



# ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

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## Technical Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2023 | Zoom Video Conference | 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

[Public Agenda](#)

[Meeting slides](#)

### Item 1 | Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Saharnaz Mirzazad introduced the meeting with a land acknowledgement and noted that Sacramento, California is on ancestral Nisenan Tribal Land. She remarked that a land acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Native Americans as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Native American tribes and their traditional territories.

#### Today's agenda:

- Item 1: Welcome & Roll Call
- Item 2: 2022 ICARP Impact Report Outline
- Item 3: 2023 ICARP Work Plan
- Item 4: ICARP TAC Priorities
- Item 5: Draft Regional Resilience Grant Program Guidelines
- Item 6: General Public Comment
- Item 7: Closing & Adjourn

#### Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Members Present (15):

Nathan Bengtsson, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)

Jaimie Huynh, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)

Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency

Jenn Phillips, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

Virginia Jameson, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

David Loya, City of Arcata

Saharnaz Mirzazad (Chair), Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR)

Liya Rechtman, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)

Nicole Wong, Greenlining Institute

Lori Nezhura, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

Jonathan Parfrey, Climate Resolve

Linda Helland, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)/California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS)

Gloria Walton, The Solutions Project

John Wentworth, Town of Mammoth Lakes

Wilma Wooten, County of San Diego

**Absent (9):**

Jacob Alvarez, City of Coachella

Veronica Beaty, CA Coalition for Rural Housing

Karalee Browne, Institute for Local Government

Kim Clark, Southern California Association of Governments

Laura Engeman, Scripps Institute of Oceanography

Jana Ganion, Blue Lake Rancheria

Andrea Ouse, City of West Sacramento

Michelle Passero, The Nature Conservancy

Brian Strong, City and County of San Francisco

## **Item 2 | 2022 ICARP Impact Report Outline**

Sloane Viola began by describing the purpose of the ICARP Impact Report: providing the foundational information on the need for adaptation and resiliency, how California is preparing for climate change, communicating the TAC's priorities, explaining the unique role of ICARP in supporting resilience, highlighting programmatic accomplishments from the past year, and identifying future priorities and opportunities.

ICARP's first Impact Report identified the Vision and Principles established by the TAC, described the expected climate impacts to the state, inventoried key legislative and executive actions related to resilience, described the role of ICARP, and concluded by identifying areas of focus for 2020. The Impact Report released in 2022 covered the

program's work over 2020 and 2021. It contained similar framing and foundational information as the first report, and included some startling statistics from recent heat waves, wildfires, and drought. From there, the report detailed ICARP's programmatic efforts. Those sections were organized by Council priority, and articulated the significance of each priority, described the programmatic efforts supporting each priority, identified the accomplishments of those projects, and looked ahead to map out next year's anticipated milestones.

Ms. Viola continued by describing how this year's Impact Report will get ICARP back on track with annual reports by focusing on 2022. The outline proposes to begin with a foundation of adaptation and resiliency basics to ensure new readers can understand the field. Next, the report will take a new approach by highlighting select processes or outcomes of ICARP's work through a case study narrative that will allow for greater detail to describe lessons learned, opportunities, and collaboration. She noted that this section would highlight the Fifth Assessment's research roundtables, the Plan Alignment Guides, the stakeholder engagement for ICARP's grant programs, and the development of the climate funding Gantt Chart. For the remainder of ICARP's projects, the Impact Report will inventory accomplishments and project 2023 milestones in a much more abbreviated way, likely using lists or tables.

Wilma Wooten responded that she liked the idea very much of having narratives about what has been done *in juris* to address climate change impacts. She continued that she was excited about the effort of getting back on track with annual reports. Ms. Wooten noted that it's important to identify metrics local jurisdictions can replicate or look for the data so they can show how those metrics play out in respective regions so local jurisdictions can align with the state.

Nathan Bengtsson asked for clarification on what drove the recommended changes – the TAC or internal review?

Sloane Viola responded that the changes are internally-driven, as staff noticed the limitations of conveying the value of the work by just inventorying accomplishments. The storytelling about what led to those outcomes will tell a more complete and compelling story.

Jonathan Parfrey asked if OPR would distribute the Impact Report to legislators to understand the value of ICARP.

Chair Mirzazad replied that that is a great idea, and that ICARP would also appreciate if stakeholders and TAC members could also support distribution.

