

**Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program  
Technical Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting  
June 26, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Video Conference  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Item 1 | Welcome and Roll Call**

Present: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Browne, Tom Collishaw, Jose Lara (Alternate for Tina Curry), Grant Davis, Laura Engeman, Jana Ganion, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Andrea Ouse, Jonathan Parfrey, Sydney Chamberlain (alternate for Michelle Passero), Heather Rock, Heather Hickerson (Alternate for Lauren Sanchez) Brian Strong, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth

Absent: Mark Starr, Wilma Wooten

Nuin-Tara Key acknowledged the urgency, importance, and challenge of addressing systemic racism, climate resilience, and covid-19 recovery simultaneously.

Nuin-Tara Key: Quick update on our current budget and climate. As we are heading to the end of this year's budget – we went from \$20 billion surplus at the beginning of the year, to a \$50 billion shortfall. This has really shifted the current funding landscape and capacity. Just to note, to date the State has spent \$30 billion in unemployment since March. We also are looking at potential budget implications for state employees, including a furlough approach – and we'll need to look closely at staff capacity.

Nevertheless, our priorities have not shifted. We are staying creative and are looking for additional outside funding or grants and leveraging partners. We recognize that our local government partners are facing similar challenges. We look forward to continuing this conversation as this economic context becomes clearer.

David Loya: I want to applaud the efforts to take the Government Alliance on Racial Equity training. Our organization went through the 18-month training. Regardless of how advanced your organization is – I know you'll learn a lot and learn more about racial equity and bring it into your work.

## Item 2 | Approval of draft minutes ([April 22, 2020](#); [April 24, 2020](#))

### DISCUSSION

Nuin-Tara Key opened the floor for review of draft meeting minutes from 4/22/20 and 4/24/20 TAC meetings.

### ACTION

Nuin-Tara Key opened the floor for the Council to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Brian Strong moved; Karalee Browne seconded.

AYE: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Browne, Tom Collishaw, Jose Lara, Grant Davis, Jana Ganion, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Sydney Chamberlain, Heather Rock, Brian Strong, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth

ABSTAIN: Laura Engeman, Andrea Ouse, Sydney Chamberlain (Michelle Passero), Andrea Ouse, Heather Hickerson (Lauren Sanchez)

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

## Item 3 | Wildfire, Housing, and Integrated Planning

Erik de Kok, OPR Program Manager of Planning and Community Development, and OPR Senior Planner Helen Campbell [gave an overview](#) of updates to wildfire guidance, reviewing state law and requirements for wildfire, and how this integrates with climate, environmental justice, and housing requirements.

### DISCUSSION

Brian Strong: AB 2140 – as relates to Covid – is there an update on Governor/state's perspective on passing the CDAA/legislation declaring emergency to cover the local share via AB 2140?

Erik de Kok: AB 2140, will Covid be named as a disaster to trigger benefit? Not aware of it but Nuin-Tara may be?

Nuin-Tara Key: I have no additional insight; we could investigate this and get back to you.

Brian Strong: I'm sure other cities have sent letters, just wanted to see if you had more information on that.

Jonathan Parfrey: Curious about the post-wildfire recovery phase, does the guidance address how to help Californians during that period?

Erik de Kok: 2015 guidance doesn't have any of that. We are talking to recently affected communities to understand what worked well and what they wished they would have done. Building recommendations on how to build out planning capacity and align with OES and other state work. There are some great efforts that have not been launched. Looking for public review on this to address preparedness and resilience.

Johnathan Parfrey: we have additional info from Woolsey Fire that we would like to contribute.

Nuin-Tara Key: Yesterday at the SGC meeting, Council approved Prop 84 resilience and recovery grant program (one-time opportunity). Another opportunity to leverage planning work in Ventura, Moorpark, Paradise, and Sonoma, thinking about wildfire resilience and recovery. Hoping to use this to get additional insight, trying to pull together lessons learned from these to help other high-risk communities to do pre-planning. If the Council has other suggestions or opportunities to provide this learning/cross-pollination, please do.

