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MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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October 18, 2023

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, P.E.
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF APRIL 18, 2023, AGENDA ITEM 7 BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT – OCTOBER 2023

On April 18, 2023, the Board instructed Public Works to lead a countywide initiative to build resilience for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, while advancing equity and environmental justice. Extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding hazards are on the rise in Los Angeles County. Climate Ready Communities is about moving to action to address these five climate hazards in the unincorporated areas of the County. Public Works and the Chief Sustainability Office are co-leading this effort and have convened key County partners who are critical to reducing risk where climate vulnerabilities are highest.

The Board also directed Public Works to report back every 6 months on the progress. Attached is the first progress report summarizing accomplishments of the initiative to date. The next report will be provided in April 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Assistant Director Miki Esposito at (626) 458-4019 or mesposito@pw.lacounty.gov.

ME:abc

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Fesia Davenport, Kevin McGowan)
Chief Sustainability Office (Kampalath)
Executive Office
Department of Parks and Recreation (Garcia)
Department of Public Health (Ferrer)
Department of Regional Planning (Bodek)

October 18, 2023

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. In fact, FEMA rated Los Angeles County as the most susceptible county in the United States to natural disasters.¹ The County is on the frontline of the climate crisis and plays an important role in helping individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods understand their risks and build resilience.

The road to resilience requires an investment in preparing communities for evolving threats in order to emerge stronger. Climate Ready Communities (CRC) is an initiative to increase resiliency for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risk, while advancing equity and environmental justice. This work is about moving to action to tackle **five key climate hazards** in the unincorporated areas of the County - **extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding**. CRC is also aligned with and leverages existing County policies such as, the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan, and the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA).

As we approach this work, we know that climate change impacts are not distributed equally. Certain communities and individuals are more vulnerable than others, including low-income populations, children, the elderly, communities of color, the unhoused and unsheltered, tribes and indigenous people, to name a few. Los Angeles County has over 100 geographically and socio-economically diverse unincorporated areas that have unique needs, challenges, opportunities, and risks. While we have a better understanding of how climate change shows up in LA County, we must also seek to understand how climate threats impact our most vulnerable residents. CRC aims to understand these communities more deeply and engage and help prepare them with the goal of co-creating a more equitable, just, and resilient future.

On April 18, 2023, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the CRC motion and directed PW and CSO to lead a countywide initiative that builds resilience and adaptive capacity for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, with a focus on advancing equity and environmental justice. The motion adopted seven directives which are:

- 1) Form a working group to identify opportunities and investments that build resilience where vulnerabilities are highest, based on findings from the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment.
- 2) Utilize the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Mapping Tool to identify and prioritize vulnerable populations and communities most susceptible to the five key climate hazards.
- 3) Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions.

¹ <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

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- 4) Establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate-vulnerable communities and populations. Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information.
- 5) Identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity, including preparing residents for community-specific risks by identifying specific opportunities to improve early warning and public information systems regarding climate hazards, focused specifically on vulnerable communities (i.e. non-English speakers, the unhoused) through both official channels and collaboration with the media and community stakeholders to minimize climate vulnerability and quickly recover from climate disasters;
- 6) Identify and secure local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure investments that increase resiliency in climate vulnerable communities; and
- 7) Provide written reports every six months with updates on progress made and projects identified by the working group.

To launch the effort, Public Works (PW) and the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) convened key County departments who are critical to reducing risk where climate vulnerabilities are highest. Together, we have formed the **CRC Executive Steering Committee (ESC)** comprised of Department Heads from PW, CSO, Public Health, Regional Planning, Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Emergency Management. The ESC developed an organizational framework for the initiative and commissioned a **CRC Working Group** made up of various departmental representatives who are charged with developing community-oriented action for the unincorporated areas based on specific climate vulnerabilities.

This report serves as the first of the initiative and summarizes the accomplishments of the CRC effort to date.

CRC ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) was formed and consists of the following County Department Heads:

Co-Leads: Mark Pestrella, Public Works
Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Office

Members: Barbara Ferrer, Public Health
Amy Bodek, Regional Planning
Norma Garcia, Parks, and Recreation
Kevin McGowan, Office of Emergency Management

Together, the ESC developed an organizational framework and commissioned a CRC Working Group made up of various departmental representatives who are charged with

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developing community-oriented action for the unincorporated areas based on specific climate vulnerabilities. As a start, the CRC Working Group was organized by focus areas from each directive in the Board motion and a specific charge was developed for each Working Group area. (Figure 1)



Figure 1 - Climate Ready Communities Framework

The focus for each Working Group is summarized as follows:

- Group 1: Equity and Environmental Justice – focused on advancing equity and environmental justice to build resilience where vulnerability is highest.
- Group 2: Mapping – consists of technology and GIS expertise and will leverage mapping tools to inform the work of the initiative.
- Group 3: Infrastructure – will identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate risks can inform investment decisions as well as seek out specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity.
- Group 4: Community Engagement – will establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate-vulnerable communities and populations. Also charged with communicating risks and maintaining transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information.
- Group 5: Hazard Mitigation, Response and Recovery – will identify specific solutions and strategies currently deployed to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and quickly recover from climate hazards, as well as specify early warning and public information systems for climate hazards.
- Group 6: Funding – charged with seeking local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support CRC.

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Both the ESC and CRC Working Group are meeting on a regular basis to further scope, prioritize and sequence the work. Meetings are facilitated by the Working Group Leader with the support of a Project Manager. Schedules and collaboration meetings among each group have been established to keep the effort on track. Moreover, each Group is responsible for providing updates for their assigned directive which have been incorporated into this semi-annual Progress Report. The attached Progress Report forms summarize the progress made to date. As you will see, collaboration between Group 1 – Equity and Environmental Justice and Group 2 – Mapping, has occurred naturally and will be referred to as the Equity Group in the documents below.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Equity Group updated the 13 social sensitivity indicators in the CVA and evaluated over 10 additional sets of data to ensure that the prioritized list of UA communities is where social and climate vulnerability is highest. It is critical that the CRC initiative intentionally focus action on where people are most at risk for climate threats. This Group is on track to finalize the list by the end of 2023.

The Infrastructure Group recently secured an \$8 million grant from the Inflation Reduction Act to plant trees in disadvantaged unincorporated area (UA) communities to address extreme heat. The list of prioritized CRC communities for extreme heat will be used to inform where trees are planted. The Infrastructure Group also initiated a groundbreaking, comprehensive sustainability On-Call Consultant Services Agreement that is expected to be awarded by the end of the year. The selected consultant team will help accelerate the work of the CRC initiative. Additionally, a CivicSparks Fellow has been placed with Public Works to assist with CRC efforts and will serve as a member of the Infrastructure Group.

The Community Engagement Group submitted a \$1 million Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant to implement a CRC community engagement plan. If awarded, the ESC and CRC Working Group will utilize the grant to collaborate with community-based organizations, cities, and other key stakeholders when completing outreach to the CRC prioritized communities.

Finally, the Funding Group completed a Climate Resilience Districts White Paper to inform the County of the potential use of this funding mechanism. The White Paper is attached as an appendix to this report and will be expanded upon to evaluate specific applicability in each of the prioritized communities. In collaboration and close coordination with InfrastructureLA, the County has also submitted \$93 million in grant applications for climate resiliency related projects. While \$9 million in grant funding has already been awarded for climate resiliency related efforts, we look forward to hearing more grant announcements in the coming months.

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NEXT STEPS

The entire CRC team will continue to collaborate and advance the priorities of CRC, with further efforts summarized below for each Working Group. Progress on these efforts will be shared with the Board in the next 6-month report back. As stated, the Equity Group will finalize the prioritized UA communities list with their associated climate risks. The Infrastructure Group will execute the On-Call Consultant Services Agreement, initiate the development of the Climate Ready Capital Improvement Plan, and launch the development an Infrastructure Action Roadmap to integrate climate resilience in infrastructure planning, design, and construction. The Community Engagement Group will initiate the development of a community engagement work plan while awaiting results of a potential grant opportunity to fund the community engagement efforts. The Hazard Mitigation, Response, and Recovery Group will continue incorporating a climate resiliency lens in their current strategies, plans, and response efforts. Finally, the Funding Group will identify new funding opportunities, research innovative financing strategies, and apply for climate resiliency grants.

The next Progress Report will be provided in April 2024.

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Equity

CHARGE:

- Focus on advancing equity and environmental justice to build resilience where climate vulnerabilities are highest.
- Leverage mapping tools to prioritize vulnerable populations and communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Establish a prioritized list of unincorporated area (UA) communities based on climate vulnerability.
- Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard and mapping tool.

TEAM:

Team Lead: TJ Moon, Public Works

Team Members: Ali Frazzini, Chief Sustainability Office
Christine De Rosa, Public Health
Nicole Quick, Public Health
Jill Sourial, Parks and Recreation
Shannon Julius, Internal Services
Thuy Hua, Regional Planning
Richard Gomez, Public Works
Susan Herman, Public Works
Mark Greninger, Public Works

OUTCOMES:

The Equity Group reviewed the CVA and agreed to build upon the prioritization process identified in the CVA. The CVA did include a prioritized list of cities including UA communities but did not separate UA communities alone. The process outlined below was recreated to focus on and prioritize UA communities².

Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability is composed of two inputs: social sensitivity index and hazard exposure. In this approach, both input layers are broken into low, moderate, and high categories and then aligned in a three-by-three matrix. The result is that each community within the County falls into one overall relative risk category per climate risk. Social vulnerability varies by climate risk; therefore, each community's social vulnerability may vary based on the climate risk.

² LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment – Technical Methodologies and Resources (October 2021)

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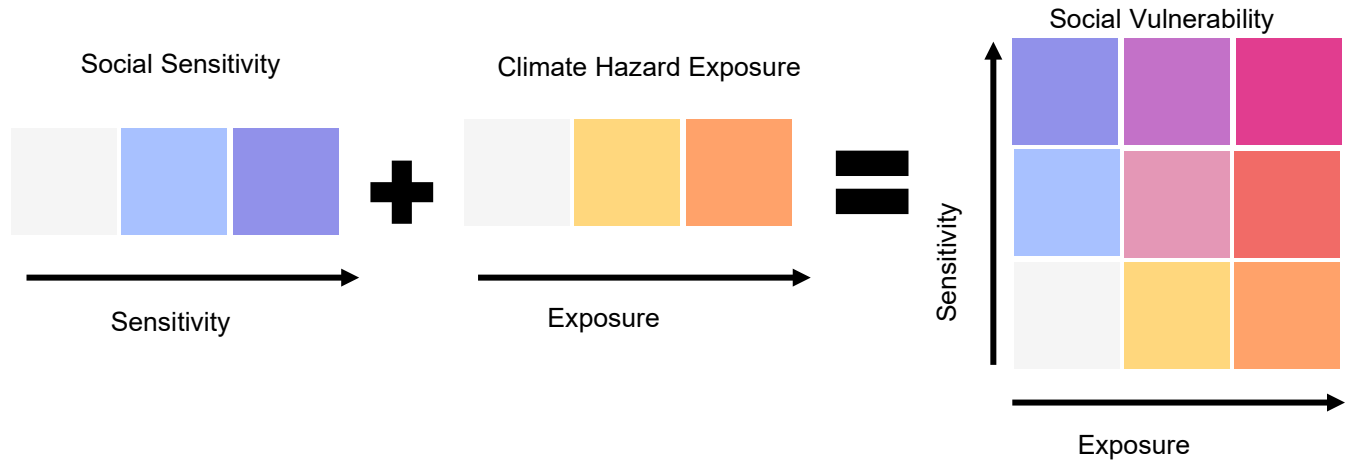


Figure 2 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Social Vulnerability Matrix

For example, a UA community that has high sensitivity due to their social sensitivity index but medium climate hazard exposure would be considered “moderate vulnerability.” Only areas with high social sensitivity and high exposure would be considered “high vulnerability.”



Figure 3 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Examples of Vulnerability

Social Sensitivity Index

The social sensitivity index starts with indicators in each of the following broader demographic categories: income/wealth, age, housing, mobility, health, race/ethnicity, education, community, and occupation. The CVA initially started with 29 indicators, and the indicators were consolidated to minimize potential redundancies or user biases and to prioritize indicators with geographical inequities. As a result of this process, 13 indicators were selected and grouped into six factors to measure social sensitivity.

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Factor	Indicator
Factor 1	Renters
	Households without vehicle access
	Poverty
	No internet subscription
	Voter turnout rate
	Median income
Factor 2	Foreign born
	Limited English
Factor 3	Cardiovascular
	Asthma
Factor 4	Outdoor workers
Factor 5	Older adults living alone
Factor 6	Children

Table 1 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Social Vulnerability Indicators

Exposure Risk

Climate risk exposure is measured through existing or modeled data. For example, Extreme Heat is measured with modeled data (the 95th percentile maximum temperature) based on Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 which is considered a worst-case scenario for greenhouse gas emissions for mid-century or 2050. For flooding, existing or baseline data was used to measure exposure. Finally, since drought is a regional issue, it was equally applied to all communities.

Layers	Measure	Time frames
Extreme Heat	95 th percentile daily maximum temperature	RCP 8.5 Mid-Century
Wildfire	Annual hectares burned	RCP 8.5 Mid-Century
Inland Flooding	FEMA floodplain hazard designations	Baseline
Coastal Flooding	2.5-foot level, 100- year storm event	RCP 8.5 Mid-Century
Drought	Regional Hazard	

Table 2 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Exposure Indicator

Based on the existing CVA data, draft example maps were generated for UA communities as shown below for extreme heat and wildfires. These maps serve only as example maps and are preliminary, as the data has not been updated. Maps for all five risks will be provided in the April 2024 report.

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NEXT STEPS:

The Equity Group members all agreed that they should build upon the CVA process. However, the members indicated that since the original development of the CVA, new and updated data that may provide additional insight has become available. Some of the examples are listed below:

- Unhoused Data³
- Parks Needs Assessment (PNA)⁴ and PNA Plus Data⁵
- Emergency Room Visits due to Extreme Heat⁶
- Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool⁷
 - Projected flooding and wildfire data
 - Additional disease data including diabetes
- Anti-Racism Discrimination and Inclusion Data (ARDI)⁸
- Equity Indicators (Regional Planning)⁹
- Center for Disease Control Social Vulnerability Index¹⁰

The Equity Group will be assessing the quality of each data source and analyzing potential updates to the CVA method for identifying vulnerable communities. The Group will re-run the consolidation of the index with the updated data and any new variable to inform the social vulnerability component of the analysis. The Equity Group plan to provide a prioritization list of the most vulnerable unincorporated communities for all five climate risks by the next Board Report (April 2024).

³ <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=6543-hc22-data-by-census-tract-split>

⁴ https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/e1a371a76e4f4016b17a018a6177bf56_0/about

⁵ <https://lacountyparkneeds.org/pnaplus-home/>

⁶ <https://sites.google.com/g.ucla.edu/uclaheatmaps/map?authuser=0>

⁷ <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>

⁸ <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9d7a43397ea84ab98a534be5b5376fba/page/Page-1/>

⁹ <https://lacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c3567118a1384e2c90ea221f9abdcdf37>

¹⁰ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/index.html>

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Infrastructure

CHARGE:

- Identify opportunities and investments that build resilience.
- Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions.
- Identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaption strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity.

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a Capital Improvement Plan that prioritizes climate infrastructure projects across all County Departments.
- Develop an Infrastructure Action Roadmap that will provide guidelines to incorporate sustainability and resilience elements in infrastructure planning and implementation.

OUTCOMES:

The Infrastructure Planning Group is currently developing a scope of work for a consultant contract to assist with Infrastructure Planning which will include the development of a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Infrastructure Action Roadmap (Roadmap).

Capital Improvement Plan

The CIP will summarize all efforts that County Departments are undertaking to address the various climate risks. The CIP will also look for collaboration and multi-benefit project opportunities to minimize the impact to our communities while maximizing benefit. The CIP will be the result of evaluating the current projects in comparison with the UA prioritization list. The hope is that the CIP will identify the top projects for the top communities in risk. In addition, the CIP will identify a suite of solutions for each prioritized community so that community members will be aware of the potential solutions that would be implemented.

For example, the County (Parks and Recreation, Public Works, CSO, Department of Economic Opportunity, and Public Health) was awarded \$8 million by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. This funding will assist the County to plant trees in disadvantaged UA communities to help communities become more resilient to climate change and help combat extreme heat with the cooling effects of increased urban tree canopy. The tree locations will also be aligned with the results of the CVA to maximize extreme heat benefits. This project will be a high priority to implement to address extreme heat and will be one of many projects identified in the CIP. This project is also a great example of collaboration opportunities that may be identified through the CIP process.

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Infrastructure Action Roadmap

The CRC will analyze current infrastructure planning and development processes and look for ways to incorporate sustainability and resilience elements which will be summarized in the Roadmap. The Roadmap could include the following:

- Through tools like the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision Sustainability Rating framework, identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform our investment decisions.
- Public Works is investing in their workforce to be trained in Envision as an essential investment in future infrastructure development. As of September 2023, 328 of Public Works employees have been Envision credentialed.
- Ensure sustainability and resiliency are incorporated into all of infrastructure planning, design, operations, maintenance, and procedures.

Consultant Support

Public Works administered an On-Call Consultant Services Agreement to serve as a contracting mechanism for this and other sustainability and resiliency initiatives across the County. The contract is expected to be finalized in late 2023.

CivicSpark Fellow

PW has partnered with CivicWell to host one CivicSpark Fellow to support CRC. The Fellow will assist in identifying and understanding existing infrastructure sustainability policies, practices, initiatives, and projects, along with researching on industry best practices. They will also help identify areas of improvement in infrastructure planning with regards to climate change. The Fellow will also perform research in support of the compendium of best practices to understand what other jurisdictions are doing to address community climate vulnerability and help identify the gaps in infrastructure services and initiatives. The service term for the Fellow will be from October 2023 to September 2024.

NEXT STEPS:

- Execute On-Call Consultant Services Agreement (Late 2023)
- Develop CIP
- Develop Roadmap

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Community Engagement

CHARGE:

- Establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate vulnerable communities.
- Prepare residents for community-specific risks (collaboration with Hazard Mitigation, Response, and Recovery Group).
- Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information.

OBJECTIVE

- Conduct public outreach to build resilience and adaptive capacity for the people, communities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate risk.

OUTCOMES:

The overall goal of the community engagement effort is to work with existing community coalitions to seek input and integrate feedback from the prioritized communities about their associated climate risk, the infrastructure mitigation measures in development, and additional considerations as we develop infrastructure development policies.

