

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

August 10th, 2017
10:30 AM – 12:00 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. Staff then presented an updated version of this framework to the Vision and Principles Workgroup meeting that took place on July 18. Workgroup members provided input on this version of the vision and principles along with starting an initial discussion on supporting implementation goals/metrics.

The goal of the August 10 workgroup meeting is to:

1. Finalize the vision and principles to bring to the full Council on September 15
2. Further discuss the draft implementation goals ideas brought by OPR staff and TAC workgroup members

Vision and Principles: Summary of changes

Vision changes:

- Removed “the most innovative state in the union” language
- Added “leading with innovation”
- Added adaptation *and* mitigation
- Used words *withstand* and *thrive*
- Added standard business practice
- Shorted communities characteristic and brought sentence up into vision specifically calling attention to prioritize vulnerable communities
- Change *governance* to *government*
- Calls out private sector through addition of “across all business activities throughout the state”

Principles changes:

- Edited principle 3 to remove “quality of life amenities” language, add coastal reference, and reword.
- Modified Principle 4 to reflect definitions of maladaptation discussed and rephrase into positive language
- Added “mitigation” to principle 6

Discussion Questions:

1. Do these changes reflect all of the suggestions made at the July 18 workgroup meeting? Are there any additional changes to make before bringing this to the Council in September?
2. Is the language in Principle 3 clear?

Vision and Principles: Final Review Draft

All Californians will thrive in the face of a changing climate. Leading with innovation, California will meet the challenge of climate change by taking bold pro-active actions to protect our economy, our quality of life, and all people. The state's most vulnerable communities will be prioritized in these actions so that they can withstand and thrive during and after climate-related events. Working across all levels of government, the state will be prepared for both changing average conditions and extreme events. Consideration of climate change adaptation and mitigation will become part of standard business practice in government and across all business activities throughout the state. California will meet these goals with urgency, while achieving the following long-term characteristics:

- **All 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.
- **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.

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 functions, services, and quality in addition to risk reduction, including but not limited to water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, coastal resources, recreation and jobs.
4. Identify and take all opportunities to prepare for climate by taking future climate risks into consideration in all planning and investment decisions. **Avoid maladaptation** by making decisions that do not worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another.
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 mitigation and adaptation actions at the regional and landscape scales.
7. Take **immediate actions** to reduce present and near future (within 20 years) climate change risks for all California residents, especially the most vulnerable; do so while also **thinking in the long term** and responding to continual changes in climate, ecology, and economics using adaptive management feedback loops that incorporate regular monitoring.

Implementation Goals: Discussion concepts

Discussion Questions:

- More generally: Are these best described as goals or metrics? What do each mean in this context, and how does the Council envision pursuing these goals or metrics?
- Government actions: The regional planning goal is a placeholder. Is there a way to track regional efforts?
- Vulnerable communities: How do we define or measure vulnerable communities in a climate adaptation context? How do we track the state funding that is or could be made available to those communities and how much of those funds are being received by those communities?
- Impact focused metrics: Is there support for organizing goals around climate impacts (illustrative examples provided)? Alternatively, goals could be organized to track directly to the “characteristics” in the vision?

Government Actions

- All State agencies and departments will submit Sustainability Roadmaps to the California Government Operations Agency every two years that include vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans in line with the guidance provided by OPR in response to EO-B-30-15.

- All cities and counties will have incorporated adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to that jurisdiction into the safety element of their General Plan by 2022 or into their LHMP by 2017.

- *Regional planning will be facilitated through new or enhanced governance structures.*

Vulnerable Communities

- At least X% of all state funds that target adaptation and resilience goals will be prioritized for vulnerable communities defined by (?)

Climate Impacts

- To address urban heat island and extreme heat, all cities and counties will adopt ordinances that require X% or more of parking lots (by square area) be shaded by trees (or some percentage increase of their urban canopies?)

- To address sea level rise, all local coastal plans will include sea level rise into their plans by 2030(?)

- To address wildfire hazards, (local building code ordinances?)

- To address drought, (local jurisdictions will continue to achieve the state’s conservation goals and comply with SGMA?)

- To address flood hazards, (something about local zoning codes/grading ordinances?)

Appendix: TNC Vision and Principles Suggestions

Proposed metrics submitted to OPR by Louis Blumberg, The Nature Conservancy on 5/8/17 and presented for consideration by the TAC Vision and Principles Workgroup at the 8/10/17 meeting.

- Consideration of climate change will become part of standard business practice in government at all levels. By 2030, all counties and cities with populations over 200,000 [ARBITRARY – NEED RATIONALE OR BETTER NUMBER] will have revised their General Plans, land use plans, and Hazard Mitigation Plans to include consideration of climate change. (20% by 2020, 50% by 2025) Regional planning agencies will also complete this action. All will have a vulnerability assessment and plan for response. Government entities at all levels, major institutions like universities and public utilities will be able to respond to impacts of climate change, both predicted and unpredicted, effectively.
- California’s natural resources will be managed to be resilient to climate change impacts. A comprehensive plan to maintain biodiversity in the state will be adopted. It will include key conservation areas protected to allow for natural processes to continue to evolve. It will include both individual areas protected for resilient microclimates and large conservation areas for species movement. The Critical Corridors map will be updated by 2020 to integrate considerations of climate change. Plans shall include quantitative estimates of greenhouse gas emission reductions from changes land use and land management including conservation and restoration. By 2030 a connected network of conservation lands will be established to allow for species movement and migration. The state’s land managing agencies will all have climate action plans in place with 75% of short-term actions completed by 2020 and 100% of long term actions complete by 2030. The Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, together, will produce a revised California Water Plan by 12/31/2018 resilient to climate change and addressing water supply, drought, groundwater management and environmental flows.
- By 2020, the California Natural Resources Agency and the Ocean Protection Council will complete a vulnerability assessment and ecological values assessment for all of California’s coast. Areas where natural infrastructure actions are physically possible shall be identified by 2020. By 2020, coastal counties and cities with populations over XXX and state entities including the State Lands Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation will have initial Sea Level Risk Action plans in place. Natural infrastructure actions shall be prioritized. By 2030 all coastal counties and cities and communities will have Sea Level Risk Action plans in place by 2020. All will be updated by 2050, if not sooner.
- Low income, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations in the state are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. These communities are also the least-resourced to respond to climate change impacts. Consideration of the economic, health and other needs of low income, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations shall be specifically addressed and given priority in all plans and actions that climate change impacts. Climate resilient plans shall identify short and long-term actions to assist these groups as they experience the effects of climate change. 50% of short term actions shall be complete by 2020, 100% by 2025, and 100% actions complete by 2030.