Lori Nezhura noted that OES administers several federal grant programs. She continued by asking to what degree staff will be looking at federal efforts in the state and how the state's work is informing the federal efforts.

Chair Mirzazad responded that Staff will explore if a working group can address this question.

Sloane Viola sought clarification that the question was to explore where federal requirements differ from state and how state programs can model best practices to federal programs?

Lori Nezhura responded that federal agencies have existing grant programs whose priorities may potentially conflict with our priorities. She is seeking to understand how we can inform the federal programs and how what they are doing will impact us.

Sloane Viola noted that this concept connects to ICARP's FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners work, which seeks to collaborate with state programs to align with federal grant requirements so they can serve as local match funding.

Chair Mirzazad suggest that the TAC could identify federal grants and weigh in on their guidelines to help shape the guidelines to match our goals and objectives.

John Wentworth asked if it would be possible to include in the report how the work done through ICARP is engaging other agencies in the state and breaking down silos to support a more coherent state response to climate change. He noted that this doesn't need to be exhaustive, but mainly identify who we are working with and how we are moving forward.

Gloria Walton commented that it's helpful to contextualize what we are doing to understand the impact, whether talking about the Inflation Reduction Act or Justice40. She additionally referenced the power that has been built and continuing to be built in most impacted communities through an emphasis on equity, and the importance of highlighting infrastructure that exists. She suggested that the report contextualize all this federal money and what it looks like in the state, and whether there are models that can be replicated across the country.

Sloane Viola replied that most of the context-setting in the report is in the state framework, and acknowledged Ms. Walton's point about bringing in alignment with federal programs and the role of ICARP to identify how we can connect and leverage the opportunities that are available.

Wilma Wooten inquired about the purpose of the impact report – to show the work of the TAC, ICARP in general, or to project the state's vision and plan and efforts?

Sloane Viola responded that the main focus of the report is the ICARP program as a whole – the Fifth Climate Change Assessment, ICARP's grant programs, and TAC activities and how its guidance and leadership has shaped ICARP activities and how that has helped inform ICARP's work.

Nicole Wong highlighted a couple things she appreciated: the narrative case studies to offer more texture and color to how ICARP has been approaching the Fifth Assessment and grant program engagement, and the equity nexus in process and

partnerships. She asked if the report can make clear what are some of the best practices and how are they shaping the actions in the year ahead. She noted the robust work ahead and recommended tying those different pieces to the larger vision or theory of change throughout the report.

Sloane Viola responded that the narratives best describe how we are applying lessons learned. However, they do not include all projects, and noted that Ms. Wong's comment calls to a need to highlight the lessons learned and incorporate them into the larger framing and context setting.

Jenn Phillips emphasized the value of case studies. She recommended thinking about the long list of milestones and next steps and finding a way to present those in a compelling way, and offered to brainstorm how to think about that.

Jaimie Huynh asked that if equity is a priority, then will the report be translated and shared with other communities, and whether this been done in the past.

Sloane Viola responded that ICARP hasn't translated reports in the past, but that OPR is exploring language translation for key documents. This would be a great opportunity to start implementing that.

Wilma Wooten noted that when federal entities release documents, they release a consumer version. She asked if ICARP will do something similar, like having a basic presentation that could go to coalitions or groups. She noted that the report uses technical language and suggested creating a document that uses simple language the public can understand.

Sloane Viola responded by noting that OPR's grant programs have been preparing handouts to disseminate information to public audiences. Preparing simplified resources is a great idea, and staff can work on developing a slide deck to share with the Council.

## **Public Comment**

No comments.

## **Action**

Lori Nezhura moved to approve the 2022 ICARP Impact Report Outline, with a second from Wilma Wooten.

The TAC voted to approve the 2022 ICARP Impact Report Outline, with 16 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 abstaining.

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Browne, Jaimie Huynh, Grant Davis, Jenn Phillips, Virginia Jameson, David Loya, Saharnaz Mirzazad, Nicole Wong, Liya Retchman, Lori Nezhura, Jonathan Parfrey, Linda Helland, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

*2022 ICARP Impact Report Outline approved.*

### Item 3 | 2023 ICARP Work Plan

Sloane Viola began by noting that ICARP Staff have another busy year ahead. She shared that the Fifth Assessment team will be collaborating with researchers to produce the Assessment's Core Climate Reports, and the Tribal Research Program will be making grant awards. ICARP's investment programs – the Adaptation Planning Grant Program, Regional Resilience Grant Program, and Extreme Heat Grant Program – will continue their grantmaking activities. She continued by noting that ICARP is especially excited about the Vulnerable Communities Platform project getting back on track. The Plan Alignment toolkit will continue to evolve as we use next year to scope needs for a tribal plan alignment toolkit and update the Coastal Compass. ICARP will also establish and begin coordinating the Science Advisory Group.