To support this effort, Public Works partnered with ReDesignLA on a joint application for the EPA's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) grant program, which helps connect government agencies with Community Based Organizations (CBO) and support community engagement related to climate resiliency. The total grant request was \$1 million. ReDesignLA is a coalition of organizations, including Council for Watershed Health, Day One, Nature for All, River in Action, ActiveSGV, Promesa Boyle Heights, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and Tataviam Land Conservancy. The joint effort will focus on ground truthing existing data to confirm the communities' lived experiences are consistent with the data. In addition, community engagement will help identify the priorities and preferred solutions of each community in developing infrastructure projects. The community engagement efforts will also inform the development of the CIP and Roadmap.

In addition, the On-Call Consultant Services Agreement mentioned in Infrastructure Planning also includes a community engagement component. Public Works will coordinate with a consultant to develop a community engagement work plan.

NEXT STEPS

- Awaiting EJG2G Grant award
- Secure a consultant to support development of a community engagement work plan

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Hazard Mitigation, Response, and Recovery Group

CHARGE:

- Identify specific solutions and strategies currently deployed to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate climate hazards.
- Identify and improve early warning and public information systems for climate hazards, focused on vulnerable communities (e.g., non-English speaking, unhoused) through both official channels and collaboration with the media and the community.

TEAM:

Lead: Kevin McGowan, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Members: Ali Frazzini, Chief Sustainability Office
Nicolas Vaquero, OEM
Nemat Hamidzada, OEM
Cung Nguyen, Public Works
Loni Eazell, Public Works
Nichole Quick, Public Health
Stella Fogleman, Public Health
Dee Ann Bagwell, Public Health

OBJECTIVE

- Build climate resilient communities to minimize impacts from climate hazards impacting Los Angeles County.

OUTCOME:

Building communities resilient to hazards is a multi-layered approach that begins with identifying the hazards impacting a geographic area. Hazards are then categorized as natural, technological or human-caused hazards. Once identified, communities create resiliency by preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating hazards. Climate change adds another layer of complexity to hazard response and needs to be accounted for within the basic tenets of emergency management.

Climate Hazard Preparedness and Response Strategies

Below are some actions that can be taken to address climate change in hazard preparedness and response strategies:

- Review current preparedness and response strategies through the lens of climate hazards, such as extreme heat, wildfires, and flooding.
- Incorporate climate hazards into the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Review practices and protocols into the existing and extensive all-hazards emergency management planning document to determine if practices and protocols should be augmented or developed based on climate hazards.
- Review current awareness campaigns and ensure they include adequate

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education to support the public prepare for and mitigate extreme climate hazards.

- Focus awareness campaigns in communities where known hazards exist to educate them about the extreme nature of climate related risks and recommend adaptive preparedness and response actions to effectively protect life, property, and the environment.
- Ensure current County programs, such as Ready LA County; Emergency Survival Guide; 5-Step Action Kit; and Ready, Set, Go Program, maintain their effectiveness by including climate hazard information.

Early Warning and Information Systems

Below are various methods where the County can communicate with the public to inform them of climate hazards. All Departments should review effectiveness of these systems and incorporate climate hazards.

- The County maintains and employs various culturally and linguistically competent Alert and Warning systems, including Alert LA County, Wireless Emergency Alerts, the Emergency Alert System, and Weather Radio Alerts. Additionally, the County uses local media, social media, and countywide partners to provide emergency information.
- The County maintains extensive emergency management one voice messaging capabilities, including emergency and recovery websites, inter- and intra-agency coordination systems and processes, and joint information systems and processes.

Climate Hazard Recovery and Mitigation Strategies

The County can begin preparation for the next hazard by investing in climate recovery and mitigation strategies.

- Review recovery operations to ensure measures adequately address climate hazards.
- Identify if updates are needed to building codes to protect life and property from future hazards.
- Develop climate related hazard mitigation strategies to lessen the impacts to the community from extreme hazards.
- Provide examples and scenarios of climate hazard mitigation efforts. Examples include:
 - New flood control facilities due to increase in severe rain events
 - Slope stabilizations to prevent mudslides (especially in burn scar areas)
 - Bioswales to mitigate against road flooding
- Defensible space programs to educate communities on mitigating private property fire damage.

NEXT STEPS:

- Incorporate suggestions above.

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Funding

CHARGE:

Identify and secure local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure investments that increase resiliency in climate vulnerable communities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Evaluate innovative funding strategies, such as Climate Resilience Districts, to fund CRC implementation efforts
- Identify list of potential grant programs

OUTCOMES:

The Funding Group is investigating current and innovative funding strategies to fund various climate infrastructure efforts. Below is an update of the Group's progress, including a summary of a Climate Resilience District White Paper (see Appendix A), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) news, and grant funding updates.

Climate Resilience Districts (CRD)

Public Works developed a white paper related to CRD to support the work of CRC (see Appendix A). The white paper describes the elements of CRDs and considers the tool's applicability for unincorporated areas within LA County. In addition, this white paper compares CRDs with existing California financing mechanisms such as Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) and Community Facilities Districts, considers the potential role and application of CRDs within the LA County context, and explores opportunities and challenges identified through research and interviews with regional practitioners.

A CRD is a new type of financing district, established through Senate Bill 852 (S.B. 852), that is available to local governments and special districts across California. The governance structure of CRDs is modeled after EIFDs. CRDs can only be used for projects that address climate resilience, adaptation, or mitigation issues such as sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, risk of wildfire, drought, and risk of flooding. CRDs have authority to implement a wide variety of funding and financing mechanisms that already existed under California law prior to the passage of S.B. 852. These mechanisms include tax increment financing (TIF), special taxes, benefit assessment districts, community facilities districts, property-related fees, and user fees. While any city, county, or special district already had the authority to use these mechanisms independently, S.B. 852 gives local governments that choose to work together as a CRD the authority to leverage the mechanisms to collectively address climate risks. CRDs must follow the same statutory and constitutional requirements as existing jurisdictions when seeking funding authority, including meeting voter approval requirements for new taxes or assessments.

CRDs offer access to many of the same funding and financing mechanisms that LA County was authorized to implement before the passage of S.B. 852. However, a CRD offers the benefit of a dedicated district focused on finding solutions and implementing

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projects to address climate related hazards, including the risks identified in LA County's CVA. Unlike some other financing districts, CRDs can fund ongoing operations and maintenance in addition to capital construction projects. CRDs also have the authority to hire staff. These authorities could enable LA County to systematically identify, fund, and implement climate resilience projects in affected communities across LA County. Many of the climate hazards identified in the CVA disproportionately affect disadvantaged or socially vulnerable communities. Climate resilience projects funded by CRDs could reduce risk and improve the quality of life in these communities, if implemented with equity considerations in mind.

Additionally, CRD boundaries can be flexible and include any combination of counties, cities, and special districts that agree to participate. The provision for flexible boundaries encourages cross-jurisdictional partnerships to address climate hazards, such as flooding or extreme heat, that affect disparate areas of LA County. A CRD is most likely appropriate in a situation where LA County has the following available:

- Clear benefit for affected property owners and voters. Establishing a CRD requires a formal approval process by the LA County Board of Supervisors, including a public hearing. In addition, voter approval is required for many of the financing mechanisms that could be used to fund the district. Districts should be formed in areas with high climate risks where the planned investments will have significant local benefits and there is broad public support.
- Potential to leverage multiple funding sources. Climate resilience projects often require significant upfront capital investment as well as ongoing support for operations and maintenance, requiring multiple funding sources. For example, EIFD bond proceeds and grant funds could be used to pay for capital projects such as levee construction, while a benefit assessment district or fees could support ongoing operations and maintenance costs.
- Potential to support significant new development. EIFDs require new development within a district to provide sustainable funding through TIF. CRDs that rely on TIF to fund projects should include areas of planned future development within the district boundaries. TIF can also raise more funding if multiple jurisdictions agree to participate and contribute a portion of tax increment.

Climate Resiliency Zones

The FEMA has several grant programs available for pre and post emergency or disaster related projects. These funds can support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other programs. Grants are the principal funding mechanism that FEMA uses to commit and award federal funding to eligible agencies. The CRC will aim to identify the top communities and infrastructure projects that would be competitive for FEMA grant funds.

Related to FEMA grant funds, FEMA has recently designated 483 census tracts

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as Community Disaster Resilience Zones that can receive more federal dollars and technical assistance to reduce the impacts of extreme weather. The new designations are the result of the bipartisan Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act that Congress passed in 2022 to build resilience in areas most at risk for climate disasters. The UA communities that intersect with the FEMA Climate Resiliency Zones are shown below:

- Rosewood/East Gardena (SD2)
- Bandini Islands (SD4)
- South Whittier (SD4)
- Avocado Heights (SD1)

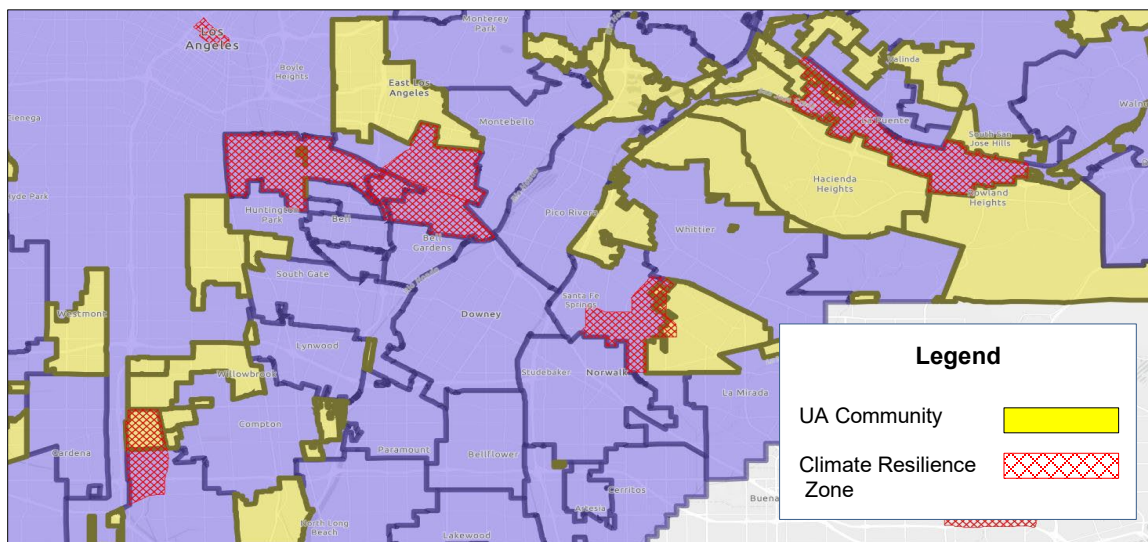


Figure 6 - FEMA Climate Resiliency Zones

Projects in these areas may be more competitive for FEMA grant programs such as Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) grant program, and No-Cost Direct Technical Assistance Program.

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Grant Summary

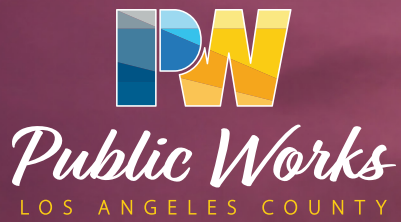
Below is a list of grant opportunities related to climate resiliency that the County has applied for or was awarded in the past six months.

Program Name	Project	Climate Risk	Supervisory District	Status	Amount Requested /Awarded
US Dept. of Agriculture Urban Community Forestry Grant Program	Urban Forest Management Plan – Pilot Project	Extreme Heat	1, 2, 4, 5	Awarded	\$8 M
Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Climate Action Plan	All	All	Awarded	\$1 M
EPA Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program	Climate Ready Communities – Public Outreach	All	All	Pending	\$1 M
Dept. of Transportation – Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)	Lake Hughes Climate Resiliency Planning Project	Flooding Wildfire	5	Pending	\$3 M
FEMA – Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant					\$3 M
NOAA – Climate Resiliency Regional Challenge	Deploying Hybrid Living Shoreline Adaptations to Save L.A. County Beaches for All	Sea Level Rise	2, 3	Pending	\$75 M
Dept. of Transportation – PROTECT	Interstate 5 – Coordinated Evacuation Route	Wildfire	5	Pending	\$5 M
Caltrans’ Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program					\$5 M
Adaptation Planning Grant	Cool Capital Stack	All	All	Awarded	\$556 K
Bay Area Council Foundation – CA Resilience Challenge	School Cooling Technical Assistance	Extreme Heat	All	Pending	\$152 K

Table 3 - LA County Climate Resiliency Grants

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue to identify funding opportunities and apply for grant opportunities



Climate Resilience Districts

Overview and Approach
for Los Angeles County

OCTOBER 2023



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Los Angeles County Public Works Headquarters
Alhambra, CA

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Executive Summary

Overview

Climate-related events, such as flooding and wildfires, are increasing in both frequency and severity in Los Angeles County (LA County), California. These events put vulnerable communities at risk, stifle regional economic development, and require significant capital investments and ongoing operations and maintenance to improve local resilience. Climate Resilience Districts (CRDs) were established by Senate Bill (S.B.) 852 during the California State Legislature's 2021–2022 legislative session as a tool for local governments throughout California to address growing climate risks.¹

The CRD legislation is intended to empower cities, counties, and special districts to prioritize and fund local climate initiatives that may cross jurisdictional boundaries. For LA County, CRDs represent an opportunity to advance adaptation strategies identified in the 2021 Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), the 2019 OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the 2022 update to the County's General Plan Safety Element, and other priorities identified by LA County's Climate Ready Communities working group.²

LA County Public Works commissioned this white paper to support the work of the Climate Ready Communities working group. This white paper describes the elements of CRDs and considers the tool's applicability for unincorporated areas within LA County, but many of its findings are applicable countywide. In addition, this white paper compares CRDs with existing California financing mechanisms (such as Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts [EIFDs] and Community Facilities Districts [CFDs]), considers the potential role and application of CRDs within the LA County context, and explores opportunities and challenges identified through research and interviews with regional practitioners.

Defining Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)

What is an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District?

An EIFD is a district that utilizes tax increment financing (TIF) to capture the incremental growth in property tax revenues resulting from new development within a specified geographic district. These revenues are typically used to issue tax increment bonds. Bond proceeds may fund capital improvement projects that benefit the district.

Per California law, local governments can use EIFDs to fund a wide range of capital projects that support economic development. Projects funded by EIFD bond proceeds must have an estimated useful life of 15 years or longer (California Government Code Section 53398.52). In LA County, EIFDs must comply with the Board of Supervisors' EIFD Policy, which among other provisions requires that an EIFD create a positive fiscal impact for the county.

EIFDs utilizing tax increment financing are discussed in more detail in Section 3, Challenge #2 of this white paper (Page 20).

EIFD

A California-specific tax increment financing district

TIF

Captures incremental growth in property tax revenues

15+ Years

Estimated useful life of EIFD projects

¹ See Appendix for a copy of the CRD enacting legislation, S.B. 852 (2022).

² This working group was established by the Building Climate Ready Communities motion, adopted by the LA County Board of Supervisors in April 2023.

Defining Climate Resilience District (CRD)

What is a Climate Resilience District?

A CRD is a new type of financing district that is available to local governments and special districts across California. The governance structure of CRDs is modeled after EIFDs. CRDs can only be used for projects that address climate resilience, adaptation, or mitigation issues such as sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, risk of wildfire, drought, and risk of flooding. CRDs have authority to implement a wide variety of funding and financing mechanisms that already existed under California law prior to the passage of S.B. 852. These mechanisms include tax increment financing, special taxes, benefit assessment districts, community facilities districts, property-related fees, and user fees. While any city, county, or special district already had the authority to use these mechanisms independently, S.B. 852 gives local governments that choose to work together as a CRD the authority to leverage the mechanisms to collectively address climate risks. CRDs must follow the same statutory and constitutional requirements as existing jurisdictions when seeking funding authority, including meeting voter approval requirements for new taxes or assessments.

Applicability of CRD

How are CRDs Applicable to LA County?

CRDs offer access to many of the same funding and financing mechanisms that LA County was authorized to implement before the passage of S.B. 852. Local governments across California are already using these funding mechanisms to pay for climate resilience initiatives (see Table 2 on page 11 for examples). However, a CRD offers the benefit of a dedicated district focused on finding solutions and implementing projects to address climate related hazards including the risks identified in LA County's CVA. Unlike some other financing districts, CRDs can fund ongoing operations and maintenance in addition to capital construction projects. CRDs also have the authority to hire staff. These authorities could enable LA County to systematically identify, fund, and implement climate resilience projects in affected communities across LA County. Many of the climate hazards identified in the CVA disproportionately affect disadvantaged or socially vulnerable communities or communities located in unincorporated areas of LA County. Climate resilience projects funded by CRDs could reduce risk and improve the quality of life in these communities, if implemented with equity considerations in mind.

Additionally, CRD boundaries can be flexible and include any combination of counties, cities, and special districts that agree to participate. The provision for flexible boundaries encourages cross-jurisdictional partnerships.

**CRD legislation
is intended to
empower cities,
counties, and
special districts
to prioritize and
fund local climate
initiatives that may
cross jurisdictional
boundaries.**

Key Findings



CRDs offer LA County the option to establish a dedicated district to prioritize and fund climate resilience measures in unincorporated areas, or in partnership with cities in the County.

As a district dedicated to climate resilience, a CRD offers the public, potential funders, and bond buyers the assurance that revenues will be spent on planning and implementing priority resilience projects.



In certain cases, it may be more efficient for LA County to use traditional funding mechanisms without establishing a CRD.

Establishing a CRD is administratively burdensome. In addition, once a CRD is established, it must separately establish each funding mechanism and adhere to all existing statutory and constitutional requirements (such as voter approval requirements).



Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (SCRPCA) represents the only CRD in the State of California.

S.B. 852 included provisions which directly established SCRPCA as a CRD. However, SCRPCA has not yet been able to establish a sustainable funding source. To date, no other jurisdictions have passed a resolution of intent to establish a CRD.



CRDs should be implemented with careful consideration of potential impacts on socially vulnerable communities.

CRDs present an opportunity to increase investment in disadvantaged communities. However, to the extent that they encourage new development, CRDs that utilize the EIFD model as a funding mechanism may also increase the risk of displacement. To mitigate this risk, LA County could consider implementing CRDs in coordination with targeted anti-displacement policies and affordable housing investments.

A CRD is most likely appropriate in a situation where LA County has the following available:



Clear benefit for affected property owners and voters.

Establishing a CRD requires a formal approval process by the LA County Board of Supervisors, including a public hearing. In addition, voter approval is required for many of the funding mechanisms that could be used to pay for projects in the district. Districts should be formed in areas with high climate risks where the planned investments will have significant local benefits and there is broad public support.



Potential to leverage multiple funding sources.