John Wentworth: I want to pitch the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire ([CPAW](#)) program. It's an enormously helpful grant that brings in very technical expertise at no additional cost around WUI, wildfire risks, and they make specific recommendations relevant to the General Plan element that is up for adoption. Redding, Mariposa, and San Diego are doing this. Would recommend for jurisdictions thinking through this. I put the link into the chat, can't recommend it enough, makes a huge difference.

Nuin-Tara Key: Thank you we will put into chat for everyone.

Andrea Ouse: To Jonathan's point, I've been engaged with Santa Rosa in recovery/resilience efforts. They've been thinking very differently, are taking opportunity to improve policies and processes and their whole land use scenario. Lessons they learned have resulted in a community-wide effort proven to be a much more resilient model. Focusing efforts on specific recovery actions. I've learned how best to apply these policies in a post disaster recovery scenario.

Heather Rock: Looks like we're relying on historical data and these FHSZ maps, which are showing current risk and not future risk. We do have one / two studies on how fire risk will be spreading by Leroy Westerling, how can we integrate that data? When integrating plans, there may be areas not historically prone to wildfire but may be in the future, so encourage incorporating into decisions we make today.

Erik de Kok: Big finding of report is the need to look at new information and take climate into account. Statute doesn't take into account new understanding of climate risk. We need to look at how climate will exacerbate future risk. This is why we put more holistic framework into the guidance. This can integrate with SB 379 assessments, need them to align and build on each other. Needs to be all part of same assessment.

Jason Greenspan: In the SCAG region, we are finalizing our regional transportation planning growth plan for 2045, with 200,000 households located in VHFHSZ areas. When we think about what to do at a regional level for more sustainable patterns, even then we're thinking about placing houses into WUI because that's where we have infrastructure. Curious how cities will be empowered to do the right thing but also be faced with risk within WUI. What can they do, what are the resources they can look to for building, hardening, safe distances, a plan that addresses safety without sprawling into high risk areas? Wondering how HCD, when looking at housing element updates, will consider risks posed by wildfire when cities are addressing zoning to address their needs.

Helen Campbell: This is a big concern many cities face. Integrated regional planning efforts come into play here.

Erik de Kok: There are many different landscapes across California and the draft wildfire TA calls out the need to consider contextual information on avoidance, community risk reduction, design criteria for siting, and resilience building questions. Sometimes nothing we can do, just make WUI more resilient. How do we best do that? CPAW and Fire Adapted Learning communities provide resources. High level documents don't speak to how to integrate land use and decision making and speak to all the detailed questions, but we hope the guidance will address some.

Jason Greenspan: I have a question about the costs of building in the WUI, which increases the cost of building that is passed on to homeowner. How to plan at city level to anticipate savings for homeowner if you build more safely, even if front end costs are more expensive.

Nuin-Tara Key: Thanks Jason for flagging. This is next on the agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

### **Item 4 | ICARP TAC Workgroup Updates:**

Jenn Phillips, OPR Senior Scientist provided an update on the [scope of work](#) for the California Climate Insurance Working Group (CCIWG) and ICARP TAC Partnership lead by the California Department of Insurance.

Jenn Phillips: At the April meeting the TAC gave direction to not just focus on wildfire but all climate impacts and to think across landscapes and local government actions. We are hoping to tackle the question of how to have the field of insurance communicate better with local government planning. There is a need for a primer on entry points for how to collaborate and work together. A product that could be hugely beneficial is to have a communication guide or local government insurance primer document to advance the conversation and bring subject matters closer together.

Michael Peterson: The revisions between last and this time have a specific deliverable which is a valuable piece of puzzle - to link the insurance world with the local government world. We have historically looked at what insurance looks like for individual homes or statewide, but this effort takes us from individual homes to a community scale. It's important this education component be rock solid to support a broader suite of projects or work products.

Jason Greenspan: When we met it was really enlightening to have discussion with members of the insurance agencies. Insurers make assumptions about what local government members do when updating General Plans and zoning, and insurance risk for climate risks is not a consideration. There's not a lot of common areas to communicate, so that's the value of this effort and workplan.

