



ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Technical Advisory Council

Item 7: California Fifth Climate Change Assessment Synthesis Reports

November 17, 2023

Introduction

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment) is a multi-year research effort led by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in partnership with the Strategic Growth Council, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Energy Commission. It includes a suite of diverse research and informational products that explore the state's current and projected climate impacts and adaptation pathways to build resilience to climate related vulnerabilities. Part of that portfolio is a suite of Regional Synthesis Reports that are meant to compile and synthesize key findings throughout the Climate Assessment into regionally focused materials that meet the needs and context of communities across the state.

The Fourth Climate Assessment established a model for nine regional reports to capture key information developed through the assessment and highlight locally specific applications. Building from this framework, the Fifth Assessment team hosted a series of in-person and virtual engagement events with representatives from tribal communities, non-profit organizations, local governments, academic communities, and residents across the state's nine climate change assessment regions (Central Coast, Inland Deserts, Los Angeles, North Coast, San Diego, Sacramento Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Sierra Nevada) to discuss the scope of each Regional Synthesis Report.

Based on the input received, the Fifth Assessment team is proposing updates to some of the Climate Assessment regions and has developed a general framework that will set a foundation for the scope of each Regional Synthesis Report. Input has also contributed to a deeper understanding of the local nuances and unique climate conditions experienced throughout different communities that will be used, where relevant, to elevate local priorities throughout each report.

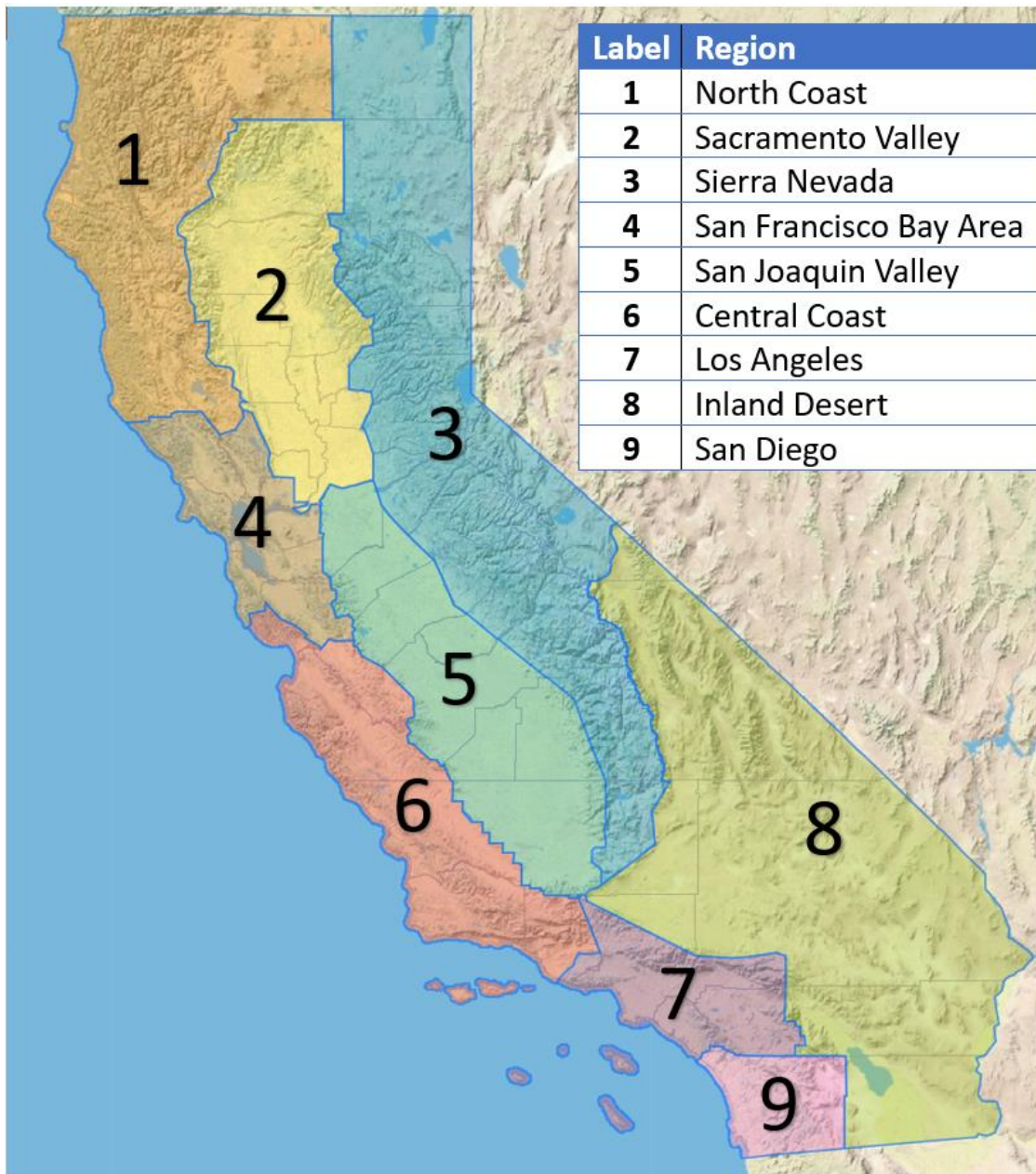
The Fifth Assessment will also include a suite of Topical Synthesis Reports that represent issues of statewide significance. Reports funded through the Assessment will include Racial Equity and Climate Justice, Tribal Communities and Indigenous Knowledge(s), and additional reports to be finalized later. State Agency partners will also contribute Topical Synthesis Reports on various themes, including, but not limited to, Climate Financing and Insurance (led by the Department of Insurance), Workforce and Labor Economics (led by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency), Biodiversity (led by the Department of Fish and Wildlife), and Public Health (led by the Department of Public Health). In addition to the