Climate resilience projects often require significant upfront capital investment as well as ongoing support for operations and maintenance, requiring multiple funding sources. For example, EIFD bond proceeds and grant funds could be used to pay for capital projects such as levee construction, while a benefit assessment district or fees could support ongoing operations and maintenance costs.



Potential to support significant new development.

EIFDs require new real estate development within a district to provide sustainable funding through tax increment financing. CRDs that rely on EIFDs to fund projects should include areas of planned future development within the district boundaries. EIFDs can also raise more funding if multiple jurisdictions agree to participate and contribute a portion of tax increment.

Climate Hazards and Resilience Projects in LA County



01

Introduction

High Prismatic, Pearl Hsiung
Bunker Hill Station, Regional Connector

Climate Resilience Districts were established by California S.B. 852 during the 2021–2022 legislative session. CRDs are a new tool for local governments to address the ongoing effects of a changing climate. Modeled after Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts, CRDs are intended to provide a sustainable funding source for local governments to pay for capital projects and ongoing operations and maintenance to adapt, mitigate, and build resilience to climate change.

CRDs provide local governments with an opportunity to address the negative impacts of climate change within their communities. To be eligible for CRD funding, projects must address climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience including (but not limited to) sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, risk of wildfire, drought, or risk of flooding. The funding mechanisms available to CRDs are broad and include EIFDs, benefit assessments, special taxes, other dedicated revenue, grants, fees, and issuing revenue or general obligation debt.

In April 2023, the LA County Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Ready Communities motion, which aims to build climate resilience and adaptive capacity across the LA County unincorporated areas. The Climate Ready Communities Working Group identified CRDs as a potential funding mechanism to advance climate resilience and commissioned this white paper to investigate the effectiveness of CRDs and possible applications.

Key questions include:

What is a CRD, and how does it compare to other funding mechanisms?

How might CRDs advance LA County’s resilience needs and goals?

What are the challenges and opportunities of using a CRD to fund climate resilience projects?

How might LA County implement CRDs equitably to reduce impacts of climate hazards on socially vulnerable populations?

CRDs are intended to provide a sustainable funding source for local governments to pay for capital projects and ongoing operations and maintenance to adapt, mitigate, and build resilience to climate change.

Purpose and Authority of CRDs

S.B. 852 empowers local governments across the state to create CRDs. An established CRD may utilize an array of funding sources for capital improvements, operations, and maintenance projects that advance climate resilience within the CRD boundary. CRDs may also issue bonds.

Table 1. Key Features of CRDs (as Authorized by S.B. 852)

Feature	Description
Eligible Entities	Any combination of city, county, or city and county. A special district may join a district initiated by a city and/or county.
Eligible Projects	Capital and operations projects designed to address climate mitigation, adaptation, or resilience including, but not limited to, six key areas: 1) sea-level rise, 2) extreme heat, 3) extreme cold or precipitation, 4) risk of wildfire, 5) drought, and 6) risk of flooding.
Example Projects	Building levees; groundwater storage; flood easements or bypasses; deploying cool building surface materials; modifying facilities to address extreme cold, rain, or snow events; structure hardening; structure elevation and relocation; prescribed burns; and vegetation control, among others.
Funding and Financing Mechanisms Available	EIFDs, benefit assessment districts, special taxes, other dedicated revenue sources allocated by participating jurisdictions ³ , property/service fees, grants, gifts, revenue bonds, general obligation bonds.

Source: California Gov. Code Section (§) 62300-62311.

In addition to making CRDs available to local governments statewide, S.B. 852 also established California's first CRD, Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (SCRCPA).⁴ SCRCPA was initially created in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts, but it did not have funding authority. S.B. 852 provided SCRCPA with the authority to pursue sustainable funding sources to support the district. To date, SCRCPA has not been able to secure funding, even with the additional authority provided through CRDs (see the text box on page 21 for additional details).

CRD Establishment and Governance

CRDs must establish the same governance structure as an EIFD, regardless of whether or not the district decides to use tax increment financing to raise revenue. CRDs are also subject to a similar establishment procedure as EIFDs.⁵

Under S.B. 852, CRDs must have the following governance features:

- All participating member jurisdictions must adopt a resolution of intent with a public hearing that defines needs, goals, and types of eligible projects to be supported.
- A five-member governing board known as a public financing authority must oversee a CRD and consist of three members of the legislative body of the participating member jurisdiction(s) and two members of the public.
- A CRD must have defined boundaries, which can be the same boundaries, as within, or across two or more cities or counties forming the district. CRD boundaries do not need to be contiguous.⁶
- All existing statutory and constitutional requirements must be followed when implementing mechanisms to fund district activities.

Once established, CRDs have expanded administrative powers when compared to an EIFD, such as the ability to hire staff and provide a schedule of compensation, as well as use interim or temporary staff provided by local agencies that are members of the district. Additionally, the district can sue and be sued and engage counsel or other professional services. Each district is required to prepare an annual expenditure plan and adopt an annual operating budget and capital improvement budget. This annual expenditure plan is in addition to the infrastructure financing plan required if the CRD chooses to issue tax increment bonds.⁷

³ CRDs are eligible to receive and manage a dedicated revenue source allocated from a participating member's taxing authority.

⁴ California Gov. Code § 62303.

⁵ California Gov. Code § 62304 (b).

⁶ California Gov. Code § 53395.55.

⁷ California Gov. Code § 62304 (b).

Funding Mechanisms Available to CRDs

S.B. 852 allows CRDs to implement several funding mechanisms that previously existed in California statute. LA County already has the authority to raise revenue through each of these mechanisms without establishing a CRD. CRDs are required to follow the same statutory and constitutional voter approval requirements for establishing a funding or financing measure as any other jurisdiction. The CRD simply allows this authority to be applied to the boundaries of the CRD. The table below lists the primary funding and financing mechanisms available to CRDs, their establishment requirements, and examples of how these tools were already being used to address climate resilience in communities in LA County, without the establishment of a CRD.

In addition to the funding mechanisms described below, a CRD can also levy a property-related or user fee; apply for and receive grants from federal and state agencies; solicit and accept gifts, fees, grants, and allocations from public and private entities; incur general obligation debt; and receive and manage a dedicated revenue source from another entity. CRDs may also enter into a joint powers authority.⁸

Table 2. Funding and Financing Mechanisms Available to CRDs and Establishment Requirements

District/Mechanism	Key Features	Establishment Requirements	Example of Jurisdiction Using Mechanism for Climate Resilience
Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)	An EIFD is a form of tax increment financing district that captures the incremental growth in property tax revenues above an established base revenue prior to improvements. The revenues associated with an EIFD are used to pay debt service for bonds issued to fund capital improvements within the district. ⁹ In California, taxing entities must choose to participate in an EIFD. Property taxes that flow to school districts and community college districts are not eligible revenue sources.	Public hearing and protest process Subject to LA County Board of Supervisors' EIFD Policy requiring a finding of a positive fiscal impact for LA County	LA County/Redondo Beach EIFD In 2019, both LA County and the City of Redondo Beach, adopted resolutions of intent to partner in the formation of an EIFD. The planned purpose for this financing district is to revert a closed power plant to open space, park, and private development. ¹⁰
Benefit Assessment	Assessment on a defined group of parcels that pays for public improvements or services that specially benefit the parcels. The assessment must be proportional to the special benefit that each parcel receives from the public improvement or service. ¹¹	Approval by a weighted majority of affected property owners ¹² Public hearing and protest process Engineer's report to assess and apportion value of special benefit	City of Malibu Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) In Malibu, the Broad Beach GHAD provides funding for sand nourishment, dune restoration, and other measures to prevent shoreline erosion from threatening nearby homes. ¹³

⁸ California Gov. Code § 62307.

⁹ Strategic Economics, "Report on the Use of Tax Increment Financing" (Governor's Office of Planning and Research, December 29, 2020), https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20210203-TIF_Tools_Final_Report.pdf.

¹⁰ Southern California Association of Governments, "City of Redondo Beach Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)," Southern California Association of Governments, January 11, 2021, <https://scag.ca.gov/funding-and-financing-tools-and-strategy/city-redondo-beach-enhanced-infrastructure-financing>.

¹¹ Samantha Lui, "Assessing the Benefits of Benefit Assessments: A Guide to Benefit Assessments in California" (Sacramento, California: California State Legislature Senate Governance and Finance Committee, September 2011),

<https://sgf.senate.ca.gov/sites/sgf.senate.ca.gov/files/Assessing%20the%20Benefits%20of%20Benefit%20Assessments%20801-S.pdf>.

¹² Ballots for the establishment of benefit assessment districts are weighted in proportion to the amount of benefit each property receives from the benefit assessment, which is equivalent to the amount each property owner will pay. Therefore, property owners that will be required to pay more of the assessment and receive more of the benefit receive a more heavily weighted vote.

¹³ "Broad Beach Geological Hazard Abatement District," accessed September 7, 2023, <http://www.bbghad.com/about-the-project/#:~:text=In%20response%20to%20decades%20of,its%20historical%20proportions%20and%20splendor>.

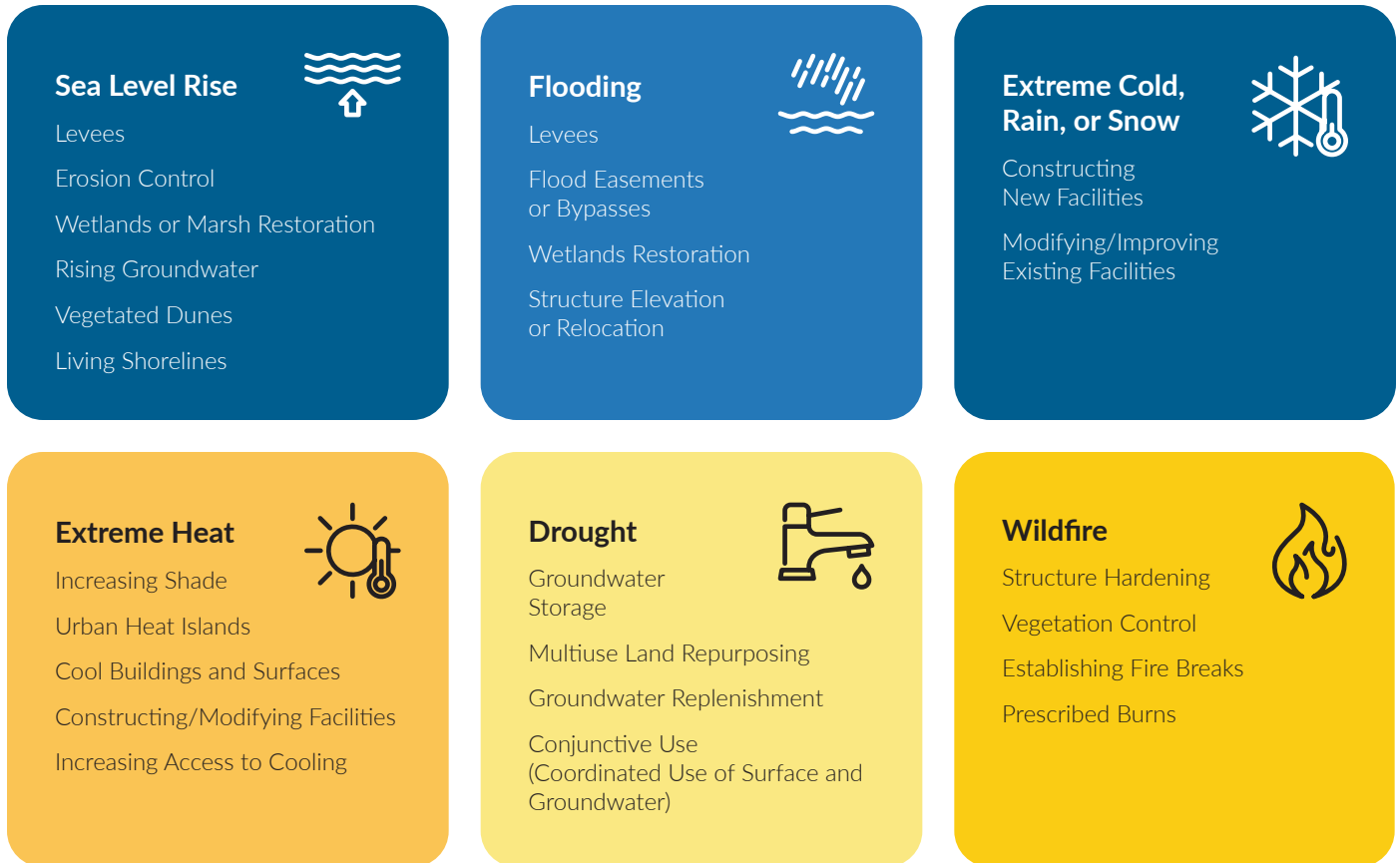
Table 2. Continuation

District/Mechanism	Key Features	Establishment Requirements	Example of Jurisdiction Using Mechanism for Climate Resilience
Special Tax	A special tax is a tax imposed for a specific purpose, often imposed as a parcel tax at the local government level. The special tax does not need to be directly proportional to the benefit received. Taxes cannot be based on property value. ¹⁴	Two-thirds voter approval	<p>Los Angeles County Flood Control District Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) Measure W</p> <p>In 2018, property owners within the LA County Flood Control District adopted the ballot initiative Measure W. This initiative created a program that invests approximately \$280 million annually into multi-benefit stormwater capture projects and programs. The program is funded by a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable area levied on more than 2.1 million parcels within the district.¹⁵</p>
Community Facilities Districts (CFD)	A CFD, also known as a Mello-Roos district, is a type of special tax district formed within a limited geographic area. The district is most commonly established for the purpose of using the revenues from the tax to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements. CFDs can also be levied for the provision of services. CFDs provide significant flexibility in establishing tax rates and methods of apportionment. For example, this allows for tax rates to account for exposure to risk. ¹⁶ However, the tax cannot be based on property value. ¹⁷	<p>Two-thirds vote of property owners within the district if there are no greater than 12 registered voters living within the proposed district</p> <p>Two-thirds vote of all registered voters when there are more than 12 registered voters in the district</p>	<p>City of Los Angeles, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Measure GG and HH</p> <p>Registered voters in the Santa Monica Mountains and Hollywood Hills areas passed measure GG and HH to create a CFD to provide funding to protect and maintain local open space, wildlife corridors and parklands, and to increase fire prevention, ranger safety patrols, and clean water within the designated local areas.¹⁸</p>
Issue Revenue Bonds	Revenue bonds are backed by a specific revenue stream (such as toll or utilities revenues). These bonds are issued by a public enterprise for infrastructure improvements. Unlike general obligation bonds, revenue bonds are not guaranteed and are backed by funds generated by the project or issuing entity. ¹⁹	Does not require voter approval so long as obligations are not paid for by the local government's general fund ²⁰	<p>Los Angeles County Green Bonds</p> <p>LA County Public Works Financing Authority periodically issues green bonds for projects that advance environmental sustainability and climate-related goals. In 2020, the authority issued \$363 million in green bonds to finance the reconstruction of an exhibit building for the LA County Museum of Art. The project pursued a LEED Gold Certification for incorporating elements of environmental sustainability into construction.²¹</p>

Examples of Eligible Projects

CRDs are eligible to fund climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience projects within six broad categories. The graphic below provides examples of the climate hazards that CRDs can be used to address:

Figure 1. Examples of CRD Eligible Projects



Source: California Gov. Code Section (§) 62300-62311.

¹⁴ Senate Local Government Committee, "What's So Special About Special Districts? A Citizen's Guide to Special Districts in California" (Sacramento, California: Senate Local Government Committee, October 2010), https://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/resources_2010WSSASD4edition.pdf.

¹⁵ "Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program," accessed September 25, 2023, <https://safecleanwaterla.org/about/faq/>.

¹⁶ AECOM, "Paying for Climate Adaptation in California: A Primer for Practitioners" (Sacramento, California: Resources Legacy Fund, October 2018), <https://resourceslegacyfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Paying-for-Climate-Adaptation-in-California.pdf>.

¹⁷ "Mello-Roos Community Facilities District," Southern California Association of Governments, November 19, 2020, <https://scag.ca.gov/post/mello-roos-community-facilities-district>.

¹⁸ "MRCA Community Facilities District No. 1 (Open Space and Fire Prevention)," MRCA, accessed September 7, 2023, <https://mrca.ca.gov/mrca-community-facilities-district-no-1-open-space-and-fire-prevention/>.

¹⁹ AECOM, "Paying for Climate Adaptation in California: A Primer for Practitioners."

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ "Los Angeles County Public Works Financing Authority, Lease Revenue Bonds, 2020 Series A," n.d., <https://ttc.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CALosAngeles20a-FIN.pdf>.

02

LA County Resilience Needs and Goals

Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve
Antelope Valley, CA

In 2019, the LA County Board of Supervisors adopted the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, demonstrating a commitment to a more sustainable future. OurCounty includes 12 goals that aim to address LA County's environmental challenges and equity considerations.²² As an implementation step for one of the goals in this plan, LA County published the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) in 2021. This plan evaluates how people and infrastructure are becoming more vulnerable to climate hazards. The CVA identifies five climate hazards that will continue to pose a challenge to local communities in LA County as climate change amplifies. The five hazards include extreme heat, wildfire, inland flooding and extreme precipitation, coastal flooding, and drought. These hazards closely align with the six eligible project categories for CRDs. The analysis and data gathered in the CVA could be used to help prioritize specific areas of LA County for CRD establishment. Table 3 summarizes the critical risks posed by climate hazards, and examples of relevant project types that could be eligible for CRD funding.

LA County's CVA evaluates climate vulnerability by analyzing the parameters of exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity for each climate hazard. While climate hazards pose a risk to all LA County residents, additional factors can make specific areas more susceptible to risk than others. The CVA includes a social vulnerability assessment that evaluates specific communities within LA County area that are disproportionately affected by climate hazards. Factors that make some communities particularly vulnerable to climate hazards include disparities in infrastructure and access to resources such as shade or air conditioning; demographic differences in health, age, and ability; institutionalized bias; and living conditions. The CVA notes that future climate adaptation investments and planning projects should incorporate the analysis of social vulnerability to holistically address equity considerations.²³

Table 3. Climate Vulnerability Assessment—Identified Hazards and Example CRD Projects

Climate Hazard Description	Example of Potential CRD Projects
Extreme Heat Period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 2 to 3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing shade • Increasing access to cooling
Wildfire Unplanned, uncontrolled, and unpredictable fire in an area of combustible vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation control • Prescribed burns • Fire breaks • Structure hardening
Inland Flooding and Extreme Precipitation Significant increase of rainfall volumes in a short period of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levees • Flood bypasses or easements • Wetlands restoration
Coastal Flooding Occurs when dry and low-lying land is submerged (flooded) by seawater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levees • Erosion control • Wetlands or marsh restoration
Drought A deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time (usually a season or more), resulting in water shortage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater storage • Multiuse land repurposing • Groundwater replenishment

Source: California Gov. Code § 62302.