Andrea Ouse: I can share within my network ways to think differently and incorporate these ideas. It's exciting for this work to evolve, it has never been a consideration in my local government world, but it's definitely a growing need and concern.

## DISCUSSION

John Wentworth: How would you like us to engage with this? I have local issues in this space.

Nuin-Tara Key: In terms of concrete next steps and given budget and capacity, right now Councilmembers who are interested in engaging in this, reach out to us. We must be careful about Bagley Keene because I am a member. While we are backfilling Jenn's position, we can think about how to track your engagement and record so we don't lose that list. Mike and I can put our heads together in terms of how to track this and the next timing of the next workgroup. We will send this out to full Council. Sorry it's not clearer.

John Wentworth: There may be efforts from our networks that may be helpful for you all.

Brett Cozzolino, an intern working on climate resilience with OPR this summer, presented an overview on the resilience metrics draft white paper, broader literature insights, and [feedback](#) from the first TAC Climate Resilience Metrics Workgroup meeting on June 10.

Brett Cozzolino: We heard: 1) This effort should set clear boundaries on what is and isn't included. All metrics may not have equal value. Identifying these boundaries and priorities may be a useful starting point. 2) Public understanding and perception metrics should be included. 3) We should critically examine whether the existing vulnerability assessment frameworks can inform our starting point. 4) Several TAC members noted that we should be sure to enter this discussion from the correct altitude. One potential scale is at the regional level, based on work by a variety of regions in California, and the Regions Rise Together initiative. 5) Several TAC members noted that it is important to have standardized metrics across geographies. 6) The three systems defined by the TAC in April seem appropriate. 7) We should heavily focus on the social systems aspect since we have the opportunity to make progress on addressing systemic racism. 8) We should include clear metrics around public health and environmental justice. While the draft preliminary white paper emphasized the importance of human vulnerability and equity, there are not many indicators in the Safeguarding Appendix B on these two issues. The California Department of Public Health has examples that might be useful in defining potential indicators around human vulnerability and equity.

## DISCUSSION

Amanda Hansen: It's important that we not let the perfect be the enemy of the good and focus our work on driving action; these are important north stars as we make our way through these conversations. Anything we do in this critical space will be a game changer and useful, even if just a small step in the right direction. We want to push as far, hard, and fast as we can but we can only do what we can do in a period of time; we do need results.

John Wentworth: I'm looking forward to next steps and guidance. I would be interested to hear what type of guidance or technical support resources the state will be able to provide on this.

Nuin-Tara Key: You're asking about local efforts that are digging into this and providing information and metrics informing this work, and how that work can move forward given that the state is still working on developing that work ourselves?

John Wentworth: Yes, who should we be talking to about the direction we should be going, and make sure we work in a parallel way?

Nuin-Tara Key: The challenge is urgency of action, we are trying to take action, while we're collectively trying to figure out what we're working towards. We want to learn from perspectives on what is happening on the ground and integrate into ours. This may be a messy iterative process. We are very open to any suggestions, feedback, or folks letting us know what's going on at the local level. There's no clear one way.

Amanda Hansen: When you say how much is the state prepared to come in and support through technical assistance are you talking about development of metrics, or the work that needs to be done to achieve the outcomes? What technical assistance are you talking about?

John Wentworth: I am assuming that a lot of things are coming together. None of us are able to start from the ground up. It's critical to do things together in parallel – with such a wide range of technical abilities, efforts on the ground are wanting to align, check in with, and be useful to the state: Who do we talk to? What is the expectation for Technical Assistance as things move forward? Don't need an answer right now, but it may come up.

Amanda Hansen: Great question. Noted. Thank you.

Nuin-Tara Key: That's something we can continue to be thinking about. There's the technical, partnership and doing side. We don't have a definitive answer as we continue to scope this and think about our network and channels for communication.

Amanda Hansen: To the extent we think about gaps that might be really usefully filled, low cost high value efforts, to encourage and facilitate integration, just keep a mental list of what those are, particularly as we think about the update to the state's adaptation strategy.