Ms. Viola then transitioned to present what the TAC can expect in 2023. With the substantial increase in ICARP's programmatic responsibilities, the last year focused heavily on seeking TAC oversight and input into ICARP's projects. ICARP will still need and seek the TAC's input to guide implementation efforts, but will also maintain space for the policy exploration that characterized the earlier years of the program. She then pointed out her goal to construct agendas to have better cohesion for discussions. Additionally, staff expects to return to some form of in-person or hybrid meetings. She shared staff's intention to use the opportunities created by travel to use site visits to see on-the-ground implementation and connect with communities. Ms. Viola noted that working groups were less prominent last year, and she expects to rely more on working groups for the TAC to dig in on key areas of interest.

Next, Ms. Viola provided details on what to expect out of Council meetings. Greater cohesion of agenda items better leverage the thought leadership of our TAC members. Staff will articulate how agenda items and discussions connect to the TAC priorities and the ICARP Vision and Principles so participants can see how those high-level concepts and principles translate to processes and on-the-ground action. Additionally, staff will be clear about how feedback from TAC members integrates into action or outcomes. TAC. Finally, in-person meetings will allow the TAC to engage more directly with communities and showcase implementation successes or elevate local needs through activities like workshops and site visits.

Ms. Viola then provided an overview of existing and recommended working groups. The Insurance Working Group was initially established to explore a pathway for the insurance industry to create incentives for landscape-scale resilience measures. This scope of work built on the initial coordination of the SB 30 insurance working group. However, as the work progressed, the Working Group learned there was not a path forward for this idea. The members participating on the working group agreed that a new focus would be necessary and identified an opportunity to explore an extreme heat insurance pilot product for local governments. Staff commits to continuing to work toward the original goal or intent of the working group to promote landscape-scale wildfire resilience practices, and will explore other avenues to work toward this goal.

Ms. Viola then proposed two new working groups that could allow Councilmembers to focus on policy exploration or implementation efforts, depending on their interests. The goal of the policy exploration working group would be to leverage the expertise of TAC members to develop cross-cutting recommendations that address upcoming challenges or opportunities. Work products coming out of this group could be things like white papers, policy briefs, or other resources.

She suggested a starting point for this group could be to focus on re-visiting established definitions and identifying where new definitions are necessary. This was motivated by staff's production of public-facing documents over the past year, which noted some areas where definitions could be refined. She highlighted the example of the TAC's interdisciplinary input and public process to develop the vulnerable communities definition, which was codified in statute in 2020 and increased alignment for future legislative direction. Additionally, coordinating this process with ICARP's interagency workgroups like the Interagency Resilience Work Group can leverage opportunities to promote cohesion and clarity across entities and sectors. She concluded by noting that if the TAC determines this is worth pursuing, this will likely take less than a year to complete.

The second proposed working group, focused on implementation, would build on many of the conversations the Council had last year related to resilience funding access and program coordination. The overarching goal of this group would be to apply best practices, lessons learned, and principles elevated through the TAC to coordinated implementation. This would likely take the form of partnerships, policy recommendations, tools, or other resources.

Because funding access has been a common challenge, Ms. Viola proposed that the working group focus on ways to improve access to funding. In the near term, this group could direct the development of tools or resources that provide general guidance and navigation to state funding opportunities. She noted that there are current efforts occurring within individual grant programs – including at ICARP – and at a collective state level to remove barriers to accessing state funding. This proposal would be to provide tools that help entities navigate current opportunities to bridge the gap until those larger and more transformative changes take effect.

A longer-term goal for the group would seek to accomplish more significant change, like aligning application requirements or building a proposal for a common application or block grants. ICARP has a good foundation for pursuing application alignment based on the Cooperative Technical Partners work to align state programs with FEMA requirements. Ms. Viola cautioned that a big swing like proposing a common application or block grants will take extensive engagement, advocacy, and resources, which will take some time to accomplish.