²² Los Angeles County, "OurCounty: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan," August 2019, <https://ourcountyla.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OurCounty-Final-Plan.pdf>.

²³ LA County Chief Sustainability Office, "LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment" (Los Angeles, California: LA County, October 2021), <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LA-County-Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-1.pdf>.

03

Opportunities and Challenges

for CRD Implementation

Santa Monica Mountains
Western LA County

Opportunities

Opportunities Overview

1. Dedicated District for Climate Resilience
2. Authority to Fund Operations and Hire Staff
3. Ability to Pursue Multiple Funding Mechanisms
4. Flexible District Boundaries
5. Encouragement of Development and Insurability

1

Dedicated District for Climate Resilience

CRDs are narrowly focused to fund projects and actions that address climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience with a focus on six key areas: sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, wildfire, drought, or flooding. Additionally, the required five-member governing board creates a stable leadership structure that provides for ongoing project identification, implementation, and management of the district.

The focused nature of CRDs could have the following benefits:

- Contribute to public confidence that revenues raised by the CRD will be used to fund projects that will improve climate resilience in the defined geographic district.
- Indicate to potential funders (e.g., state and federal grantors, philanthropic organizations) that the sole focus of the district is on climate resilience measures and actions.
- Attract investors interested in green or sustainable investments to potential future bond sales associated with the CRD.

2

Authority to Fund Operations and Hire Staff

In addition to capital expenditures, CRDs can fund ongoing operations costs for eligible projects, which can be particularly beneficial for certain climate resilience measures such as erosion control, vegetation control, or prescribed burns, among others. In addition to funding project operating costs, CRDs are authorized to hire staff, which could provide capacity and stability over time, allowing a district to potentially manage multiple projects and revenue sources at once.²⁴

As a caveat and potential challenge for jurisdictions forming a district, CRDs do not have the authority to fund operations expenditures with revenues from tax increment financing. According to S.B. 852, 95% of the proceeds from the tax increment bonds must be used for eligible capital expenditures, while no more than 5% can be reserved for administration.²⁵ This allotment is consistent with existing EIFD law.²⁶ CRDs may fund operating expenses and staff with other funding, such as funding from benefit assessments, special taxes, a dedicated portion of revenue, or grants and loans as allowed by the funding mechanism.

3

Ability to Pursue Multiple Funding Mechanisms

CRDs can take advantage of multiple funding mechanisms to fund eligible climate resilience projects. As an illustrative example, consider a single CRD dedicated to protecting against sea-level rise. It could pursue three different funding mechanisms to fund different elements of its project. The district could adopt an infrastructure financing plan and leverage EIFD funding to issue tax increment financing and fund a long-term infrastructure investment, such as a levee. In addition, the district could apply for a state or federal grant to supplement levee capital construction costs and use EIFD revenues or bond proceeds to provide local matching funds. Finally, the district could place a special tax on the ballot for voter approval to fund operations staff to install and maintain vegetated dunes as well as the levee. Similar to a county government, the CRD has broad access to a variety of funding mechanisms, for a defined and narrow project purpose.

²⁴ California Gov. Code § 62303.

²⁵ California Gov. Code § 62306.

²⁶ California Gov. Code § 53398.52.

4

Flexible District Boundaries

CRDs provide the opportunity for cities, counties, and special districts to work collectively to mitigate climate risks and build resilience. District boundaries can be cross-jurisdictional and non-contiguous, providing flexibility to address similar climate risks in various areas across the county.²⁷

Additionally, CRDs leveraging an EIFD can fund projects outside of the district boundaries, if the work completed has a tangible connection to the district.²⁸ Flexible district boundaries create an opportunity to address climate risk in socially vulnerable communities across LA County. For example, Santa Clarita and areas of the San Fernando Valley (Reseda, Winnetka, and Pacoima) are identified in the CVA as areas facing extreme heat. A CRD boundary could theoretically be drawn to include these areas and nearby areas expecting new development in order to leverage an EIFD to fund cooling projects.

It is important to consider how the district boundaries are drawn and which financing mechanisms are pursued so that the CRD does not place additional financial burden on socially vulnerable or disadvantaged communities. EIFDs could be an attractive tool for funding climate resilience projects in socially vulnerable communities because EIFDs do not create a new tax, but instead leverage the revenue stream from increasing property values. However, EIFDs rely on new development to generate revenues.

²⁷ California Gov. Code § 53395.55.

²⁸ California Gov. Code § 53398.52.

²⁹ Michael Blood, "California Insurance Market Rattled by Withdrawal of Major Companies," AP News, June 5, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/california-wildfire-insurance-e31bef0ed7eeddcde096a5b8f2c1768f>.

³⁰ Climate Insurance Working Group, "Protecting Communities, Preserving Nature, and Building Resiliency: How First-of-Its-Kind Climate Insurance Will Help Combat the Costs of Wildfires, Extreme Heat, and Floods" (California Department of Insurance, July 2021), <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/ci/docs/climate-insurance-report.pdf>.

5

Encouragement of Development and Insurability

As the frequency and severity of weather events increase, property insurance in California is becoming less affordable or available. In 2022 and early 2023, two large insurers, Allstate and State Farm, announced that they were no longer accepting applications for homeowner, personal, and commercial insurance policies.²⁹ Across the state, insurance premiums are rising for existing policies, making it less affordable across all communities, and placing an additional burden on socially vulnerable and disadvantaged communities that overlap with areas of high climate risk.

S.B. 852 was jointly sponsored by the California Insurance Commissioner. The creation of a special district to empower local communities to address climate resilience was one of the recommendations from the California Climate Insurance Working Group.³⁰

Dedicated local funding for climate resilience projects will help to reduce the risk and impact of catastrophic weather events in affected communities. This risk reduction could improve the insurability of facilities, reduce the cost of insurance premiums, and encourage new development.

Dedicated local funding for climate resilience projects will help to reduce the risk and impact of catastrophic weather events in affected communities.

Challenges

Challenges Overview

1. CRD Establishment Procedure
2. EIFDs Establishment Considerations
3. Requirements for Pursuing Other Funding Sources
4. Challenge of Cooperation Across Multiple Jurisdictions
5. Displacement and Tax Burden Considerations

1

CRD Establishment Procedure

Whether or not CRDs choose to use tax increment financing, the district must follow the same establishment procedures as an EIFD. This procedure includes adopting a resolution of intent by all participating member jurisdictions, establishing a five-member governing board, defining district boundaries, and describing the need, goals, and statement of projects to be supported.³¹ The CRD must then begin a separate process to establish a sustainable revenue source. This additional procedural step can be administratively burdensome, and the CRD legislation does not provide for funding to establish CRD operations.³²

2

EIFDs Establishment Considerations

An EIFD is an attractive potential revenue source for CRDs because EIFDs do not represent a new tax or fee for residents of the district. In addition, establishing an EIFD does not require a ballot measure, and EIFDs can provide a sustainable funding source for the life of the project. However, because EIFDs redirect a portion of future tax increment away from general government operations, there are several provisions in place to limit the use of EIFDs and their potential applications. These provisions include the EIFD establishment procedures and LA County Board of Supervisors' EIFD Policy requirements. In addition, EIFDs need to capture adequate tax increment to reliably fund projects.

These considerations and challenges are explored below.

EIFD establishment procedures

In addition to the requirements for establishing a CRD, the establishment of an EIFD requires the following steps as detailed in California statutes:

- A resolution of intent to establish an EIFD and providing for the division of taxes;
- The creation of an infrastructure financing plan which includes the list of proposed projects, the maximum incremental tax revenue provided by each district, a projection of the tax revenues expected to be received by the district for the life of the project, a project financing plan, and an analysis of the projected fiscal impact of the district on each affected taxing entity;
- A public hearing and protest process requiring three public hearings; and
- A resolution adopting the infrastructure financing plan and establishing the district.³³

Interaction of LA County Board of Supervisors EIFD Policy

The LA County Board of Supervisors established an EIFD Policy in 2017 which requires additional steps for establishing an EIFD, beyond those required by California law. The Policy is intended to protect LA County's property tax revenue base, specifically in the case where a city approaches LA County to establish an EIFD. Key requirements include:

- A fiscal analysis of the proposed EIFD performed by the Chief Executive Office that demonstrates a positive net fiscal impact to the County General Fund;
- Alignment with Board priorities;
- A project feasibility analysis that includes a "but for" review that evaluates whether the contribution of the LA County property tax increment is a necessary pre-condition for the project;
- A funding plan;
- Reference to opportunities for affordable housing, even if not included in the recommended plan for the proposed project area; and
- A schedule of bond issuance.³⁴

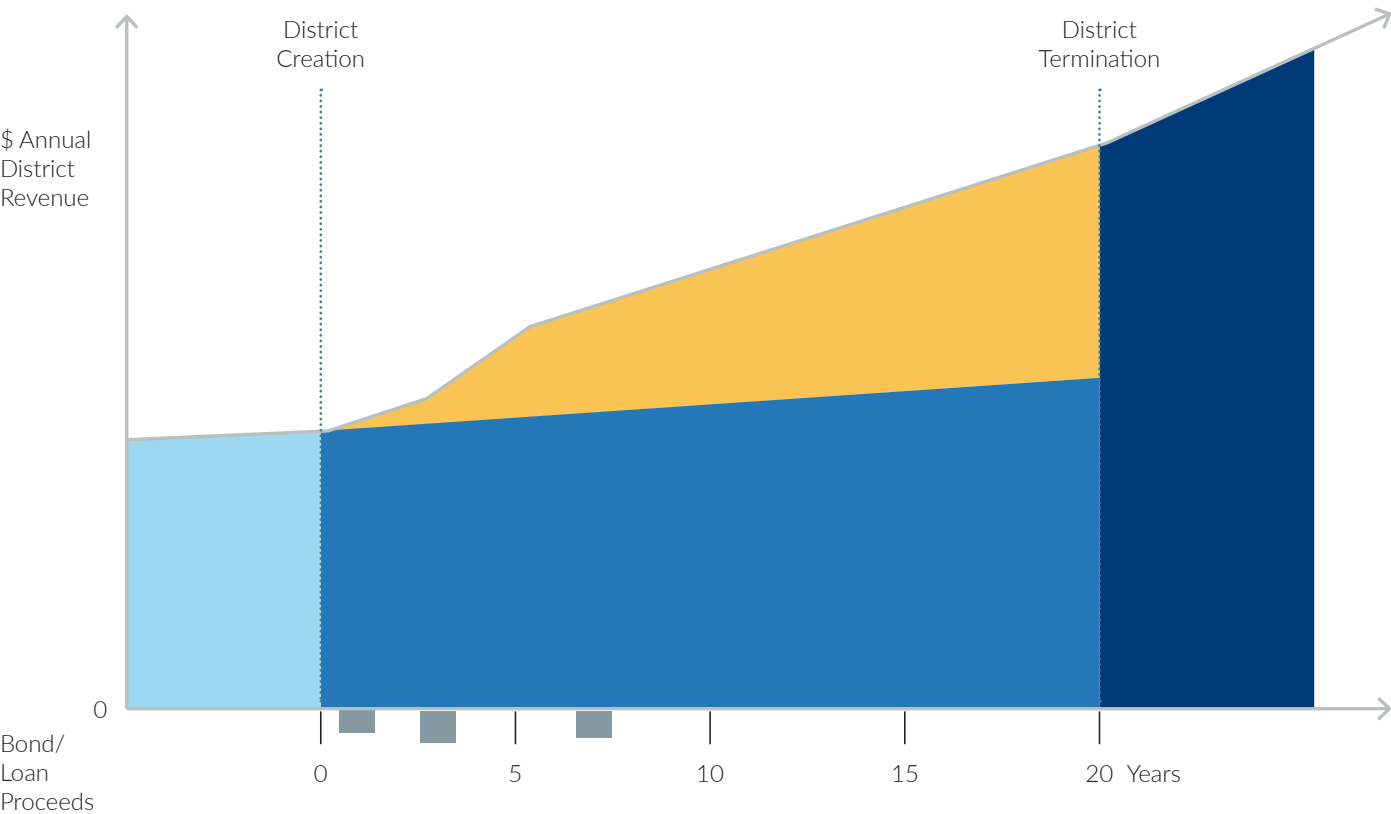
³¹ California Gov. Code § 62304.

³² Section 62306 of the CRD code provides that 5% of allocated revenues from tax increment bonds may be used for administration. However, this provision only applies to CRDs that develop an EIFD and does not apply to a CRD that does not issue tax increment bonds to finance the district.

³³ California Gov. Code § 53398.59 to 53399.74, inclusive.

³⁴ "LA County Board of Supervisors, "Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Policy" (Los Angeles, California, August 1, 2017), <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/115680.pdf>."

Figure 2. Illustration of Tax Increment Financing



Key

- Incremental District Revenue (Funds Projects)
- Pre-Program Revenue
- Base Year District Revenue (Retained by Authorities)
- New Revenue Base (Reverts to Authorities)
- Capital Investments in Key District Improvements

Source: AECOM

Capturing adequate tax increment

A challenge of using EIFDs is organizing the district so that it will capture sufficient tax increment to fund the desired capital improvements. EIFDs capture the incremental growth in property tax revenues above and beyond an established base-year revenue (Figure 2). This revenue is used to pay for capital expenditures or pay debt service for bonds issued to finance improvements during the value capture period.^{35, 36} In California, Proposition 13 limits property reassessments and property tax increases, so that a tax increment financing district can raise substantial revenue only if significant new real estate development occurs within the district.³⁷

In order to raise significant revenue from an EIFD, CRD boundaries will need to be drawn to include areas that are not only subject to identified climate risks, but also where new real estate development is planned. It is important to note that S.B. 852 states that facilities financed with CRD/EIFD funds are “not required to be physically located within the boundaries of the district. However, any facilities financed outside of a district shall have a tangible connection to the work of the district.”³⁸

³⁵ The resolution that establishes an EIFD in a jurisdiction includes the date on which the district will cease to exist and all tax allocation to the district will end. The date shall not exceed 45 years from the date on which the issuance of the bonds or loan is approved. California Gov. Code § 53398.63.

³⁶ Strategic Economics, “Report on the Use of Tax Increment Financing.”

³⁷ Proposition 13 limits increases in assessed valuation to 2% annually, except in the case of new development or substantial redevelopment. AECOM, “Paying for Climate Adaptation in California: A Primer for Practitioners.”

³⁸ California Gov. Code § 53398.52.

3

Requirements for Pursuing Other Funding Sources

In the case that a CRD does not decide to pursue an EIFD due to lack of political feasibility or other constraints, the district may pursue a number of other funding options including a benefit assessment, special tax, community facilities district, user or property-related fee, or a portion of a dedicated revenue source.

Each of these funding mechanisms includes its own establishment requirements. Examples of some of these requirements are detailed in the table below:

Table 4. Funding Mechanisms and Requirement for Establishment

Funding Mechanism	Requirement for Establishment
Benefit Assessment	Requires engineer's report, approval by a weighted majority of affected property owners ³⁹
Special Tax	Requires two-thirds voter approval ⁴⁰
Community Facilities District	Requires two-thirds voter approval ⁴¹
Property-Related Fee	Requires a nexus study, may be subject to protest process or voter approval ⁴²
User Fee	Requires the amount is no more than necessary to reasonably cover the cost of governmental activity ⁴³

Currently, SCRCPA, California's first CRD, is navigating the challenge of seeking voter approval to establish a sustainable funding source. See the case study on the right for additional detail.

³⁹ Lui, "Assessing the Benefits of Benefit Assessments: A Guide to Benefit Assessments in California."

⁴⁰ Senate Local Government Committee, "What's So Special About Special Districts? A Citizen's Guide to Special Districts in California."

⁴¹ "Mello-Roos Community Facilities District."

⁴² California Gov. Code § 66001.

⁴³ California Constitution, Article XII C, Section 1.

CASE STUDY



Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority—California's First Climate Resilience District

S.B. 852 specifically designates SCRCPA as a CRD. SCRCPA was established in 2009 – 13 years before S.B. 852 was passed—to coordinate climate protection efforts among the county, local governments, and other regional, state, and federal agencies. However, when SCRCPA was established, it did not have any legal authority to raise funding. S.B. 852 specifically designated SCRCPA as a CRD and authorizes the authority to pursue funding and financing mechanisms to assist with the implementation of climate resilience projects identified in its Climate Mobilization Strategy.

