levels of service
  - › Provide capacity building or training
  - › Provide jobs
- » What mechanisms will you use to assure that vulnerable communities are prioritized for employment and job training in carrying out your project?
- » Are you including health objectives in your policy, initiative, budget, or program's development and implementation?
- » Have you included public health staff, agencies or organizations during the development and implementation of your policy, initiative, program or budget?

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## CalEnviroScreen 3.0

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 provides identification of disadvantage through pollution burden and population characteristics. [oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-version-20](https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-version-20)

## Healthy Places Index

The California Healthy Places Index (HPI) is an interactive online data and GIS mapping tool that allows users to easily visualize the social and economic conditions that shape health in each neighborhood in California. HPI is validated with life expectancy and provides census tract rankings across the state. As of 2017, the Healthy Places Index platform also includes climate change indicators. This tool provides graphic overlays of climate risks, vulnerabilities and indicators of adaptive capacity, along with the healthy places index score, and other key decision support layers. HPI moves data into action by providing policy briefs outlining best practices to address risks associated with climate indicators. [healthyplacesindex.org](https://healthyplacesindex.org)

## Regional Opportunity Index

Another mapping tool to identify census tracts lacking in opportunities and needing investment is the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) from the UC Davis Center for Regional Change. The goal of the ROI is to help target resources and policies toward people and places with the greatest need. The tool incorporates both a "people" component and a "place" component, integrating economic, infrastructure, environmental, and social indicators into a comprehensive assessment of the factors driving opportunity. [interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/roi/data.html](https://interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/roi/data.html)

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- » Does your policy, initiative, program or budget have dedicated set asides for vulnerable communities?
- » What unintended consequences may result for vulnerable populations and how will you address them?
- » How will your project, plan or program provide for local capacity building?
- » How will your project, plan or program increase the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of existing operations?
- » How will you evaluate the equity impact of your program or policies?
- » How will you communicate progress to all stakeholders?