Ms. Viola concluded by asking the Council for high-level recommendations on whether this is the right direction for the working groups, or whether any adjustments are needed. Staff will integrate this into proposals for the TAC to consider at a future meeting for formal approval.

Chair Mirzazad commented that this is a truly ambitious work plan. ICARP has a lot of initiatives, to which the TAC has provided valuable guidance. She noted that the TAC is a unique forum to elevate on-the-ground implementation needs, and these



working group concepts will better position us to serve in that role. She further requested that council representatives help staff identify innovative projects and programs happening within their communities that the TAC can highlight at in-person meetings and site visits.

Linda Helland congratulated staff for the impressive work. She commented that the implementation workgroup focus on funding alignment is a great idea and a real need. It's important that it's aligned with other efforts and not duplicative. Ms. Helland highlighted the Health in All Policies Task Force, and potential for collaboration with the state grants portal.

Ms. Viola agreed that a prudent first step would be to meet with interagency partners to understand what they are already doing.

Karalee Browne said she was excited for work groups to come back because sometimes we forget why we are here and what we are doing. She appreciated how the iterations over the years had connected and is excited to be part of the next phase.

Jenn Phillips asked for clarification on the relationship between the work plan and priorities. She also inquired about the need for another definitions exercise, what the process would look like, and asked if staff could look at state plans that were released last year. She noted that definitions are helpful but likely already exist, and suggested it might be more helpful to talk about how to explain resilience in common language. She recommended emphasizing raising awareness about resilience with general audiences. Ms. Phillips additionally urged that the working groups consider urgent policy needs and what can strengthen current efforts. She concluded by noting support for the federal funding alignment work and tapping collective networks to leverage federal investments that complement state investments, and recommended looking at what the Strategic Growth Council is doing in this area.

Nathan Bengtsson noted his support for the definitions working group because his experience with resilience terminology has been that it's tough to be clear about what we mean when we talk about climate resilience. The uncertainties in resilience language is an opportunity to define terms and help the policy environment move forward. He noted that definitions can be tricky, but if the work focuses on how we talk about this so people understand and can take action, that's a good call.

Jonathan Parfey followed up on a comment made by Jenn Philips, noting that OPR, SGC, and other agencies are moving money out this year, and it could be a very interesting role of the TAC to be able to ensure that it happens in a good way. We know there is budget deficit, and some of these programs are getting haircut or more than a haircut. He suggested that maybe there is a TAC role to see that projects get out, so that the Department of Finance and Governor's Office aren't punitive about these programs we fought so hard to get off the ground.

Liya Rechtman shared Nathan Bengtsson's enthusiasm for focusing on definitions and noted that they are also important for CalSTA. She also agreed that there is a



gap in how we engage with federal funding opportunities, and more could be done to streamline efforts. She asked if the implementation work group would be focused on implementation on the ground and what other agencies are seeing in terms of projects moving forward and whether any guidance is needed to help move projects forward.

John Wentworth noted that previously in the meeting, we mentioned narratives and stories, which he assumes would be in plain language. With regard to the conversation about language and definitions, he suggested to be thinking in terms of implementation and human stories, especially for communicating with the Department of Finance and the Legislature. Mr. Wentworth encouraged emphasizing and framing the stories around what is being delivered.

Sloane Viola responded to earlier questions to clarify the connection between work plan and council priorities. The priorities are high-level areas of focus for the ICARP program that meet goals and principles of the TAC. They provide an organizing structure for programmatic implementation through the work plan. Working groups can build out on priorities or identify new priorities for further development in future years.

Chair Mirzazad noted that OPR is lucky to have multiple forums to connect with the public, local govt, and others. Director Assefa is closing working with the Strategic Growth Council, and staff is in conversation, to make sure that what we are doing is closely coordinated.

Wilma Wooten asked if there is any integration between this climate work and the California Department of Public Health.

Linda Helland noted that there are a lot of points of collaboration. CDPH staff provides a lot of support and consultation to all the OPR programs, including through advisory groups and work groups to provide implementation guidance. She concluded by noting that the regional climate change and health grant program was eliminated in its entirety for this budget, and we are hoping for better news next year.

Wilma Wooten noted that documentation is important for her, and she didn't see that noted in this overview.