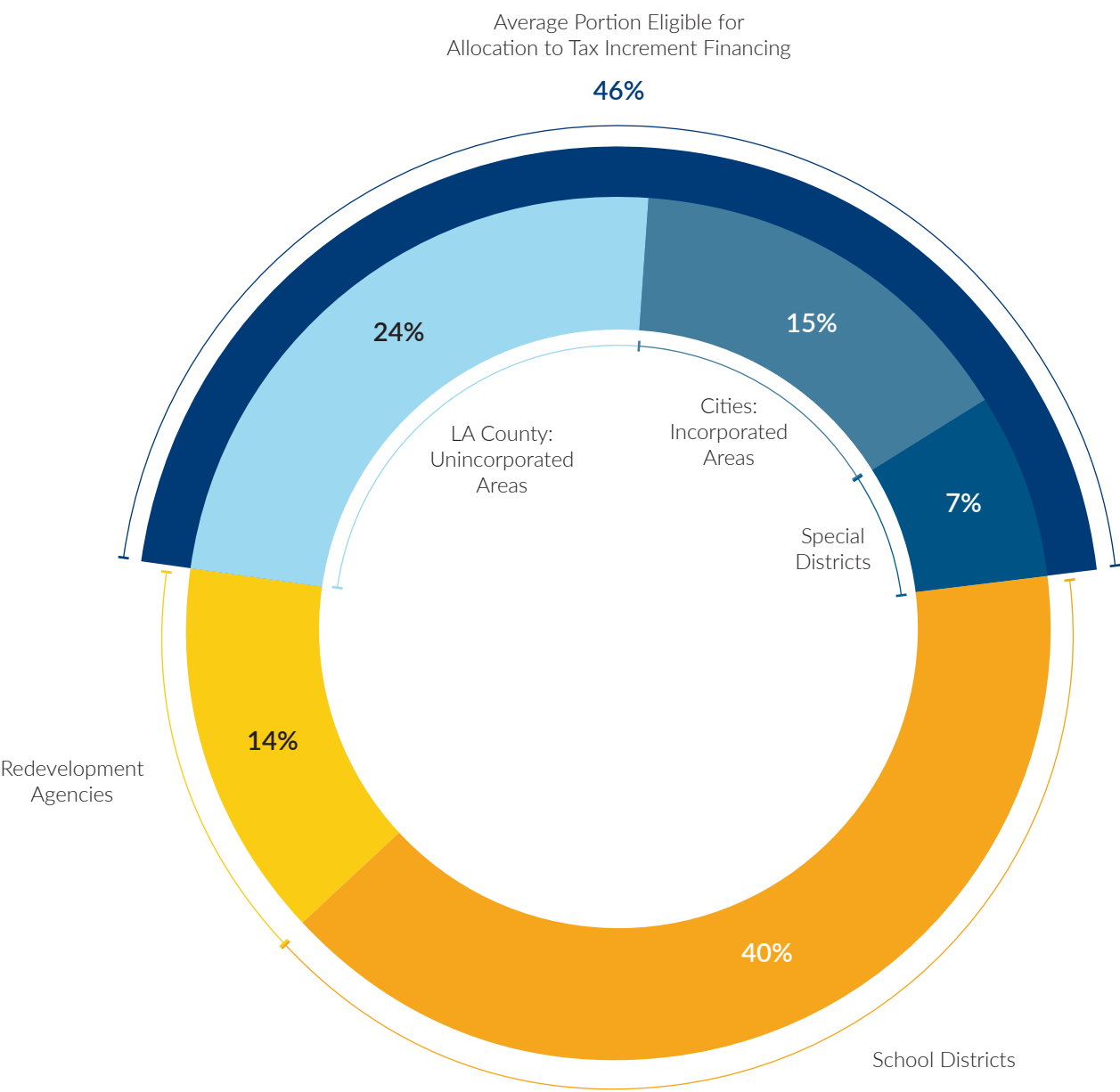
Since the passage of S.B. 852, the Authority began the process of drafting a CRD expenditure plan and evaluating options for funding the district. SCRCPA's leadership has determined that establishing an EIFD is not politically viable within Sonoma County at this time. As an alternative to tax increment financing, SCRCPA conducted polling to gauge voter support for a climate resilience tax measure. Possible funding options include a sales tax, parcel tax, or other special taxes, any of which would require approval by two-thirds of voters under the California Constitution. In July 2023, polling results showed insufficient support for a tax measure to support climate resilience projects in Sonoma County. Support for a tax came in at just over 50%, but well below the two-thirds threshold required for approval.

Sonoma County has decided not to pursue a 2024 ballot measure and has returned to evaluating options to fund the new CRD.

This example highlights that, with or without a CRD, jurisdictions still face many of the same challenges to establish a sustainable funding source for climate resilience projects.

Sources: Shift Sonoma County. (n.d.). Regional Climate Protection Authority. Retrieved September 8, 2023, from <https://rcpa.ca.gov/what-we-do/shift-sonoma-county/>; EMC Research. (2023). Survey of Sonoma County Likely Voters Conducted June 2023. <https://srp-prod-public-pdfs.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Xf4JZLKrLJeWLMz6zC3dniKaYhE.pdf>

Figure 3. General Property Tax Revenue in Los Angeles County by Jurisdiction FY 2022-23⁴⁴



⁴⁴ Figure reflects average receipt of FY 2022-23 1% property tax revenues within LA County. The actual tax rates and allocations vary across unincorporated and incorporated areas throughout the county and may not reflect the averages shown in this pie chart. Redevelopment Agencies were dissolved in 2012. The figure reflects the average share of the 1% property tax revenue dedicated to pay the former agencies' debts and obligations. Property tax allocations from School Districts and Redevelopment Agencies are not eligible for participation in tax increment financing districts.

Source: LA County Auditor-Controller, 2023.

4

Challenge of Cooperation Across Multiple Jurisdictions

A 2020 report required by S.B. 961 (2018) reviewed the effectiveness of tax increment financing in California, finding that the limited revenue potential of tax increment financing tools limits their effectiveness.⁴⁵ In California, property tax revenues are allocated to the county, cities, school and community college districts, and special districts within a county. Actual allocations vary by location within the County. Overall, however, LA County received just 24% of the total 1% property tax revenues in Fiscal Year 2022-23. Cities within LA County received 15% of property tax revenues, and special districts received 7%. School and community college districts received most of the remaining property tax revenues, but these districts are prohibited from contributing revenues to a tax increment financing district. The allocation of property tax revenue therefore limits the amount of property tax increment available for tax increment financing revenues unless multiple jurisdictions partner and voluntarily contribute a share of their increment.⁴⁶

CRDs provide an opportunity for collaborating on cross-jurisdictional climate initiatives and leveraging funds from multiple participating jurisdictions. However, participating districts must grapple with the challenge of limited control in directing their share of property tax increment to priority projects. Under S.B. 852, the CRD shall be governed by a five-member public financing authority.⁴⁷ The membership of the public financing authority is determined by the number of participating jurisdictions. For example, if there is only one participating member, then three of the governing board members shall be members of the legislative body of the participating entity and two shall be from the public. For a district with two participating members, two of the governing board members shall be members of the legislative body from one of the participating entities, one from the legislative body of the other participating entity, and two from the public. As each additional jurisdiction joins the CRD, the establishing jurisdiction gives up more control of the governance of the CRD.

⁴⁵ Strategic Economics, 2020.

⁴⁶ "Revenue Allocation Summary – Auditor-Controller," accessed September 7, 2023, <https://auditor.lacounty.gov/revenue-allocation-summary/>.

⁴⁷ California Gov. Code § 62304 and § 53398.51.1

5

Displacement and Tax Burden Considerations

The application of CRDs carries potential displacement risks. For example:

- When a CRD leverages an EIFD to fund climate resilience projects, the district relies on new development to generate significant revenues. Unchecked new development within a disadvantaged community raises concerns about displacement and gentrification.
- CRDs that use alternative revenue-raising measures to fund a district, such as a benefit assessment, special tax, or property/user fee, risk placing additional tax burden on the socially vulnerable communities within the district that they are seeking to assist.

Consideration should be given to the type of funding mechanism used to fund a CRD and the impact it may have on residents across a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds in a community. In the case where a tax increment financing mechanism is used to finance a CRD, this tool should be paired with funding for affordable housing, anti-displacement policies, and other measures to ensure that all communities are able to share in the benefits of reducing climate risks.

CRDs provide an opportunity for collaborating on cross-jurisdictional climate initiatives and leveraging funds from multiple participating jurisdictions.

04 Conclusion



Oxford Basin
Marina del Rey, CA

CRDs represent a new tool for local governments to address the frequency and severity of climate-related events across the state. Climate change is generating adverse impacts for local communities (particularly for socially vulnerable communities), creating challenges for insurability, and stifling new development. To date, no jurisdiction has gone through the establishment process to form a CRD, and the only CRD in the state (SCRCPA) was created through the CRD enacting legislation.

While in many respects, CRDs do not represent a novel funding mechanism for local governments to address climate resilience, they offer some opportunities for LA County in advancing its climate resilience and adaptive capacity goals.

These opportunities include:

- CRDs offer LA County the option to establish a dedicated district to prioritize and fund climate resilience measures. As a district dedicated to climate resilience, a CRD offers the public, potential funders, and bond buyers the assurance that revenues will be spent on planning and implementing priority resilience projects.
- CRDs have the ability to fund operations projects and hire staff, which provides the opportunity to build capacity and address climate risks that do not have capital construction solutions.
- CRDs have the potential to pursue cross-jurisdictional solutions to climate risks, by including multiple member jurisdictions and establishing boundaries that correspond to the locations of highest risk or other considerations.

CRDs offer LA County the option to establish a dedicated district to prioritize and fund climate resilience measures.

CRDs are authorized to pursue a variety of existing California financing mechanisms and generally are subject to the same administrative challenges that local governments already experience using these mechanisms to fund projects.

Challenges for CRD implementation include:

- The administrative burden of establishing a CRD and the current statutory and constitutional barriers to pursuing a sustainable funding source (e.g., voter approval requirements, nexus studies, engineering reports, environmental reviews, etc.);
- The barriers to accessing substantial tax increment when using an EIFD, including the challenges of cooperation across multiple jurisdictions and the need for new development to ensure adequate tax increment to sustainably fund projects; and
- Existing tax burden and displacement concerns when seeking to fund projects that improve the quality of life in disadvantaged communities.

Overall, a CRD is most likely to be appropriate and successful in a situation where establishing the district clearly benefits affected property owners and voters, there is potential to leverage multiple funding sources, new development is planned within the district, and careful consideration is given to impacts on socially vulnerable communities.

APPENDIX

Climate Resilience District Enacting Legislation



Lake Hughes
Northern LA County

Senate Bill No. 852

CHAPTER 266

An act to add Division 6 (commencing with Section 62300) to Title 6 of the Government Code, relating to climate resilience districts.

[Approved by Governor September 9, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 9, 2022.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 852, Dodd. Climate resilience districts: formation: funding mechanisms.

Existing law authorizes certain local agencies to form a community revitalization authority (authority) within a community revitalization and investment area, as defined, to carry out provisions of the Community Redevelopment Law in that area for purposes related to, among other things, infrastructure, affordable housing, and economic revitalization. Existing law provides for the financing of these activities by, among other things, the issuance of bonds serviced by property tax increment revenues, and requires the authority to adopt a community revitalization and investment plan for the community revitalization and investment area that includes elements describing and governing revitalization activities.

Existing law authorizes the legislative body of a city or a county to establish an enhanced infrastructure financing district to finance public capital facilities or other specified projects of communitywide significance, including projects that enable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Existing law also requires the legislative body to establish a public financing authority, defined as the governing board of the enhanced infrastructure financing district, prior to the adoption of a resolution to form an enhanced infrastructure district and adopt an infrastructure financing plan.

This bill would authorize a city, county, city and county, special district, or a combination of any of those entities to form a climate resilience district, as defined, for the purposes of raising and allocating funding for eligible projects and the operating expenses of eligible projects. The bill would deem each district to be an enhanced infrastructure financing district and would require each district to comply with existing law concerning enhanced infrastructure financing districts, except as specified. The bill would require a district to finance only specified projects that meet the definition of an eligible project. The bill would define “eligible project” to mean projects that address sea level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, the risk of wildfire, drought, and the risk of flooding, as specified. The bill would establish project priorities and would authorize districts to establish additional priorities.

This bill would impose certain requirements on a project undertaken or financed by a district. In this regard, the bill would require a district to obtain an enforceable commitment from the developer that contractors and subcontractors performing the work use a skilled and trained workforce, in accordance with specified provisions. These certifications would expand the crime of perjury, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

This bill would authorize specified local entities to adopt a resolution allocating tax revenues to the district, subject to certain requirements. The bill would provide for the financing of the activities of the district by, among other things, levying a benefit assessment, special tax, property-related fee, or other service charge or fee consistent with the requirements of the California Constitution. The bill would require each district to prepare an annual expenditure plan, an operating budget, and capital improvement budget, and would require this material to be adopted by the governing body of the district and subject to review and revision at least annually. By imposing duties on counties in the administration of tax revenues and elections of a climate resilience district, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law creates the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, requires the authority to be governed by the same board as that governing the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and imposes certain duties on the authority. Existing law authorizes the authority to apply for and to receive grants of funds to carry out its functions.

This bill would deem the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority a climate resilience district and grant the authority all of the powers available to such a district, except that the authority may not use any tax increment revenue unless it complies with the requirements for receiving and using tax increment revenue applicable to a new climate resilience district.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Division 6 (commencing with Section 62300) is added to Title 6 of the Government Code, to read:

DIVISION 6. CLIMATE RESILIENCE DISTRICTS

62300. This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the Climate Resilience Districts Act.

62301. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this division to provide the ability for local governments to create districts for the purpose of addressing climate change effects and impacts through activities and actions that include mitigation and adaptation, as necessary and appropriate, to achieve all of the following:

- (a) Providing a sustained and certain level and source of funding at the local level.
- (b) Allowing activities and actions on an appropriate geographic basis.
- (c) Facilitating the receipt and use of federal, state, local, and private funds.

62302. For purposes of this division:

(a) “District” means a climate resilience district formed pursuant to this division.

(b) (1) “Eligible project” means a project, including a capital project, that is designed and implemented to address climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(A) A project that addresses river, bay, or sea level rise, or rising groundwater, including wetlands or marsh restoration, vegetated dunes, living shorelines, erosion control, or levees.

(B) A project that addresses extreme heat or the urban heat island effect, including increasing shade, deploying cool building and surface materials, using cool pavements; constructing, improving, or modifying new or existing facilities; or increasing access to cooling opportunities.

(C) A project that addresses extreme cold, rain, or snow, including constructing, improving, or modifying new or existing facilities.

(D) A project that addresses the risk of wildfire, including establishing fire breaks, prescribed burning, structure hardening, or vegetation control.

(E) A project that addresses drought, including multiuse land repurposing, groundwater replenishment, groundwater storage, or conjunctive use.

(F) A project that addresses the risk of flooding, including structure elevation or relocation, wetlands restoration, flood easements or bypasses, or levees.

(2) At a minimum, a district shall give priority to a project that does any of the following:

(A) Utilizes natural infrastructure, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 71154 of the Public Resources Code, to address climate change adaptation or resilience based upon the best available science.

(B) Addresses the needs of under-resourced communities, as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 71130 of the Public Resources Code, or vulnerable communities, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 71340 of the Public Resources Code.

(3) A district may adopt additional priorities for projects.

(4) A district shall seek the input of the communities specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) in the planning, development, and implementation of projects.

(c) “Participating entity” means a city, county, or special district that meets both of the following:

(1) The city, county, or special district is an affected taxing entity within the climate resilience district.

(2) The city, county, or special district adopts a resolution pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 62304 that is applicable to its territory located within the climate resilience district.

(d) “Participating member city or county” means a city or county that does not adopt a resolution to be a participating entity, as described in subdivision (c), and alternatively adopts a resolution at a noticed public hearing stating that it agrees to participate in, and have its territory subject to, the jurisdiction, powers, and authority of the district conditioned upon the city or county also being represented on the governing body of the district pursuant to Section 62305.

(e) (1) “Property tax increment” means that portion of the ad valorem taxes, as defined under subdivision (a) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, excluding any ad valorem taxes or assessments levied pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, divided pursuant to Section 53398.75.

(2) Except as otherwise specified in this division, a district formed pursuant to this division is hereby deemed to also be an enhanced infrastructure financing district pursuant to Chapter 2.99 (commencing with Section 53398.50) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 and shall be subject to statutory provisions for enhanced infrastructure financing districts.

62303. (a) (1) A city, county, city and county, or a combination of any of those entities may form a climate resilience district pursuant to this division.

(2) The boundaries of the district shall be one of the following:

(A) Coterminous with the city, county, or city and county forming the district.

(B) Within a city, county, or city and county forming the district.

(C) Across two or more cities, counties, or cities and counties that are forming the district.

(D) A special district may join a district initiated by a city, county, city and county, or a combination of cities and counties.

(b) (1) A district shall be formed for the purpose of raising and allocating funding for eligible projects and the operating expenses of eligible projects.

(2) Operating expenses may include any of the following:

(A) The expenses of operating the district.

(B) The planning of eligible projects.

(C) The operational expenses of any eligible project.

(3) A district shall finance only projects described in subdivision (b) of Section 53398.52 if the project meets the definition of an eligible project.

(4) A district shall use the proceeds of bonds issued by a district to finance only eligible projects that meet the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 53398.52.

(c) A district shall be deemed to be an “agency” described in subdivision (b) of Section 16 of Article XVI of the California Constitution only for purposes of receiving property tax increment revenues.

62303.5. (a) Notwithstanding the procedures for establishing a district under this division, the authority shall be deemed a climate resilience district and is hereby granted all of the powers described in Section 62307, except as provided in subdivision (c).

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of Section 62305, the legislative body of the district formed pursuant to this section shall be the legislative body of the authority.

(c) This section shall not grant the district the power to use any tax increment revenues unless it complies with the requirements for receiving and using tax increment revenue pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 62304.

(d) For purposes of this section, “authority” means the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority created pursuant to Division 19.1 (commencing with Section 181000) of the Public Utilities Code.

62304. (a) Proceedings for the establishment of a district shall be instituted by the adoption of a resolution of intention to establish the proposed district and shall do all of the following:

(1) State that a district is proposed to be established pursuant to this division and describe the boundaries of the proposed district, which may be accomplished by reference to a map on file in the office of the clerk of the city or in the office of the recorder of the county, as applicable.

(2) State the type of eligible projects proposed to be financed or assisted by the district.

(3) State the need for the district and the goals the district proposes to achieve.

(b) The city, county, or city and county, shall enact a resolution providing for the division of taxes of any participating entity pursuant to the procedures for the preparation and adoption of an infrastructure financing plan described in Sections 53398.59 to 53398.74, inclusive. A district that completes these procedures shall follow the procedures for the division of taxes and issuance of tax increment bonds described in Sections 53398.75 to 53398.88, inclusive.

62305. (a) A district shall be governed by a board that has the same membership as a public financing authority as described in Section 53398.51.1. The board shall have the same powers and requirements as a public financing authority, unless otherwise specified.

(b) The legislative body shall ensure the district board is established at the same time that it adopts a resolution of intention pursuant to Section 62304.

62306. (a) A minimum of 95 percent of the allocated tax increment revenues pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 62304 shall be used to fund eligible projects.

(b) Not more than 5 percent of allocated revenues may be used for administration.

62307. In addition to the powers granted to an enhanced infrastructure financing district pursuant to Chapter 2.99 (commencing with Section 53398.50) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5, a district has the power to do all of the following within the territorial jurisdiction of a city, county, or city and county that is a participating entity, or a participating member city or county, pursuant to this division and is represented on the governing board in accordance with Section 62305:

(a) (1) Levy a benefit assessment, special tax levied pursuant to Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 50075) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5, or property-related fee or other service charge or fee consistent with the requirements of Articles XIII A, XIII C, and XIII D of the California Constitution, including, but not limited to, a benefit assessment levied pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) The district may levy a benefit assessment for any of the purposes authorized by this division pursuant to any of the following:

(A) The Improvement Act of 1911 (Division 7 (commencing with Section 5000) of the Streets and Highways Code).

(B) The Improvement Bond Act of 1915 (Division 10 (commencing with Section 8500) of the Streets and Highways Code).

(C) The Municipal Improvement Act of 1913 (Division 12 (commencing with Section 10000) of the Streets and Highways Code).

(D) The Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972 (Part 2 (commencing with Section 22500) of Division 15 of the Streets and Highways Code), notwithstanding Section 22501 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(E) Any other statutory authorization.

(b) Apply for and receive grants from federal and state agencies.

