

ACTION

Agenda Item 8

September 15, 2017

Subject: ICARP Adaptation Vision and Principles

Staff Lead: Nuin-Tara Key

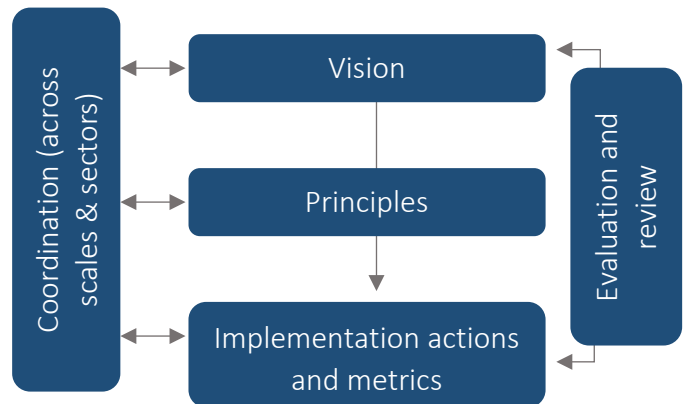
RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- *Approve ICARP TAC Vision and Principles*
- *Approve next steps on implementation actions and metrics*

BACKGROUND:

At its first meeting (March 27), the ICARP Technical Advisory Council (TAC) discussed establishing an adaptation vision for California. The goal was to develop a vision statement that expresses the characteristics of a resilient California, as well as principles that guide *how* adaptation actions should be implemented to achieve this vision. The Council also discussed the need to identify measurable implementation actions that can be used to track progress over time. These components, outlined below, and as presented at the June 16 TAC meeting, make up the ICARP TAC’s adaptation vision framework.

The vision *framework* is intended to serve as a blueprint for climate adaptation and resiliency efforts in California by articulating a clear vision of the future we want, the principles that will guide how we get there, and the actions that we need to take. The proposed framework includes (1) a vision statement, (2) guiding principles, (3) implementation actions, and (4) evaluation metrics. The framework also highlights the need to undertake (5) coordination across sectors and scales, as well as (6) ongoing evaluation.



To support this effort, the Council formed an Adaptation Vision & Principles Workgroup, which met three times between March 27 and September 15. During these public meetings, workgroup members refined the vision and principles for council adoption (see page 2).¹ The workgroup also held initial conversations on the implementation actions and metrics, the results of which are presented for the full Councils’ discussion (see page 3).

¹ Meeting minutes from each of the public workgroup meetings are posted to OPR’s website and can be accessed through the following links: [May 1, 2017](#), [July 18, 2017](#), [August 10, 2017](#).

ICARP ADAPTATION VISION AND PRINCIPLES

Vision Statement

All Californians thrive in the face of a changing climate. Leading with innovation, California meets the challenge of climate change by taking bold actions to protect our economy, our quality of life, and all people. The state's most vulnerable communities are 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 is prepared for both gradual changes and extreme events. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is standard business practice in government and across all business activities throughout the state. California meets 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 essential services.

Principles

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 communities that are disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts.
3. Prioritize **natural and green infrastructure** solutions to enhance and protect natural resources, as well as urban environments. Preserve and restore ecological systems (or engineered systems that use ecological processes) that enhance natural system functions, services, and quality and that reduce risk, including but not limited to actions that improve water and food security, habitat for fish and wildlife, coastal resources, human health, recreation and jobs.
4. **Avoid maladaptation** by making decisions that do not worsen the situation or transfer the challenge from one area, sector, or social group to another. Identify and take all opportunities to prepare for climate change in all planning and investment decisions.
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 Californians; 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 Actions: Discussion concepts

Proposed approach

Discussion of the Council's primary purpose and audience was a focus of the Council's first and second quarterly meetings. The Council agreed that, while many stakeholders are needed to implement the state's adaptation and resiliency goals, the primary audience for this Council would be local and regional governments, while also playing a connecting role to state activities and policies. Given this focus, OPR staff have proposed three categories of implementation actions to be paired with the above vision and principles:

- The primary category focuses on **government action**. This category will link and track state and local actions to existing executive order and legislative requirements. Given the Council's primary audience and role, this is where the majority of the implementation actions should fall. Examples may include:
 - State: Tracking submissions of Sustainability Roadmaps to the California Government Operations Agency that include vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans in line with the guidance provided by OPR in response to Executive Order B-30-15.
 - Local: Tracking or supporting the incorporation of adaptation and resiliency strategies in General Plans or Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - Regional: *To be determined*.
- A secondary category will focus on **vulnerable communities**. This category will track actions most relevant to reducing vulnerability in communities most impacted by climate change but with the fewest resources to adapt. As a key component of the Council's vision and principles, this category of implementation actions should integrate with, and support, the public agency implementation actions.
- A third category may focus on **impact-specific** metrics. Examples of this may include metrics around:
 - Urban Heat Island and extreme heat
 - Sea level rise
 - Wildfire hazards
 - Drought
 - Precipitation and flood hazards

Questions for ICARP TAC consideration and feedback:

Vision and principles

- Do adjustments need to be made prior to adoption?

Implementation actions – general questions

- Staff propose describing these as implementation actions. However, each should be written in a way that allows for tracking and monitoring. How does the Council envision tracking these implementation actions?

Government actions

- What specific actions or metrics we should be tracking?
- How should we approach regional actions?

Vulnerable communities

- How do we define vulnerability?
- What is an appropriate metric for this?
- How do we track progress over time, especially linked to government action?

Impact-specific metrics

- Is it a council priority to develop impact-specific implementation actions and metrics?
- How does the Council envision pursuing or supporting these actions?
- Can we use existing efforts to inform this or do we need a standalone set of metrics?