Sloane Viola noted that another connection with CDPH is their support in developing the Adaptation Planning Grant Program Guidelines. Additionally, ICARP will support CDPH in implementing AB 619, which directs CDPH to develop guidelines for counties to address the impacts of wildfire smoke.

Jonathan Parfrey asked whether the proposed working groups on policy or implementation would be the place where the TAC could potentially offer some substantive advice that is evidence-based to inform the development of the resilience bond measure.

Chair Mirzazad thanked Mr. Parfrey for that idea. She continued that one of the work groups could focus on implementation general and noted that any advice on how to do this would be welcome. We will get back on how the working group can form that in a way that could provide that advice.

Jenn Phillips offered her support for site visits, which gets to mission and vision of TAC. They help to break down silos and support work at the local and regional level. She noted her enjoyment of site visits in previous years.

John Wentworth seconded the comments from Jenn Phillips and Jonathan Parfrey. He noted that this group is well-suited to weigh in and provide input and comment on the bond measure.

Chair Mirzazad thanked the Council for their great ideas on how to better utilize this group.

## **Public Comment**

No Public Comments

## **Action**

Wilma Wooten moved to approve the 2023 ICARP Work Plan, with a second from Gloria Walton.

The TAC voted to approve the 2023 ICARP Work Plan, with 18 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 abstaining.

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Nathan Bengtsson, Karalee Browne, Jaimie Huynh, Grant Davis, Jana Ganion, Jenn Phillips, Virginia Jameson, David Loya, Saharnaz Mirzazad, Nicole Wong, Liya Retchman, Lori Nezhura, Jonathan Parfrey, Linda Helland, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

*2023 ICARP Work Plan approved.*

## **Item 4 | ICARP TAC Priorities**

Sloane Viola began by explaining that the TAC establishes priorities each year, which guide the structure of the annual Impact Report and quarterly updates on ICARP's programmatic efforts. She continued by pointing out that because ICARP is continuing major programmatic implementation efforts this year, staff does not specifically recommend changes to the priorities, but welcomed Council's input on whether there are adjustments that could be made.

Wilma Wooten pointed out that the slide listing priorities said "2022", and asked if it should say "2023" instead.

Sloane Viola clarified that those were the 2022 priorities, which Staff proposes extending into 2023.

Nicole Wong noted the importance of including climate equity and vulnerable communities throughout ICARP's activities, and not just as a standalone priority.

Sloane Viola thanked Ms. Wong for her comment, and noted that the narrative sections of the Impact Report will point out ways equity is a throughline across ICARP's work. She noted that the Climate Equity and Vulnerable Community priority recognizes that it requires intention and focus to achieve the equitable outcomes sought through the work.

## **Public Comment**

No comments.

## **Action**

Jacob Alvarez moved to approve the ICARP TAC Priorities, with a second from Wilma Wooten.

The TAC voted to approve the ICARP TAC Priorities, with 18 ayes, 0 noes, and 0 abstaining.

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Nathan Bengtsson, Karalee Browne, Jaimie Huynh, Grant Davis, Jana Ganion, Jenn Phillips, Virginia Jameson, David Loya, Saharnaz Mirzazad, Nicole Wong, Liya Retchman, Lori Nezhura, Jonathan Parfrey, Linda Helland, Gloria Walton, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

*TAC Priorities approved.*

## **Item 5 | Draft Regional Resilience Grant Program Guidelines**

Dolores Barajas, the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) Manager, introduced herself and thanked the Council for their time to discuss the Draft Program Guidelines, which were released January 17<sup>th</sup>. She introduced her team: Lauren Marsiglia, Senior Planner, Kristyn Vega-Payne, Associate Planner, and Kate Lyons, Assistant Planner.

Ms. Barajas began by describing the purpose of the Regional Resilience Grant Program. The program supports resilience solutions for local, regional, and tribal entities. These entities can use the program's funding to support capacity-building, planning, and project implementation. The program encourages applicants for both planning and implementation grants to include capacity-building activities. In Round 1, the program will allocate \$21.3 million, at least \$12.5 million of which will support planning activities. Planning project awards will range from \$150,000 - \$650,000, and project implementation awards will range from \$800,000 - \$3 million. Future rounds of funding will only include implementation funds.