(c) Solicit and accept gifts, fees, grants, and allocations from public and private entities.

(d) Issue revenue bonds for any of the purposes authorized by this division pursuant to the Revenue Bond Law of 1941 (Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 54300) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5), subject to any applicable constitutional requirements.

(e) Incur general obligation bonded indebtedness for the acquisition or improvement of real property or for funding or refunding of any outstanding indebtedness, subject to any applicable constitutional requirements.

(f) Receive and manage a dedicated revenue source.

(g) Deposit or invest moneys of the district in banks or financial institutions in the state in accordance with state law.

(h) Sue and be sued, except as otherwise provided by law, in all actions and proceedings, in all courts and tribunals of competent jurisdiction.

(i) Engage counsel and other professional services.

(j) Enter into and perform all necessary contracts.

(k) Enter into joint powers agreements pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1).

(l) Hire staff, define their qualifications and duties, and provide a schedule of compensation for the performance of their duties.

(m) Use interim or temporary staff provided by local agencies that are a members of the district. A person who performs duties as interim or temporary staff shall not be considered an employee of the district.

62308. (a) If a district proposes a measure that will generate revenues for the district that requires voter approval pursuant to the California Constitution, the board of supervisors of the county or counties in which the district has determined to place the measure on the ballot shall call a special election on the measure. The special election shall be consolidated with the next regularly scheduled statewide election and the measure shall be submitted to the voters in the appropriate counties, consistent with the requirements of Articles XIII A, XIII C, and XIII D, or Article XVI of, the California Constitution, as applicable.

(b) A district shall be deemed a district for purposes of Section 317 of the Elections Code. A measure proposed by a district that requires voter approval shall be submitted to the voters within the boundaries of the district in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Code applicable to districts, including the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 9300) of Division 9 of the Elections Code.

(c) The district shall file with the board of supervisors of each county in which the measure shall appear on the ballot a resolution of the district requesting consolidation, and setting forth the exact form of the ballot question, in accordance with Section 10403 of the Elections Code.

(d) The legal counsel for the district shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure. The impartial analysis prepared by the legal counsel for the district shall be subject to review and revision by the county counsel of the county that contains the largest population, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, among those counties in which the measure will be submitted to the voters.

(e) Each county included in the measure shall use the exact ballot question, impartial analysis, and ballot language provided by the district. If two or more counties included in the measure are required to prepare a translation of ballot materials into the same language other than English, the county that contains the largest population, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, among those counties that are required to prepare a translation of ballot materials into the same language other than English shall prepare the translation and that translation shall be used by the other county or counties, as applicable.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 13116 of the Elections Code, if a measure proposed by a district pursuant to this division is submitted to the voters of the district in two or more counties, the elections officials of those counties shall mutually agree to use the same letter designation for the measure.

(g) The county clerk of each county shall report the results of the special election to the authority. If two-thirds of all voters voting on the question at the special election vote affirmatively, or a different approval threshold required by the California Constitution at the time the election is achieved, the measure shall take effect in the counties in which the measure appeared on the ballot within the timeframe specified in the measure.

(h) The county clerk of each county shall report the results of the special election to the district.

62309. (a) Each district shall prepare an annual expenditure plan that identifies and describes the operations and eligible projects undertaken by the district. The expenditure plan shall be, after public review and hearing, adopted by the governing body of the district and subject to review and revision at least annually.

(b) Each district shall also prepare and adopt an annual operating budget and capital improvement budget. The annual operating budget and capital improvement budget shall be, after public review and hearing, adopted by the governing body of the district and subject to review and revision at least annually.

62310. (a) A district shall provide for regular audits of its accounts and records, maintain accounting records, and report accounting transactions in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board of the Financial Accounting Foundation for both public reporting purposes and for reporting of activities to the Controller.

(b) A district shall provide for annual financial reports and make copies of the annual financial reports available to the public.

(c) Commencing in the calendar year in which a district has allocated a cumulative total of more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in property tax increment revenues under this division or other revenues pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 62253, including any proceeds of a debt issuance, and each year thereafter, the district shall contract for an independent audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards.

62311. (a) All meetings of the district shall be subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5).

(b) All records prepared, owned, used, or retained by the district are public records for purposes of the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1).

62312. (a) The following requirements shall apply to a project that is undertaken or financed by a district:

(1) Construction, alteration, demolition, installation, and repair work on the project shall be deemed a public work for which prevailing wages must be paid for purposes of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1720) of Part 7 of Division 2 of the Labor Code.

(2) The district shall obtain an enforceable commitment from the developer or general contractor that the developer or general contractor and

all its contractors and subcontractors at every tier will individually use a skilled and trained workforce, in accordance with Chapter 2.9 (commencing with Section 2600) of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code, to perform all work on the project that falls within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades.

(3) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if all contractors and subcontractors at every tier performing the work will be bound by a project labor agreement that requires the use of a skilled and trained workforce and provides for enforcement of that obligation through an arbitration procedure.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) “Project labor agreement” has the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 2500 of the Public Contract Code.

(2) “Skilled and trained workforce” has the same meaning as set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 2601 of the Public Contract Code.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that the allocation of revenues derived from a sales and use tax or a transactions and use tax to a climate resilience district pursuant to Division 6 (commencing with Section 62300) of Title 6 to the Government Code, as added by this act, is not subject to Section 29 of Article XIII of the California Constitution because a district is not a city, county, or city and county within the meaning of that provision, but is rather a separate political entity as described in subdivision (c) of Section 62303 of the Government Code, as added by this act.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because, in that regard, this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND LINDSEY HORVATH

April 18, 2023

Building Climate Ready Communities and Infrastructure in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. Natural disasters such as drought, wildfire, mudflows, heat storms, intense rainfall, and flooding events are on the rise, and will predominately affect vulnerable populations and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Extreme weather events also pose a variety of threats to public infrastructure, which connects and protects the people we serve.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken action to respond to the dangers presented by climate change. In August 2019, the Board unanimously adopted the “OurCounty Sustainability Plan” outlining a bold, inclusive, and regional vision to address the most pressing environmental issues impacting present and future generations. To advance this vision, the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) that examines the impacts of climate events on vulnerable communities, populations, and infrastructure. In April 2022, the Board directed the

MOTION

SOLIS

MITCHELL

HORVATH

BARGER

HAHN

Department of Public Health to create the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health as a central hub for health focused environmental justice and climate health goals. In addition, the Board recently directed the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the CSO, to assess the County's stormwater infrastructure, prepare a plan to advance equity and climate resiliency in stormwater infrastructure improvements, and prepare communities for increased flood risk due to climate change.

It is important for all residents in Los Angeles County to live in a safe and resilient community. Resilient communities have an ability to adapt and thrive in response to changing conditions or disasters. Accelerating resilience to climate change means taking action now to build "adaptive capacity" within our human and infrastructure systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change defines adaptive capacity as, "the capacity of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences."¹

Growing adaptive capacity is particularly critical in areas of the County where climate vulnerabilities are highest, including low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Certain individuals are also unfairly burdened by both environmental and climate risks, such as children, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities and preexisting health conditions, individuals with limited English proficiency, and tribal and indigenous people.

With respect to infrastructure, increasing adaptive capacity will require investments that can withstand climate hazards, minimize disruption to essential services, and avoid

¹ MA, 2005: Appendix D: Glossary. In: Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Current States and Trends. Findings of the Condition and Trends Working Group [Hassan, R., R. Scholes and N. Ash(eds.)], Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), Island Press, Washington DC, USA, pp. 893-900.

cascading impacts to other dependent infrastructure systems. Resilient infrastructure increases the County's capacity to respond to the climate crisis and maintain continuity of operations and service to the public. Adaptive strategies must also include preparing communities for extreme weather and evolving threats in order to emerge stronger. The County plays a crucial role in helping residents understand their risks, build personal and community preparedness plans, and access resources to help them rebound.

The County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment was an important first step in science-based adaptation planning. By identifying climate vulnerability, we are positioned to build resilience and reduce impacts from climate change. The County must leverage the CVA to develop key adaptation strategies and actions to help prepare communities and infrastructure to be climate-ready. Having an interdepartmental working group within the County will allow departments to collaborate and consider multi-benefit and climate ready projects in our communities.

I WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Public Works, in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office, to work in collaboration with relevant County departments, including but not limited to, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Emergency Management:

- 1) To lead a countywide initiative to build resilience and adaptive capacity for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, with a focus on advancing equity and environmental justice. A working group will be formed to identify opportunities and investments that build resilience where vulnerabilities are highest, based on findings from the County's Climate

Vulnerability Assessment;

- 2) Utilize the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Mapping Tool to identify and prioritize vulnerable populations and communities most susceptible to the five key climate hazards - - extreme heat, wildfire, extreme precipitation and inland flooding, coastal flooding, and drought;
- 3) Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions;
- 4) Establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate-vulnerable communities and populations. Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information;
- 5) Identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity, including preparing residents for community-specific risks by identifying specific opportunities to improve early warning and public information systems regarding climate hazards, focused specifically on vulnerable communities (i.e. non-English speakers, the unhoused) through both official channels and collaboration with the media and community stakeholders to minimize climate vulnerability and quickly recover from climate disasters;
- 6) Identify and secure local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure investments that increase resiliency in climate vulnerable communities; and

- 7) Provide written reports every six months with updates on progress made and projects identified by the working group.

#

JH:dg



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

A-0
10469-7-2

April 18, 2024

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, P.E. 
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF APRIL 18, 2023, AGENDA ITEM 7 BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL 2024

On April 18, 2023, the Board instructed Public Works to lead a countywide initiative to build resilience for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, while advancing equity and environmental justice. Extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding hazards are on the rise in Los Angeles County. Climate Ready Communities is about moving to action to address these five climate hazards in the unincorporated areas of the County. Public Works and the Chief Sustainability Office are co-leading this effort and have convened key County partners who are critical to reducing risk where climate vulnerabilities are highest.

The Board also directed Public Works to report back every 6 months on the progress. Attached is the second progress report summarizing accomplishments of the initiative to date. The next report will be provided in October 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Assistant Director Miki Esposito at (626) 458-4019 or mesposito@pw.lacounty.gov.

ME:abc

H:\ADHOM\ACROCKOM\BOARD REPORTS\CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES\2024.4.18 - Climate Ready Communities Progress Memo (Progress 2) Clean Version.docx

Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (Fesia Davenport, Kevin McGowan)
Chief Sustainability Office (Rita Kampalath)
Executive Office
Department of Beaches and Harbor (Gary Jones)
Fire Department (Anthony Marrone)
Department of Parks and Recreation (Norma Garcia-Gonzalez)
Department of Public Health (Barbara Ferrer)
Department of Regional Planning (Amy Bodek)

April 18, 2024

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. In fact, FEMA rated Los Angeles County as the most susceptible county in the United States to natural disasters.¹ The County is on the frontline of the climate crisis and plays an important role in helping individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods understand their risks and build resilience.

The road to resilience requires an investment in preparing communities for evolving threats in order to emerge stronger. Climate Ready Communities (CRC), which the Board of Supervisors adopted on April 18, 2023, is an initiative to increase resiliency for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risk, while advancing equity and environmental justice. This work is about moving to action to tackle **five key climate hazards** in the unincorporated areas of the County - **extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding**. CRC is also aligned with and leverages existing County policies such as the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan, and the County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA).

Organizational Framework

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) added two new departments (Beaches and Harbors (DBH) and Fire) as both these departments are instrumental in addressing the key climate risks, especially coastal flooding and wildfire. The Chief Executive Office was also consulted so that they can be informed of any future funding requests related to climate infrastructure. The ESC has been meeting on a regular basis to guide the direction of the CRC.

Executive Steering Committee

- Co-Leads: Mark Pestrella, Public Works (PW)
Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Office (CSO)
- Members: Barbara Ferrer, Public Health (PH)
Amy Bodek, Regional Planning
Norma Edith García-González, Parks and Recreation
Kevin McGowan, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Gary Jones, Beaches and Harbor
Anthony Marrone, Fire

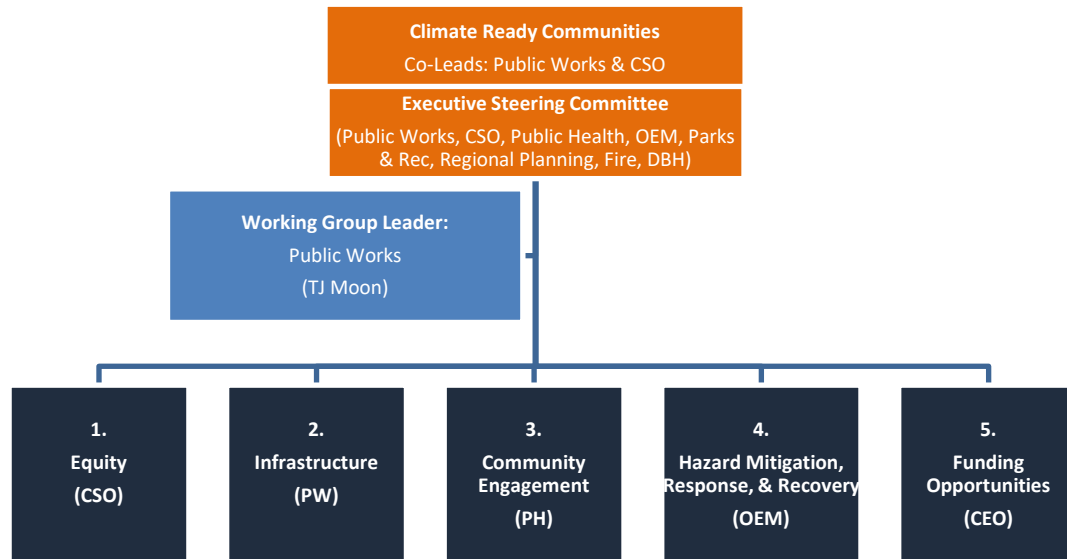
The ESC also designated specific departments to lead the various working groups as shown in Figure 1.

¹ <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Figure 1 - Climate Ready Communities Framework



Accomplishments

The **Equity** Group updated the social sensitivity index in the CVA and evaluated over 10 additional sets of data to ensure that the prioritized list of unincorporated area (UA) communities identifies locations where social and climate vulnerability are highest. It is critical that the CRC initiative intentionally focus action on where people are most at risk for climate threats. This list of high priority communities for each climate risk is provided in the Equity section of this report and will be the priority communities for the community engagement efforts.

The **Community Engagement** Group will work with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to perform community engagement and ground-truth the data developed by the Equity group. The engagement will identify the true needs and preferences of the community, who can also provide input on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project list and help develop new projects. The community engagement efforts will also leverage existing CSO efforts, including outreach for the County Heat Action Plan and the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) grant awarded to CSO for CVA outreach.

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

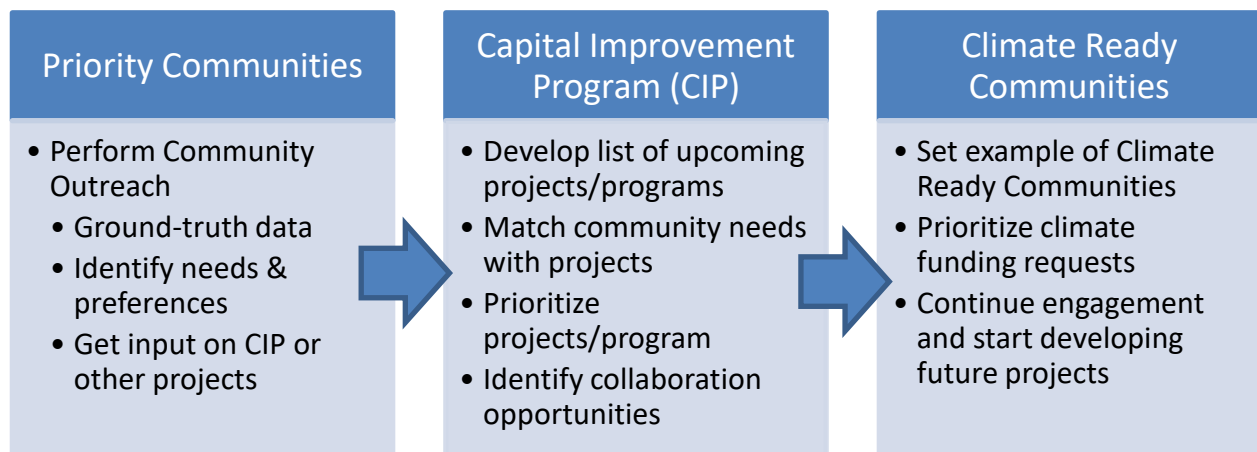
The **Infrastructure** Group is developing the CRC CIP project list, which identifies top climate related projects and programs across various Departments. The CIP in collaboration with the community engagement will help match the community needs with existing projects/programs. The CIP will also allow for cross departmental collaboration opportunities.

The Infrastructure Group also initiated a groundbreaking, comprehensive sustainability On-Call Consultant Services Agreement that was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 23, 2024. Consultant teams are available to accelerate the work of the CRC initiative and other sustainability and resiliency initiatives.

Finally, the **Funding** Group, in collaboration and close coordination with InfrastructureLA and the Infrastructure Initiative, has been informed of approximately \$1.3 billion in grant applications for climate resiliency related projects in the Los Angeles region.

The next Steps for the CRC initiative can be seen on Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 - Next Steps for Climate Ready Communities



BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

EQUITY

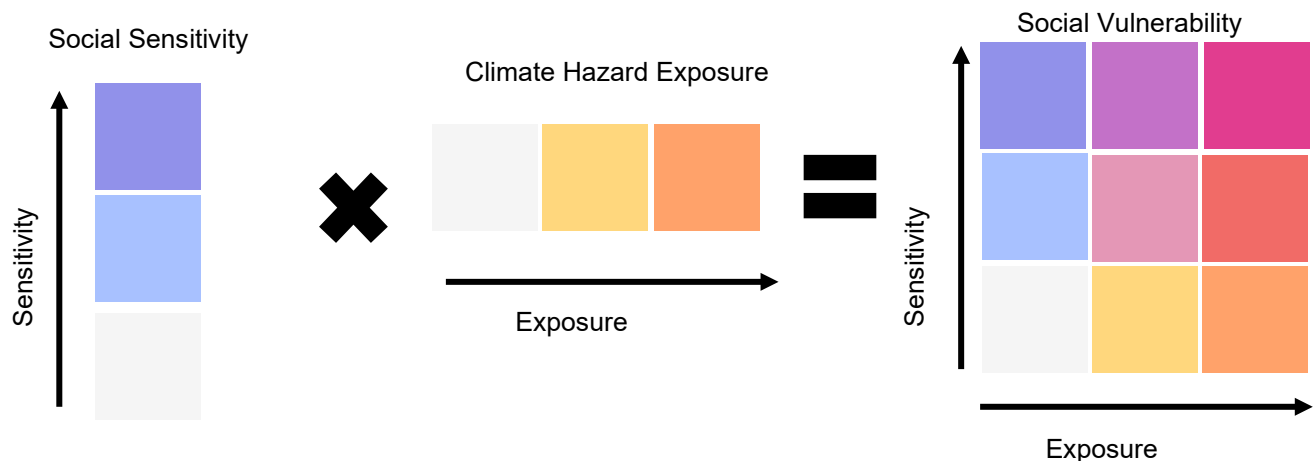
OBJECTIVE(S):

- Establish a prioritized list of UA communities based on climate vulnerability.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

As indicated in the October 2023 Board Report, the Equity Group members agreed to build upon the existing CVA process and incorporate new data while updating existing data so that it may provide additional insights to the social vulnerability index. Social vulnerability is composed of two inputs: social sensitivity index and hazard exposure. In this approach, both input layers are broken into low, moderate, and high categories and then aligned in a three-by-three matrix. The result is that each community within the County falls into one overall relative risk category per climate risk. Social vulnerability varies by climate risk; therefore, each community's social vulnerability may vary based on the climate risk.