Brian Strong: I like the emphasis on social but hopefully those aspects will also be reflected in built and natural. Agreed on the perfect not being the enemy of the good. There are jurisdictions that will want to emphasize different items. Are we going to develop a tool as people look at their own metrics and see how they want to use it? We need some cross cutting, cross jurisdictional metrics. It's hard to implement them. Often, it's not about how good they are but also about the politics and expectations. Thinking about this and perceptions beforehand would be helpful, and being able to point to the state as a tool for local adoption. Do we have a tool to evaluate the metrics?

Nuin-Tara Key: We hadn't scoped development of a tool per say. But we heard from OEHHA that sometimes we need to understand the value and quality. Sometimes we have data on certain types of impacts that can be measured but it's not always the best information, and we need to communicate so users can understand the quality and the application of the information. This is always relevant to future climate projection. What policy decisions and certain types of information can be used to inform action?

Brett Cozzolino: A need in a community might be different from another city or region could still be useful to others. A tool could be a useful way of thinking through a final metrics system for California. This will be a function of the indicators you choose. There are some cross-cutting metrics that will be used no matter what system or location. But there will be differences for a system and geography for measuring what you want to manage.

John Wentworth: Quick support for Brian's comment for cross cutting, and making sure when it all gets developed it goes across a variety of jurisdictions across the state.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

Nuin-Tara Key summarized next steps for the TAC workgroups.

#### **BREAK**

#### **Item 5 | Adaptation Clearinghouse Updates and ICARP Communications Strategy**

Nikki Caravelli, OPR Assistant Planner provided an [overview](#) on user analytics, proposed structural changes and enhancements to the Adaptation Clearinghouse, and the integration of the Adaptation Planning Guide in the Adaptation Clearinghouse.

Nikki Caravelli: I hope to get TAC feedback and direction from this discussion and determine how we can tackle the 2020 priorities of the TAC via the Adaptation Clearinghouse and our communications strategy. We reviewed accessibility, what resources are popular, and how people are using the site. We are thinking about updates in the structure to help folks navigate to the most popular pages and shift less popular ones to a different place on the site. Also thinking about building out the most popular pages. We need more wildfire resilience resources, and rural area resources so we have a good balance with the large number of coastal area resources dealing with sea level rise. We have a mockup of how the Online Adaptation Planning Guide will be integrated. We are working towards a tentative August launch for Beta testing, public and TAC feedback, and we will be using emails, surveys, webinars, and workshops.

Amanda Hansen: In terms of outreach are we thinking about informing improvements or outreach to help it be more user friendly?

Nikki Caravelli: Both. The point of beta testing is to see how APG is working in an online platform and receive general feedback on the site.

Jonathan Parfrey: Are the APG's authors participating in this effort?

Miles Gordon: The contractor for APG is done at the end of this month and we have included them to the extent possible. OES is planning on participating in this project until it is finished.

Nuin-Tara Key: OES is a key partner who is making sure that the feedback from the authors is being put forth in the online version and really looking to make sure we keep the continuity.

Nikki Caravelli provided an overview on the ICARP Communications strategy and gap analysis.

Nikki Caravelli: The purpose of having a robust communications strategy is to get the word out about ICARP, with a brand that reflects our vision, key messages and priorities, the need we are meeting, and visual cues. We defined our priority audiences and 7 communication goals. A gap analysis was done to assess our progress toward these goals; some gaps align with the CACE team's priorities and gaps. We need to improve direct and indirect engagement with local governments. We want to provide more and better case studies as well as other

types of resources and specific gaps we have in our communications are Tribes, rural, inland, agriculture, water, and wildfire agencies.

## DISCUSSION

David Loya: It is good to see that Environmental Justice is one of the top 3 things that people are looking into. Is there some way to take some cues from social media? Maybe local government staff are just busy. How many listserv contacts are consultants working with local jurisdictions?

Nikki Caravelli: For Twitter our challenge is we don't have an ICARP Twitter, we are limited to using OPR's Twitter right now. We can look at themed campaigns based on seasonal climate impacts for Twitter and LinkedIn. Keep in mind some social media outlets aren't as effective for state level activity such as Instagram and Facebook. There are a lot of consultants on the listserv.