Ms. Barajas continued by highlighting the Regional Resilience Grant Program's priorities. The program aims to fund regional projects, which is the program's distinguishing feature. Additionally, projects must align with ICARP's priorities, including protecting critical infrastructure and building communities' capacity to respond to climate change, and implement climate solutions consistent with priorities of the California Climate Adaptation

Strategy. Projects must address the greatest climate risks in the region, with a strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable communities.

Ms. Barajas provided an overview of the program's timeline. She highlighted the work staff conducted over the past summer to convene listening sessions, including at the July 2022 TAC meeting. After the listening sessions, staff integrated feedback into the draft guidelines released on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Barajas noted that staff is facilitating a series of public comment workshops and accepting feedback via email. After the conclusion of this period, staff will integrate feedback and release final guidelines in April. Applicants will have about 90 days to apply, and staff will provide technical assistance throughout the application period. Ms. Barajas noted that they expect to announce awards in the fall.

She then provided an overview of the engagement conducted to date, which consisted of public listening sessions, key informant interviews, and an online survey. The program's engagement summary provides an overview of the feedback received; a total of 140 organizations participated in this process.

Ms. Barajas summarized three pieces of feedback. First, commenters requested that applicants self-identify the region their project will serve because a flexible definition will better support diverse needs across the state. Second, feedback highlighted the importance of funding sustainable staffing and strategic partnerships to build capacity. Collaboration among multiple levels of government can support multi-scale partnerships that can prioritize the region's most vulnerable populations. Finally, commenters noted that streamlining and simplifying the grant application and reporting process will increase accessibility to the program and requested technical assistance.

Ms. Barajas provided an overview of the types of organizations engaged during this effort. 583 people representing 389 organizations participated or provided comment. The organizations represented included nonprofits, cities, utilities, tribal governments, and many others. She noted that the feedback received, especially regarding coordination with the Adaptation Planning Grant Program, informed the grant guidelines.

Based on this feedback, the draft guidelines provide flexibility for applicants to define the region their project serves. The program defines a region as one that encompasses more than one jurisdiction, and shares natural and built environment systems and climate risks. Applications may consider other established regional definitions, including those of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy. Ms. Barajas noted that if an applicant uses a regional boundary of another program, it will not receive preferential scoring. She noted that the program requires regional partnerships with at least one lead and one co-applicant. Ideally, diverse, cross-jurisdictional partnerships that can engage across multiple levels of government will support the project. The program will aim to fund at least one project in each of the nine Adaptation Strategy regions to ensure regional diversity of projects.

Lauren Marsiglia, Senior Planner, provided an overview of the eligible applicants: public entities, California Native American Tribes, and community-based organizations. Organizations associated with tribes are considered community-based organizations under the program. She continued by describing the requirements for co-applicants and

partnerships. Each project application must include one lead applicant and one co-applicant, and at least one applicant should be a public entity or a California Native American Tribe. She noted that if a public entity submits a project targeting vulnerable communities, then the entity must partner with at least one community-based organization.

Ms. Marsiglia noted that the program's legislation, SB 170, requires the program to have set-aside funding, which targets funding to priority communities. The draft guidelines allot at least 25% of funding to projects that focus on disadvantaged communities and at least 10% to projects that focus on California Native American Tribes. The program uses CalEnviroScreen to define disadvantaged communities. She repeated that the program aims to fund at least one project from each of the nine geographic regions of the Adaptation Strategy. While applicants aren't required to align with those regions, they provide staff with a framework to ensure geographic diversity in allocating funding. Additionally, the program aims to fund at least two projects to establish tribal and rural regional partnerships.

Ms. Marsiglia noted that the program will provide applicants with technical assistance during the application phase, but unfortunately third-party technical assistance will not be available during the first round. Instead, staff will provide online application workshops, virtual office hours, information-sharing to foster collaboration, and update frequently asked questions on the program's website. The online application workshops will consist of two general workshops and three targeted workshops for tribes and specific regions.

She continued by noting that the first round of funding will support planning and implementation activities, and encouraged applicants anywhere in the resilience planning process to apply for the program. Projects should have a regional focus, consider vulnerable communities, and align with at least one of the program's goals. Strong applications will align with at least one climate-oriented state plan, address at least two climate risks, and offer multiple co-benefits. A wide range of projects are eligible for this program, and the authorizing legislation specifically calls out wildfire, sea-level rise, drought, flood, extreme heat, and energy resilience projects. Ms. Marsiglia provided some examples of eligible planning and implementation activities, which are included in the draft guidelines. She noted that the program cannot fund legislative lobbying or lawsuits, nor can it support environmental studies or plans required under the California Environmental Quality Act or National Environmental Policy Act.