Figure 3 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Social Vulnerability Matrix



Social Sensitivity Index

Certain groups are more vulnerable than others to the health impacts of climate change due to social and economic factors like income, education, health care access, and housing. Such factors can affect people's ability to prepare and cope with climate hazards. Socially vulnerable groups in the United States include communities of color, low-income groups, immigrant groups, and those with limited English proficiency. It's important to be as inclusive as possible to the various social vulnerability groups.

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

The updated social sensitivity index is shown in Table 1 below. Some notable additions to the existing 2021 CVA data include populations groups with no high school diploma, no health insurance, older adults, disabled, limited transit access, and homeless.

Table 1 – Updated Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Social Vulnerability Indicators

Indicator(s)	Description	Source
Children	Percent children 18 and under	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S0101
No High School Diploma	Percent of persons 25 and older without a high school diploma	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S1501
Outdoor Workers	Percent of civilian employed population in "Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations"	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S2401
Asthma	Age-adjusted rate of emergency department visits for asthma	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (2015-2017)
Cardiovascular	Age-adjusted rate of emergency department visits for heart attacks	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (2015-2017)
Limited English	Percent limited English speaking households	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S1602
No Health Insurance	Percent of civilian noninstitutionalized population without health insurance	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S2701
Foreign Born	Percent of the total population who was not born in the United States or Puerto Rico	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table B05001
Living in Group Quarters	Percent of persons living in (either institutionalized or un-institutionalized) group quarters	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table B26001
Poverty	Percent of the population earning below 100% of the federal poverty threshold	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S1701
Older Adults	Percent persons 65 and over	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S0101
Older Adults Living Alone	Percent of households in which the householder is 65 and over who and living alone	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S2501
Disability	Percent of civilian noninstitutionalized population with either mental or physical disability	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S1810
Mobile Homes	% of occupied housing units which are mobile homes or "other types of housing"	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S2504
Transit Access	Percent of tract area in High Quality Transit Area (HQTa)	SCAG
Library Access (Distance)	Each tract's average block distance to nearest library	LA County ISD, 2023
Female	Percent female	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table S0101

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

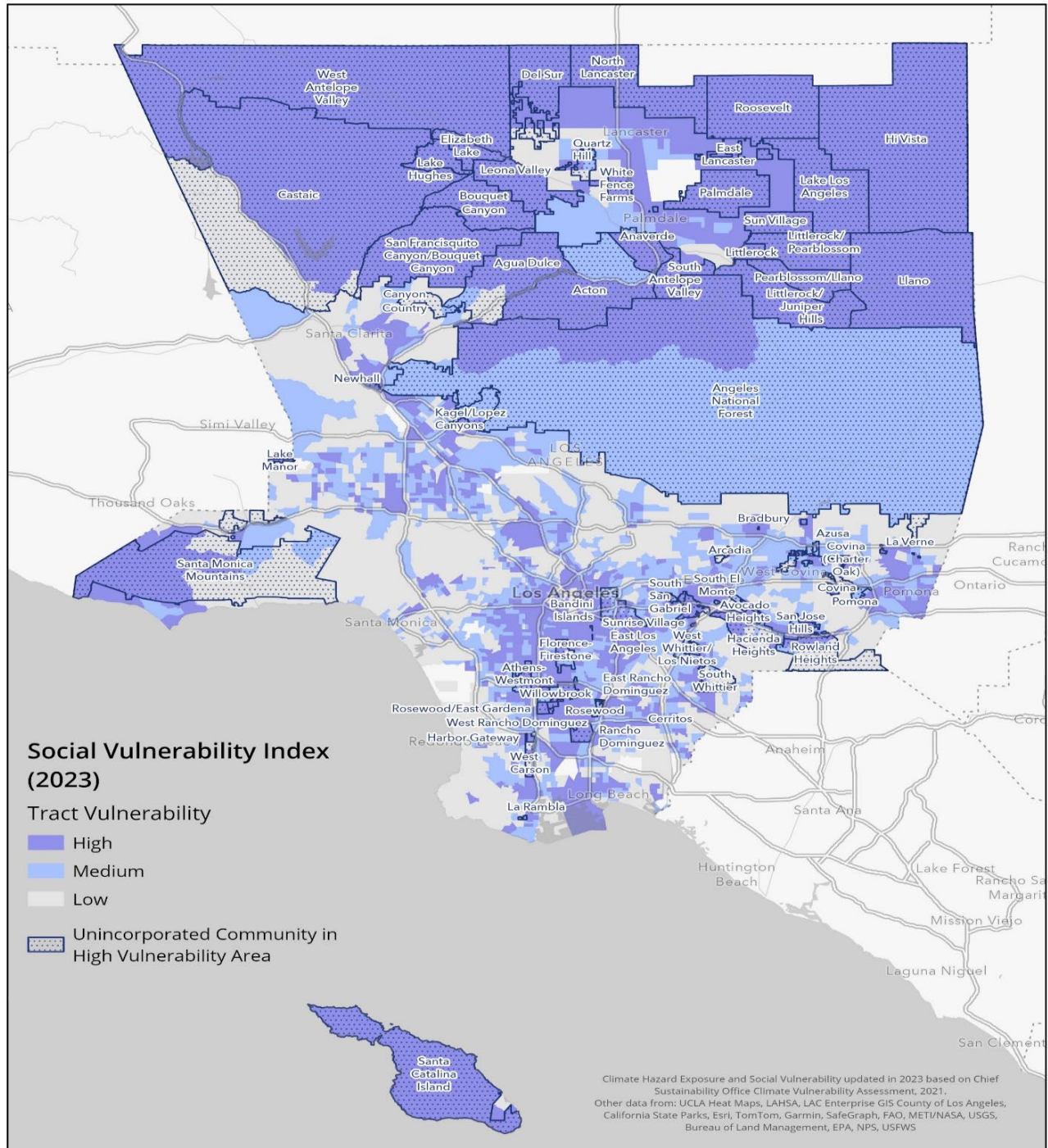
Indicator(s)	Description	Source
Households without Vehicular Access	Percent of households without access to a personal vehicle	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table S2504
No Internet Subscription	Percent of the population without an internet subscription	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table S2801
Renters	Percentage of renters per census tract	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table S2503
Median Income	Median household income of census tract	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table S2503
Voter Turnout	Percentage of registered voters voting in the general election	USC, California Statewide Database, General Elections Data, 2016 General Election
Rent Burden	Percent of renters paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income on rent and utilities	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table B25070
Female Householder	Percent of households that have a female householder with no spouse present	American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018, Table B11011
Homeless	Homeless count (sheltered + unsheltered) per 10,000 residents	LAHSA PIT Count 2022

Figure 4 shows the social vulnerable communities in LA County from this analysis.

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Figure 4 – Social Sensitivity in Los Angeles County



BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Exposure Risk

Climate risk exposure is often measured through existing or modeled data. For example, Coastal Flooding is measured with sea level rise projections based on modeled data from Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 which is considered a worst-case scenario for greenhouse gas emissions for mid-century or 2050.

The CRC Working Group evaluated various climate risk data to determine the most appropriate data source to measure climate exposure risk. The Working Group sought to ensure the most vulnerable populations were identified and sought data that would reflect those communities. In addition, while climate projections may be more reflective for future long-term scenarios, it is important to address current real-life impacts where climate change is already happening, which projections may not accurately depict.

For example, climate projections indicate that heat temperatures will rise across all areas of LA County. While this may be true, it does not help identify the most vulnerable communities and population groups that will have the greatest impact due to extreme heat. By using extreme heat emergency room visits as a data source, we can pinpoint the most vulnerable communities with current real-life data that may be impacted by extreme heat. However, we want to note that even though areas in Northern LA County may not have high incidents of extreme heat emergency room visits due to the sparse number of emergency rooms in rural areas, the CRC engagement will ensure that we engage with Northern LA County residents regarding extreme heat to ground-truth this selection of data. Similarly, for wildfire, the State Fire Hazard Severity Zones which have been vetted by local communities and the State is determined to be a better data source as it is more reflective of current risk compared to projections of potential wildfires which are unpredictable. Table 2 identifies the updated exposure data used for this analysis.

Table 2 – Updated Climate Vulnerability Assessment: Exposure Indicator

Climate Risks	Measure	Time frames	Source
Extreme Heat	Emergency Room Visits	Current	https://sites.google.com/q.ucla.edu/uclahealthmaps/map?authuser=0
Coastal Flooding	2.5-foot level, 100- year storm event	RCP 8.5 Mid-Century	California State Sea Level Rise Guidance ²
Inland Flooding	FEMA floodplain hazard designations	Current	https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps
Wildfire	Fire Hazard Severity Zones	Current	https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones
Drought	Regional Hazard		Regional Issue

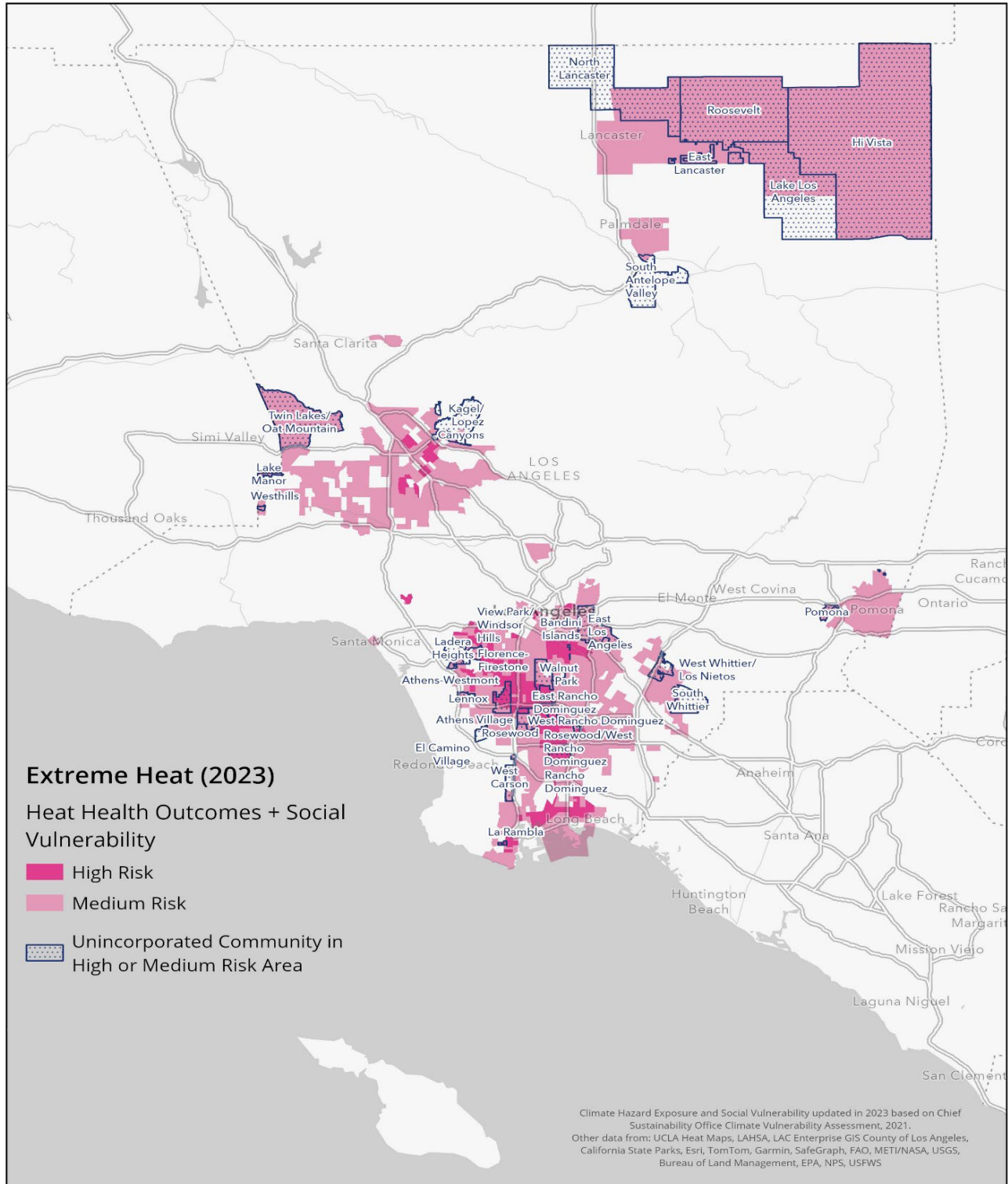
The figures below show UA communities and how social vulnerability intersects with various climate risk - extreme heat (Figure 5), coastal flooding (Figure 6), inland flooding (Figure 7), and wildfire (Figure 8). Drought is considered a regional issue thus all communities in would be deemed vulnerable hence no map was created for drought.

² California State Sea Level Rise Guidance and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) Barnard, P.L., L.H. Erikson, A.C. Foxgrover, P.W. Limber, A.C. O'Neill, and S. Vitousek. 2018: U.S. Geological Survey data release. <https://doi.org/10.5066/F7T151Q4>.

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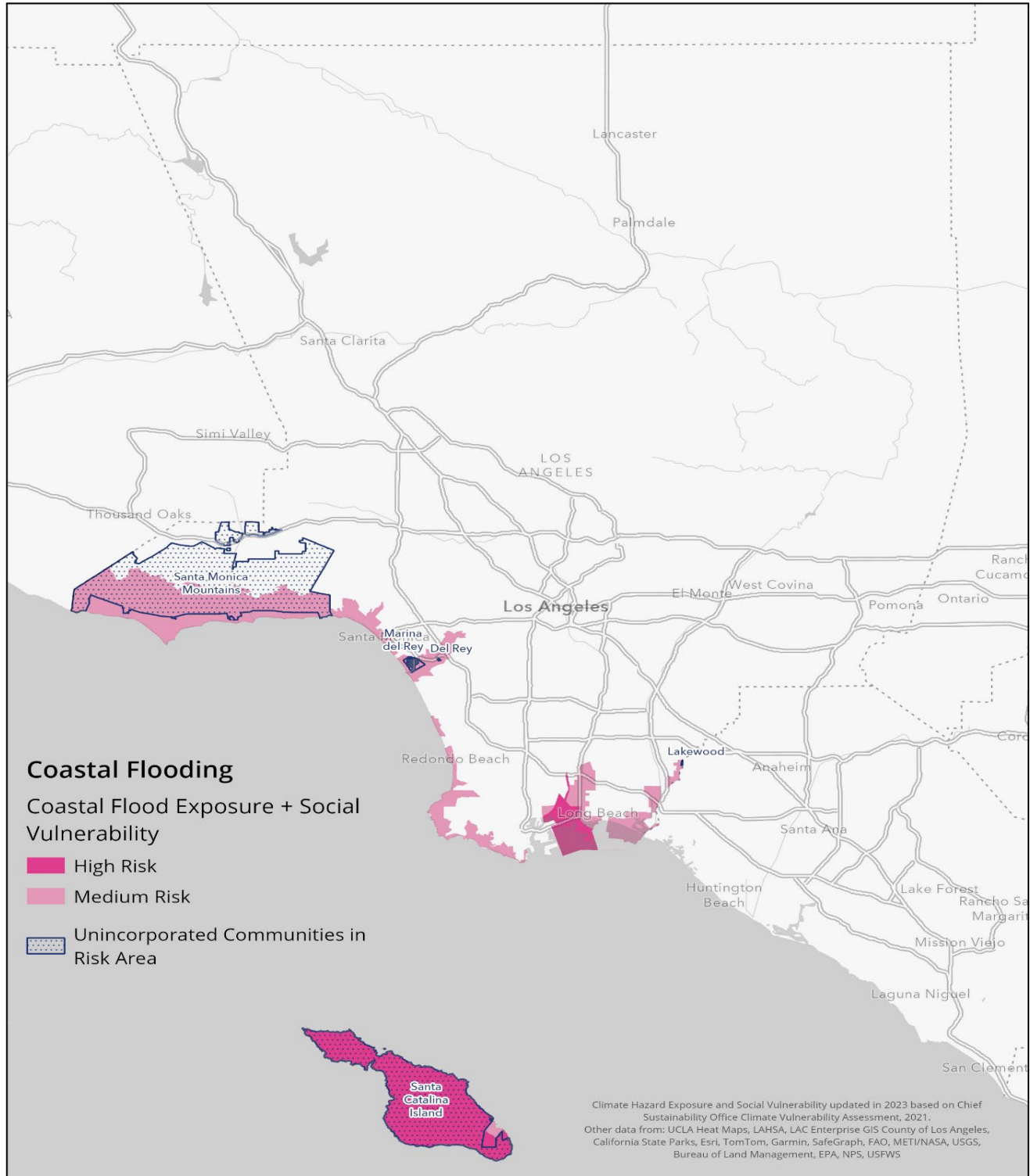
Figure 5 - Climate Vulnerability Index: Extreme Heat