Jonathan Parfrey: Main audience is going to be local government, do you have capacity to do Clearinghouse/APG redesign focus groups with local governments? State people probably look at the Clearinghouse as a repository of information, so it may be useful to talk to consultants and others in the community on best ways to access it. So instead of doing the social media part we could just concentrate on the Clearinghouse as per intent of SB 246.

Andrea Ouse: Small and mid size city planners are all generalists and lack the bandwidth to explore sites so making the topics streamlined and navigation easy is helpful. The existing site is effective but I don't think it is broadly used. And I think it needs to be a more common tool that local practitioners can go to. So I think rolling this out it is important and many of us on the TAC have professional networks that we can broadcast it to for beta testing or the public roll out and I would be happy to share whatever resources we have with others.

Nuin-Tara Key: One of my goals is hoping that we can get to that stage and be developing those communications and collateral materials so that the TAC folks can just amplify rather than creating.

Karalee Browne: This topic is near and dear to my heart because it is also a priority at ILG. We have a great website if you can find the resources you're looking for and I think a lot of folks know about the Clearinghouse but they don't know what is in it. So I think it is important to hone in on major topic areas or individual policies or topics that are timely. Just like tying it into any Public Relations strategies. Equity right now is big so any resources that focus on that is key so we can remain topical to local governments. Keep the search as pinpointed as possible so one can hone in on what they are looking for. ILG will

be more than happy to reach out and help in any way to make it easier for local governments.

Laura Engemen: There are two roles of these Clearinghouses. One that may not be captured is that libraries are useful because they are consistently there as a resource. Just because people aren't using it all the time doesn't mean that it's any less valuable – people may still find the resource they needed even if only once. A lot of these folks may have these resources in their toolbox already and therefore don't have to go back to the Clearinghouse. Polling or surveying folks and finding the value of when people need it may be useful. In job transitions and things I am trying to push my resources to you guys so that we don't lose things. The other piece that we are talking about is how do we communicate new resources or show that communities are evolving? I agree we need to figure out who the audience is. If it is planners they don't use social media and get a ton of emails so we have to take that into account. The American Shoreline Association has a podcast series. I find that people need a break from the deluge and the stories really resonate with folks. If we were back in conference mode we could showcase these resources but we aren't, so in the virtual world we have to think differently. We must think about different networks doing workshops and trainings. How can we use the TAC to help get timely topics out to these folks? There are a lot of groups and networks that have websites on adaptation so maybe look to partners with those webpages so we can put a button for the Clearinghouse on their websites. This could help with local traffic.

Nuin-Tara Key: I hadn't thought about the podcasts and maybe there is something we can do with folks through audio.

Brian Strong: Coming from a larger local government, we do have go-to places and we usually don't see the state as a go-to place for local information so getting a brand in place and letting locals know is important. Like Jonathan said maybe focus groups and examples on the page that could explain how to use it and how it could be beneficial. It will require a lot of care and maintenance.

Sona Mohnot: The Clearinghouse is helpful for us at Greenlining. Twitter is helpful, many organizations use it, we can share things on ours. The types of resources and guides are very helpful, as well as how they are organized. When we get requests for environmental justice and equity resources we direct them to the Clearinghouse. One idea is monthly press releases that highlight topics to help introduce folks; this would help with the Clearinghouse being overwhelming. It is helpful to see which resources are gaining the most views so that we can see how they are being utilized and can adapt accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None Received.

## **Item 6 | Strategic Growth Council's Community Assistance for Climate Equity Program**

Strategic Growth Council (SGC) staff Kirin Kumar (Program Manager), Sarah Risher (Assistant Analyst), Coral Abbot (Program Analyst), and Ena Lupin (Community Assistance Program Manager) provided an [overview](#) of the Community Assistance for Climate Equity (CACE) Program to seek feedback on opportunities for alignment with the ICARP TAC.

Kirin Kumar: We are hoping to introduce our work and discuss areas of collaboration. We are driven by key principles especially equity.