Applicants must complete an intent survey, which will be available online before the solicitation is available. This will allow staff to assess potential applications' competitiveness and allow staff to recommend resources for technical support. A review panel will evaluate applications on a competitive basis. Applicants will apply through a SharePoint portal, and questions for the application will align with the topical areas in the guidelines' scoring criteria. The application requires additional documentation, including a budget, work plan, community engagement plan, and letters of support from vulnerable communities the project supports.

Ms. Marsiglia then provided an overview of the application scoring criteria, which offer a total of 100 points. She highlighted the largest category, community needs and priorities, which is worth 20 points. For both planning and implementation projects, the program will require awardees to develop an action plan that builds on the work plan and community partnership plan. Grantees will also be expected to evaluate their project's impact and provide progress reports and engage in regular check ins with staff. A major goal of the evaluation is to ensure the community partnerships meaningfully serve vulnerable communities.

Ms. Marsiglia continued by providing an overview of the eligible costs of the project budget, which include staff costs, meetings, travel costs, language access, and evaluation activities. More information on eligible costs is available in the guidelines.

The program will accept public comments until March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The public may provide comment by participating in a workshop or emailing their comments to [icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov](mailto:icarp.grants@opr.ca.gov). Ms. Barajas concluded by providing further details on the upcoming public comment workshops. She underscored the importance of hearing from a wide variety of perspectives so the program can meet regional needs.

Chair Mirzazad offered her congratulations on this milestone and gratitude for all the hard work and all the engagement with communities.

Nathan Bengtsson shared that his organization is in the middle of outreach and has been looking for places where people can extend the work. He asked for clarification regarding which disadvantaged community definition is being used, and how the "greatest climate risk" in each region is being determined.

Dolores Barajas responded that disadvantaged communities are not specifically called out in legislation, but the program's statute allows ICARP to create formula funding or set-asides. ICARP is using CalEPAs disadvantaged communities definition and aims to direct 25% of funding to these communities. She noted that the guidelines direct applicants to consider existing plans and documents within their region, which have identified climate risks. Additionally, resources like Cal Adapt can identify climate risks.

John Wentworth asked if there is a provision for working with existing collaboratives, and for Staff's thinking on how this effort overlaps, will work with, or will complement the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) regions and processes.

Dolores Barajas noted that the approach with two funding tracks distinguishes between planning grants, which support new collaboratives, and implementation grants, which can support existing collaboratives. She continued that this could be an area to provide further feedback.

John Wentworth noted that a lot of collaboratives are getting by on shoestrings and could step into an implementation role.

Dolores Barajas continued by responding to the second question in connection to CERF. Staff haven't identified any strong connection at this point but noted that there may be a nexus within the project implementation, especially around workforce development.

John Wentworth cautioned that there could be some unintended consequences for these related programs if they do not connect strongly. It would inspire confidence in the state if there was better coordination among all these programs.

Chair Mirzazad noted that the 13 regions for CERF have been established, and they will soon be awarded for initial steps. She agreed on the need for more coordination between state programs. One reason this program has regional flexibility is to make sure it can tap into existing collaboratives. The voices across the state are very different and diverse, and creating a program that's responsive to the different needs is challenging. Our north star is flexibility and being responsive to input, so we are open to improving the program guidelines.

John Wentworth stated that providing higher level goals would help to make sure there is coordination.

Nicole Wong voiced her alignment with the previous comment around preventing duplication and the possibility of streamlining between existing programs. She also shared her appreciation for the flexibility for planning and implementation. Ms. Wong asked how the program will align with programs like Adaptation Planning Grant Program or other grant programs. She suggested that the program make sure that applicants to the Regional Climate Collaboratives program that were not funded can see this program as an opportunity. She underscored her comments that align with John Wentworth's noting a need for coordination between grant programs with similar objectives and eligible activities.

Dolores Barajas noted that the purpose of the intent survey is to assess the project and what other resources might be useful. Staff is working with APGP and the Strategic Growth Council to support cohesive projects and navigate different funding programs.

