

Community risk mitigation strategies subgroup

A collaboration between California Climate Insurance Working Group (CCIWG) and the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Technical Advisory Council (ICARP TAC)

Scope of Work

June 2020

Partners

About the California Climate Insurance Working Group

Created by statute in 2018 (SB 30 (Lara, Insurance Code 12922.5)), the California Climate Insurance Working Group (CCIWG) is a group of environmental advocates, researchers, and insurance experts that makes recommendations to the Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara on innovative insurance-related mechanisms to reduce the threat from climate-related hazards. The Working Group is hosted by the California Department of Insurance (CDI).

About the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program Technical Advisory Council

Created by statute in 2015 (SB 246 (Wieckowski, Public Resources Code 71354)) the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) is designed to develop a cohesive and coordinated response to the impacts of climate change across the state. Through its activities, the Program develops holistic strategies to coordinate climate activities at the state, regional and local levels, while advancing social equity. The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) brings together local government, practitioners, scientists, and community leaders to help coordinate activities that better prepare California for the impacts of a changing climate. The ICARP TAC is hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

Sub-workgroup Members

- Serena Sowers, Swiss Re (CCIWG member)
- Katelyn Roedner Sutter, Environmental Defense Fund (CCIWG member)
- Andrea Ouse, City of Concord (ICARP TAC member)
- Jason Greenspan, Southern California Association of Governments (ICARP TAC member)
- Mike Peterson, CDI (staff)
- TBD, OPR (staff)

Scope of Work

Through this memo, OPR and CDI create a collaborative sub-workgroup to explore opportunities to improve community and landscape resilience using novel insurance-related mechanisms and strategies. The group seeks to answer the following questions:

- How do insurers and reinsurers approach climate and wildfire risk at the local and regional level? How do they approach mitigation of that risk and how could risk be addressed differently in the future?
- How do local governments approach climate and wildfire risk at the local and regional level? How do they approach mitigation of that risk and how could risk be addressed differently in the future?
- How can local and state governments leverage existing insurance products and policies, or innovate new models, to advance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts?
- What can be done to improve community- and homeowner-scale understanding of where climate vulnerabilities lie?
- How can adaptation and resilience measures at landscape or regional scales provide improved insurance coverage and affordability?
- How can the state provide localized education about critical mitigation or risk-avoidance measures and tools?

To support this research and these questions, the sub-workgroup will meet throughout the remainder of 2020 to consider and discuss these questions and will provide preliminary recommendations up through the CCIWG and the ICARP TAC for consideration by late 2020. The sub-workgroup will aim to distill insurance and local government concepts (including common terms, nomenclature, and terms) in order to bridge the gap between insurers and government and help identify entry points for insurance in the local planning process.

The sub-workgroup will be coordinated, supported and guided by staff at OPR and CDI. The sub-workgroup will aim to support the implementation and help actualize the work of the CCIWG.

- In particular, the subgroup will create a Primer on Insurance and Local Government concepts to facilitate stronger long-term collaboration among these two fields.

Additional products will be created to outline the different language, background, and scales of the fields of insurance and local government and planning; to reflect landscape scale benefits in insurance models; and to outline community level solutions where insurance and local governments can work together to reach vulnerable populations and lessen the burden on local governments in the face of natural disasters and climate risks. As there is

capacity and interest, pilot examples will be explored in different California community types.

Timeline

- March 2020: Schedule meetings, compile relevant case studies
- March 2020: Initial scoping meeting, informed by case studies provided by staff
- April 2020: Presentation and feedback to ICARP TAC on draft scope of work, as well as members of the CCIWG
- Early June 2020: Second scoping meeting of sub-workgroup and edits to scope of work and goals ahead from CCIWG and ICARP TAC representatives
- Late June 2020: Presentation to ICARP TAC of updated scope of work
- July-August 2020: Compile and draft preliminary products, overview documents, recommendations for group discussion. CDI/OPR share draft products for input from CCIWG and ICARP TAC representatives
- August 2020: Sub-workgroup meeting on preliminary recommendations
- September 2020: Discuss and finalize recommendations for delivery to and consideration by the CCIWG and ICARP TAC
- Late 2020: Presentation on recommendations to CCIWG and ICARP TAC