



# Tribal Research Program

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment

## BACKGROUND

California is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Indigenous peoples are on the frontlines, enduring and adapting to severe droughts, floods, historic wildfires, rising seas, and record temperatures. Building resilience to these impacts requires sustained investment in climate change research and science. Through California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment) and Tribal Research Program, the State is supporting tribally-led climate change research initiatives to address this critical need and further support the work already underway in tribal communities.

## CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Adaptation to climate change refers to adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

## CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Resiliency as it relates to climate change is the capacity of any entity – an individual, a community, an organization, or a natural system – to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience.



## CALIFORNIA CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENTS

[Senate Bill 1320 \(Stern, 2020\)](#) calls on the State to advance action-based science by developing California Climate Change Assessments at least every five years. Previous Assessments (2006, 2009, 2012, 2018) contributed to a growing understanding about the impacts of climate change in California and offer communities and decision makers the tools to take action. Building on the strong foundation set by previous Assessments, the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research is leading implementation of the Fifth Assessment in partnership with the California Energy Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Strategic Growth Council.

California’s Fourth Climate Change Assessment [Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report](#) provided a foundation for the Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program. This inaugural effort highlighted certain tribes’ innovative strategies and actions to address climate change, defined key climate impacts at the nexus of tribal lands, histories and current conditions, and proposed overall recommendations for future Assessment(s), including collaborative climate action across the state that incorporates traditional knowledge(s) and areas of tribal study. The Fifth Assessment Tribal Research Program is based on these recommendations and seeks to build on this foundation.

## THE TRIBAL RESEARCH PROGRAM WILL SUPPORT

- » A dedicated, sustained, and **meaningful tribal engagement** process to include government to government consultation, listening sessions, workshops, and attending existing tribal workshops to meet tribes where they are.
- » **Tribal expertise, Traditional knowledge(s)**, and other input from California Native American tribes throughout the Fifth Assessment process, where appropriate and meaningful for tribes, such as supplementary components in the regional and topical reports.
- » A **Tribal Advisory Group** to guide the State on meaningful and appropriate tribal consideration during decision points throughout the Fifth Assessment process.
- » A statewide **Tribal and Indigenous Communities synthesis report**.
- » A **Tribal Research Grant Program** to support tribally-led research, implementation of resilience projects, and information sharing amongst tribes.