Gloria Walton shared her appreciation for the time that staff has invested in putting this together, as well as some of the offerings – particularly the feedback from the engagement process. She has heard similar comments about streamlining, providing TA, and making sure that applicants can self-identify where appropriate. She noted that some community-based organizations have experience getting funding from private foundations but not necessarily government, so technical assistance is important. Ms. Walton then asked for the thinking between the thresholds of at least 25% to disadvantaged and 10% to tribal. She noted that those thresholds are low, while recognizing the language is “at least”. She shared her inclination to push further.



Dolores Barajas responded that these thresholds came through the engagement process and were discussed with the public. She noted the challenges of a regional program to meet that threshold with regional partnerships, which is why the guidelines are flexible in how applicants define themselves. The program also wanted to support other diversity through the nine California Climate Adaptation Strategy regions. Additionally, the planning grants will support at least two tribal and rural entity partnerships. She concluded by agreeing that the numbers could be higher.

Gloria Walton encouraged staff to revisit those numbers. She pointed out a disconnect between talking about equity and vulnerable communities and not really pushing ourselves to resource those communities. She added that setting the bar low could undermine our opportunities, and it's important to set the right threshold to make sure this is about equity.

Wilma Wooten noted her interest in responding to the question posed about tools to identify local vulnerability. She highlighted the California Department of Public Health's Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators, which consider exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and can provide county level info across the 21 metrics. The tool also compares against state's average. Areas that are above the state's average would be useful to try to work on.

Dolores Barajas responded that staff will double check to make sure it's included.

Lori Nezhura asked if this grant can be used for the match grant with the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program. She noted that OES found that one-time funding from the state that could serve as the local match significantly improved community-based organizations' capability to access federal grants that require matching funding.

Dolores Barajas noted that the APGP more closely aligned their grant programs to federal opportunities. We state our funding can be used as match funding, but we don't require match funding. We are open to other opportunities to align.

Chair Mrizazad shared her appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate with OES to ensure we have maximum access to federal funding.

Linda Helland thanked Dr. Wooten for the shout out to Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators and thanked staff for consideration of incorporating health and equity, and also the tool, into guidelines.

Gloria Walton offered to follow through in the spirit of advancing resources to frontline communities by sharing herself and team at the Solutions Project in figuring out how to move dollars to communities. She further offered to share any lessons learned or tools we can use because she feels strongly that we should push ourselves to do better.

Sloane Viola read a comment in the chat from David Loya. Mr. Loya expressed his appreciation for all the work that went into the program, which reflects the hard work of staff and also the TAC. This program synthesizes the guidance the TAC has provided regarding developing capacity at the local level. Mr. Loya expressed his hope that this will have an impact beyond the initial investment, developing capacity, understanding, and lasting projects across the state.

Jonathan Parfrey affirmed Gloria Walton's challenge to try and move dollars to communities that need it most. He continued by asking whether Staff believes the regional collaboratives between various cities and tribes should be contiguous geographically, or if there could be a thematic relationship. For example, in LA, many communities have poor canopy and are subject to extreme heat, but they are not contiguous. Could those heat-impacted communities collaborate on an application, or should they be grouped in the same COG to develop a proposal?

Dolores Barajas responded that the program's current language proposes shared built and natural systems, which leans towards contiguous project areas. She noted her willingness to hear more on this, but the current focus is on shared systems.

Chair Mirzazad shared cautionary point that the thematic focus could go further, so some sort of guardrail could be incorporated keep sensible groups together. She posited that perhaps within certain regions it might be a good idea.

### **Public Comment**

No comments.

### **Action**

No action.

## **Item 6 | General Public Comment**

No public comments.

## **Item 7 | Closing and Meeting Adjourned**

Chair Mirzazad announced that there are multiple positions open at OPR and asked TAC members to share these positions on their LinkedIn. These are high-level leadership positions: Executive Director of the Racial Equity Commission, and Deputy Director of Strategic Partnerships, and within the ICARP team, Deputy Director of Climate and Planning.

Chair Mirzazad noted that Councilmembers at the end of their two-year terms will receive letters notifying them of a reappointment or thanking them for their service on the TAC. She thanked all TAC members for their contributions to the Council, and shared gratitude for

their participation and leadership. We will welcome new members at our next meeting, and look forward to the fresh perspectives they will bring.

Chair Mirzazad announced that quarterly meetings for 2023 will kick off on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. That meeting will include a focus on extreme heat and provide an opportunity to learn about the upcoming programs and initiatives kicking off this year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.