Sarah Risher: We found from [listening sessions](#) that there are general barriers across regions and stakeholder types, and specific challenges faced by communities accessing funding and Technical Assistance (TA): Upstream challenges, ensuring community driven solutions, and securing funding. Opportunities we have found for our programs: knowledge and skill building, grant success and access, and interregional coordination support.

Coral Abbott: Partners Advancing Climate Equity (PACE) is a new pilot climate equity leadership program involving community needs assessments and place based TA. Program goals include facilitating capacity building, increasing participation from historically marginalized populations in climate action, and supporting statewide networking. Regional Climate Collaboratives could do more upstream planning to get communities access to grant funding through both available funds, and longer term by supporting the structural and capacity needs in communities for funding later.

Ena Lupine: We are working on getting the draft TA guidelines for public comment out by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

Tom Collishaw: My nerves are a bit raw at the outcome of the last Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) [Program](#) iteration. I work in the San Joaquin Valley and we worked early on in that area and I would just say there was very little funding in the way of disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley. It seems like CARB changed some things as it goes out to TA providers that are out talking to communities, and taking the TA providers at

their word. If the outcomes are that they lack access, they will back off and not be interested. I understand the challenges around navigating HSD, and CARB.

Ena Lupin: The SGC meeting was yesterday and we would be more than happy to talk with you more about this and thank you for the feedback.

Coral Abbott: Thanks Tom we know there is a lot of frustration and we are identifying changes.

Amanda Hansen: What are we going to actually do and what results can we actually deliver? Since this is an unfunded program, we have continually identified that there are several gaps that could be closed. This group of people has useful and broad and deep experience and expertise and could step up during the financial times we are in and helping these communities close these gaps. We can consider it in another meeting if there are any opportunities for us to drive on the barriers identified in the presentation, or what we could do as far as regional workshops and help people get TA support on their general plans.

Kirin Kumar: I hope we can move forward with something like that especially since our work cannot be measured like bike miles, or highway lanes being built. Regional Climate Collaboratives Program (RCC) is not funded but we do have PACE funding for the next two years to identify community priorities and we are ready to pivot the program in the wake of financial uncertainty with COVID.

Nuin-Tara Key: Today is helpful to show the barriers that we have talked about and the point of this meeting is to start thinking about how we drive toward addressing those barriers and I want to come back to the TAC to identify actionable steps that we can take in an upcoming meeting.

Jacob Alvarez: We utilize NGOs to help get the word out to folks. We used the Leadership Council on a grant and they advocate for disadvantaged communities on other things. I have concerns as staff because we have used these NGOs who engage in the community and those community members don't understand the process. So people think infrastructure is coming and it doesn't come if they aren't awarded. For small jurisdictions we must make sure that they are getting the tasks done and completing them on schedule.

Kirin Kumar: To clarify, the RCC program when funded will move away from the Third Party TA provider model where we actually want to invest in building local capacity so they can take the initiative themselves and not have to rely on third party assistance.

Karalee Browne: I've been doing TA for over 10 years, capacity and funding are always the barriers. What we struggle with on some of the TA is that it does take away local government staff from doing various other things. We need to be aware that when we ask local governments to do webinars, etc. it takes time away from them. Though there is a need to engage and communicate more there is a frustration that when you do all the right things, have a great project and have the TA to go with it there is an assumption they are going to get an award. I understand that these are competitive so we go through all these steps to determine if we have a shot. To anyone thinking about doing TA programs we have a lot to talk about with those things and now with COVID folks are struggling with capacity so we have to watch what we ask for.

Ena Lupin: We have been hearing the concerns about expectations and being honest with communities considering the amount of effort that goes into these and being realistic so we are not just having TA providers throw in applications last minute.

Heather Rock: I also want to second Amanda in wanting to take action. I love that we meet and have these workshops but we can do more. In September we spent the second half of the meeting in the regions rise together workshop hearing regional challenges, maybe we consider ICARP doing something similar. We have a lot of expertise, and a lot of commitment to this so we should utilize it to help communities now.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None received.

#### **Item 7 | General Public Comment**

None received.

#### **Item 8 | Closing, Future Agenda Items, and Meeting Adjourned**