focus of the Topical Synthesis Reports, the Regional Synthesis Reports will also integrate these topics, as relevant.

Regional Boundaries

Draft updates to the boundaries include:

1. Expanding the Inland Desert region to incorporate the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, Inyo County, and the White Mountains in Mono county.
2. Adjusting the boundary of the Central Coast to include the Northwest portion of Ventura County, maintaining the Santa Monica Mountain range and urban areas in the Southeast of the county within the Los Angeles region.



Regional Themes & Topic Areas

Regional Synthesis Reports will reference the best available climate science and address the Fifth Assessment Climate Research Topics and the following themes, as relevant to the region.

Climate Related Events and Trends

- Sea Level Rise
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Ocean Acidification
- Declining snowpack
- Rising temperatures
- Extreme heat
- Extreme weather events
- Cascading & compounding climate change impacts
- Drought
- Other, as relevant (e.g., groundwater rise, coastal erosion, landslides, air quality, etc.)

Natural, Built, and Social Systems

- Indigenous Knowledge(s)
- Tribal Communities
- Biodiversity & Habitat
- Agriculture
- Water supply & quality
- Ocean & Coastal Issues
- Open space & Land Use
- Built & Critical Infrastructure (e.g., Transportation, Power Grid, Buildings, Water Conveyance)
- Housing
- Emergency Capacity
- Public Health
- Finance & Insurance
- Labor & Workforce
- Economics
- Equity & Climate Justice
- Policy & Governance
- Communications & Engagement
- Human displacement
- Other, as relevant

Author Teams

The Fifth Assessment team is seeking experts and advisors to be part of a Regional Synthesis Report Author team. Roles include a Coordinating Lead Author (affiliated with a UC/CSU) who will lead the development of each report, a Lead Author who will act as a key partner leading specific tasks or processes throughout the report development, a group of subject matter expert Authors, Expert Consultants, and Community Advisors.

After selecting a Coordinating Lead Author for each region, additional roles will be filled per the draft timeline, below.

The Fifth Assessment Team asks that those interested in supporting the development of one or more Regional Synthesis Report to fill in the [Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Report Author Team Interest Form](#).

Anticipated Timeline

- November 17, 2023: Call for Regional Synthesis Report Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA) closes
- December 1, 2023: OPR selects CLAs
- January 2024: OPR/CLA select Lead Author (LA)
- January 1 – February 28, 2024: OPR/CLA/LA select Authors/Contributors
 - Expert and Community Advisors will be invited on an as needed basis
- January 2024 – June 2025: Report development
- July – December 2025: Review Process
- January – May 2026: Final editing, formatting and design
- May – June 2026: Fifth Assessment rollout and release

Discussion Questions

- What can we do to improve the value and utility of these resources?
- As we initiate this process, at what points should the TAC receive updates on the reports' progress?