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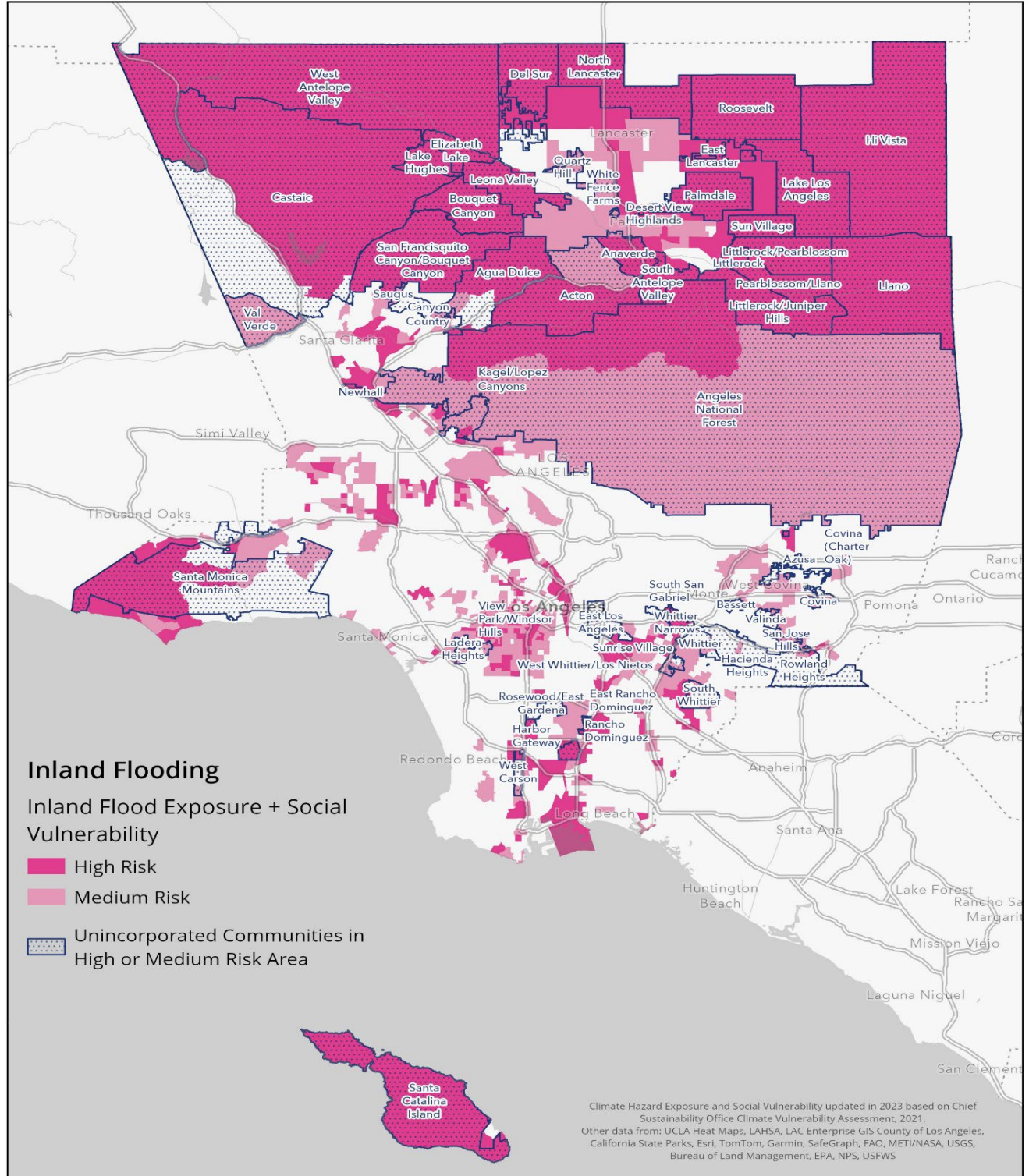
Figure 6 - Climate Vulnerability Index: Coastal Flooding



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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

Figure 7 - Climate Vulnerability Index: Flooding



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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

NEXT STEP(S):

Figures 5-8 show the most socially vulnerable UA communities for the various climate risks and must be prioritized for future climate mitigation efforts. These communities identified in Table 3 have been vetted w/ the ESC and the Board of Supervisors Offices. Community engagement efforts will be initiated with the communities below for the various climate risks:

Table 3 – Climate Ready Community: Priority Communities

Climate Risk	UA Community	Supervisory District
Extreme Heat	East Los Angeles	1
	Florence-Firestone	2
	Athens-Westmont	2
	Willowbrook	2
	West Whittier/Los Nietos	4
	Lennox	1
	Walnut Park	4
	Ladera Heights	2
	Castaic/Lake Hughes	5
	Acton	5
	Altadena	5
	Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5
	Agua Dulce	5
Coastal Flooding	Marina del Rey	2
Inland Flooding	South Whittier	4
	East Rancho Dominguez	2
	Ladera Heights	2
	W. Carson	2
	Castaic/Lake Hughes	5
	Santa Monica Mountains	3
	Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5
	Agua Dulce	5
	Acton	5
	Santa Monica Mountains	3
Wildfire	Hacienda Heights	1
	Acton	5
	Rowland Heights	1
	Altadena	5
	Castaic/Lake Hughes	5
	Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5
	Agua Dulce	5

DBH will continue to address coastal impacts to beach facilities as part of their coastal resiliency efforts and will provide updates through CRC.

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**BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PROGRESS REPORT**

For flooding in areas outside of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, especially the Antelope Valley, outreach efforts will be focused on risk education and opportunities for funding such as the Climate Resilience Districts. Climate Resilience Districts may provide a multi-benefit opportunity to address multiples risks at once since the Antelope Valley is subject to flooding, wildfire, and extreme heat.

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Develop a Capital Improvement Program that prioritizes climate infrastructure projects across all County Departments.

Capital Improvement Program

The CIP will summarize all efforts that County Departments including DBH, Parks, Regional Planning, and CSO are undertaking to address the various climate risks. The CIP will also look for collaboration and multi-benefit project opportunities across departments to minimize the impact to our communities while maximizing benefit. The goal is that the CIP will identify the top project opportunities for the communities with the highest vulnerability. In addition, the CIP will identify a suite of solutions for each prioritized community so that community members will be educated of the potential solutions that could be implemented.

For example, the County was awarded \$8 million by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. This funding will assist the County to plant trees in disadvantaged UA communities to help communities become more resilient to climate change and help combat extreme heat with the cooling effects of increased urban tree canopy. The tree locations will also be aligned with the results of the CVA and community engagement to maximize extreme heat benefits.

Consultant Support

On January 23, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved Public Works' On-Call Consultant Services Agreement to serve as a contracting mechanism for CRC and other sustainability and resiliency initiatives across the County. The total contract amount is \$30 million over a 3-year period, with two optional 1-year extensions, for a potential maximum duration of 5 years.

County Water Plan

Drought was one of the five climate risks identified in the CVA and was considered a LA County wide issue, not specific to a certain community. However, drought mitigation varies depending on different regions of the County, specifically in the urban area compared to the Antelope Valley. The County Water Plan (CWP) which the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted in December 2023 will help bring further clarity and region-specific solutions to support the CRC.

The CWP identified four key focal areas: regional water supply reliability; groundwater management and quality; small, at-risk system resilience and drinking water equity; and watershed sediment management. To address the four focal areas, the CWP established 16 targets and 14 strategies with associated actions to achieve water resilience by 2045. The CWP is also a platform for continued collaboration and partnerships between water

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agencies and stakeholders to work together and move the needle on regional targets. Finally, the CWP is a living document that will evolve to meet Los Angeles County's changing water resource needs and other relevant State and Federal initiatives.

Coastal Resiliency Study

Coastal flooding or sea level rise was identified as one of the five CVA climate risks and to support this effort, CRC will partner with DBH and their Coastal Resilience Study (Study) to support mitigation efforts along DBH's beach facilities. The Study seeks to understand the future changes anticipated along the shoreline by building upon previous regional risk and vulnerability assessments developed by DBH, US Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to provide detailed risk assessments of its 18 public beaches. The Study focused on three overarching goals. First, the Study assessed vulnerability to existing coastal hazards and sea level rise, next it identified demonstration projects through an equity lens including infrastructure and facilities, recreational open space, natural and cultural resources, and habitat for sensitive species and third it provides adaptation strategies to increase resilience of the most vulnerable beaches utilizing the latest techniques that can be implemented to provide shoreline access as sea levels rise and erosion occurs. By working with a wide range of experts, the team has developed an integrated approach to adaptation planning and design that will benefit the community and the broader region for decades to come.

DBH is also focused on coastal flooding for Marina del Rey, as it is the only UA community identified in the CVA that may be impacted by coastal flooding. DBH has partnered with Sea Grant (University of Southern California) and hosted a community workshop on March 27, 2024, in Marina del Rey to develop strategies to adapt to sea level rise.

Infrastructure Action Roadmap

Public Works is finalizing a scope of work to support the development of an Infrastructure Action Roadmap. Public Works will collaborate to analyze current infrastructure planning and development processes and look for ways to incorporate sustainability and resiliency elements into infrastructure development. The Roadmap will include the following:

- Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions.
- Ensure sustainability and resiliency are incorporated into all of infrastructure planning, design, operations, maintenance, and procedures.
- Ensure community engagement feedback is incorporated in infrastructure planning

NEXT STEP(S):

- Finalize current CIP and coordinate with infrastructure solutions with community engagement efforts.
- PW will initiate Infrastructure Action Roadmap development

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Conduct public outreach to build resilience and adaptive capacity for the people, communities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate risk.

OUTCOME(S):

The overall goal of the community engagement effort is to work with existing community coalitions to seek input and integrate feedback from the prioritized communities about their associated climate risk, the infrastructure mitigation measures in development (CIP), and additional considerations as we develop future infrastructure projects. To maximize resources and minimize redundancy to our communities, the CRC effort will coalesce various climate related efforts such as the CSO's County Heat Action Plan and the Cool Capital Stack outreach into one unified effort under CRC.

County Heat Action Plan

CSO will launch the development of a County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) this summer, leveraging the framework outlined in the November 7, 2023, Board Report. CSO is currently working to select and onboard a consultant to support this process and will recruit a Steering Committee composed of technical experts, CBOs, and select County Departments to oversee the process. The CHAP project team will develop public engagement materials about heat resilience strategies for CRC to use and adapt for any outreach that is focused on addressing the issue of extreme heat. Input received from those communities will not only inform local investments but will also assist in the revision and finalization of the CHAP. Additionally, CSO is applying for grant funding to support deeper regional and City-level partnerships for heat action planning in alignment with the CHAP.

ICARP Cool Capital Stack

Los Angeles County has been awarded \$556,000 to develop a pipeline of community-led climate resilient infrastructure project ideas, in partnership with the LA County Metro and Infrastructure Justice Los Angeles (IJLA), a coalition of community-based organizations. This project engages community-based partners in envisioning and designing infrastructure interventions to build resiliency among LA County communities that are most vulnerable to extreme heat and other climate risks such as flooding, wildfire, and drought as identified in the CVA. The project team builds upon the already-established relationship between LA County agencies and the IJLA organizations and serves as an innovative model of collaboration. In addition to the ICARP award, the County is leveraging an additional funding award from the Hilton Foundation to support this work.

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Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G)

Public Works partnered with ReDesignLA and was awarded \$1 million from the EPA's Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) grant program, which helps connect government agencies with CBO and support community engagement related to climate resiliency. ReDesignLA is a coalition of organizations, including Council for Watershed Health, Day One, Nature for All, River in Action, ActiveSGV, Promesa Boyle Heights, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and Tataviam Land Conservancy. The joint effort will focus on ground-truthing existing data to confirm the communities' lived experiences are consistent with the data. In addition, community engagement will help identify the priorities and preferred solutions of each community in developing infrastructure projects. The community engagement efforts will also inform the development of the CIP and Action Roadmap. The grant agreement is expected to be signed this summer and work is scheduled to start in Fall 2024.

NEXT STEP(S)

- CSO, PH, PW will start developing a CRC community engagement work plan.

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BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

FUNDING

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Evaluate innovative funding strategies, including potential grant programs, to fund CRC implementation efforts.

OUTCOME(S):

The Funding Group is investigating current and innovate funding strategies to fund various climate infrastructure efforts.

Grant Summary

Below is a list of grant opportunities related to sustainability and climate resiliency that the County has been involved with, is aware of, or was awarded in the past six months.

Table 4 - LA County Climate Resiliency Grants

Grant Program	Project	Climate Risk	SD	Status	Amount Requested /Awarded
EPA Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program	Climate Ready Communities – Public Outreach (Public Works)	All	All	Awarded	\$1 M
FEMA – Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant	Lake Hughes Climate Resiliency Planning Project (Public Works)	Flooding Wildfire	5	Pending	\$3 M
Dept. of Transportation – PROTECT	Interstate 5 – Coordinated Evacuation Route (Public Works)	Wildfire	5	Awarded	\$3.1 M
ICARP – Extreme Heat	County Heat Action Plan Regional & City Partnerships – Large Planning Application (CSO)	Extreme Heat	All	Applying	\$750K
ICARP – Extreme Heat	Small Planning & Implementation Grants (DPH)	Extreme Heat	All	Applying	
ICARP – Extreme Heat	Extreme Heat Implementation Projects (DPR)	Extreme Heat	All	Applying	
EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Goods Movement Project (AQMD, SCAG, Port of LA, Port of LB)	All	All	Pending	\$500 M
EPA Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	Solar for All (ISD)	All	All	Pending	\$250 M
EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Metro Transit Coalition to Reduce Climate Pollution for the 2028 Olympics and Beyond (Metro & PW)	All	All	Pending	\$500 M
EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Building Decarbonization (City of LA & ISD)	All	All	Pending	\$48 M
EPA Environmental & Climate Justice Community Change	Puente Hills Landfill Community Center	All	1	Pending	\$20 M

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**BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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NEXT STEP(S):

- Continue to identify funding opportunities and apply for grant opportunities.

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND LINDSEY HORVATH

April 18, 2023

Building Climate Ready Communities and Infrastructure in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. Natural disasters such as drought, wildfire, mudflows, heat storms, intense rainfall, and flooding events are on the rise, and will predominately affect vulnerable populations and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Extreme weather events also pose a variety of threats to public infrastructure, which connects and protects the people we serve.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken action to respond to the dangers presented by climate change. In August 2019, the Board unanimously adopted the “OurCounty Sustainability Plan” outlining a bold, inclusive, and regional vision to address the most pressing environmental issues impacting present and future generations. To advance this vision, the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) that examines the impacts of climate events on vulnerable communities, populations, and infrastructure. In April 2022, the Board directed the

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
BARGER	_____
HAHN	_____

Department of Public Health to create the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health as a central hub for health focused environmental justice and climate health goals. In addition, the Board recently directed the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the CSO, to assess the County's stormwater infrastructure, prepare a plan to advance equity and climate resiliency in stormwater infrastructure improvements, and prepare communities for increased flood risk due to climate change.

It is important for all residents in Los Angeles County to live in a safe and resilient community. Resilient communities have an ability to adapt and thrive in response to changing conditions or disasters. Accelerating resilience to climate change means taking action now to build "adaptive capacity" within our human and infrastructure systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change defines adaptive capacity as, "the capacity of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences."¹

Growing adaptive capacity is particularly critical in areas of the County where climate vulnerabilities are highest, including low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Certain individuals are also unfairly burdened by both environmental and climate risks, such as children, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities and preexisting health conditions, individuals with limited English proficiency, and tribal and indigenous people.

With respect to infrastructure, increasing adaptive capacity will require investments that can withstand climate hazards, minimize disruption to essential services, and avoid

¹ MA, 2005: Appendix D: Glossary. In: Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Current States and Trends. Findings of the Condition and Trends Working Group [Hassan, R., R. Scholes and N. Ash(eds.)], Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), Island Press, Washington DC, USA, pp. 893-900.

cascading impacts to other dependent infrastructure systems. Resilient infrastructure increases the County's capacity to respond to the climate crisis and maintain continuity of operations and service to the public. Adaptive strategies must also include preparing communities for extreme weather and evolving threats in order to emerge stronger. The County plays a crucial role in helping residents understand their risks, build personal and community preparedness plans, and access resources to help them rebound.

The County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment was an important first step in science-based adaptation planning. By identifying climate vulnerability, we are positioned to build resilience and reduce impacts from climate change. The County must leverage the CVA to develop key adaptation strategies and actions to help prepare communities and infrastructure to be climate-ready. Having an interdepartmental working group within the County will allow departments to collaborate and consider multi-benefit and climate ready projects in our communities.

I WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Public Works, in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office, to work in collaboration with relevant County departments, including but not limited to, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Emergency Management:

- 1) To lead a countywide initiative to build resilience and adaptive capacity for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, with a focus on advancing equity and environmental justice. A working group will be formed to identify opportunities and investments that build resilience where vulnerabilities are highest, based on findings from the County's Climate

Vulnerability Assessment;

- 2) Utilize the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Mapping Tool to identify and prioritize vulnerable populations and communities most susceptible to the five key climate hazards - - extreme heat, wildfire, extreme precipitation and inland flooding, coastal flooding, and drought;
- 3) Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions;
- 4) Establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate-vulnerable communities and populations. Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information;
- 5) Identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity, including preparing residents for community-specific risks by identifying specific opportunities to improve early warning and public information systems regarding climate hazards, focused specifically on vulnerable communities (i.e. non-English speakers, the unhoused) through both official channels and collaboration with the media and community stakeholders to minimize climate vulnerability and quickly recover from climate disasters;
- 6) Identify and secure local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure investments that increase resiliency in climate vulnerable communities; and

7) Provide written reports every six months with updates on progress made and projects identified by the working group.

#

JH:dg



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

October 18, 2024

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

SPSO-0
10469-7-3

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, PE 
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF APRIL 18, 2023, AGENDA ITEM 7 BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT – OCTOBER 2024

On April 18, 2023, the Board instructed Public Works to lead a Countywide initiative to build resilience for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, while advancing equity and environmental justice. Extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding hazards are on the rise in Los Angeles County. Climate Ready Communities is about moving to action to address these five climate hazards in the unincorporated areas of the County. Public Works and the Chief Sustainability Office are co-leading this effort and have convened key County partners who are critical to reducing risk where climate vulnerabilities are highest.

The Board also directed Public Works to report back every 6 months on the progress. Attached is the third progress report summarizing accomplishments of the initiative to date. The next report will be provided in April 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Assistant Director Miki Esposito at (626) 458-4019 or mesposito@pw.lacounty.gov.

ME:tm

sharepoint.com/sites/pw-spsa/shared/docs/03_sustainability/programs/climate_ready_communities/pw/board/motion/reports/03_-_october_2024/2024.10.18_-_csc_memo_report_3.docx

Attach.

cc: Department of Beaches and Harbor (Gary Jones)
Chief Executive Office (Fesia Davenport, Kevin McGowan)
Chief Sustainability Office (Rita Kampalath)
Executive Office
Fire Department (Anthony Marrone)
Department of Parks and Recreation (Norma Garcia-Gonzalez)
Department of Public Health (Barbara Ferrer)
Department of Regional Planning (Amy Bodek)

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT ~ October 18, 2024

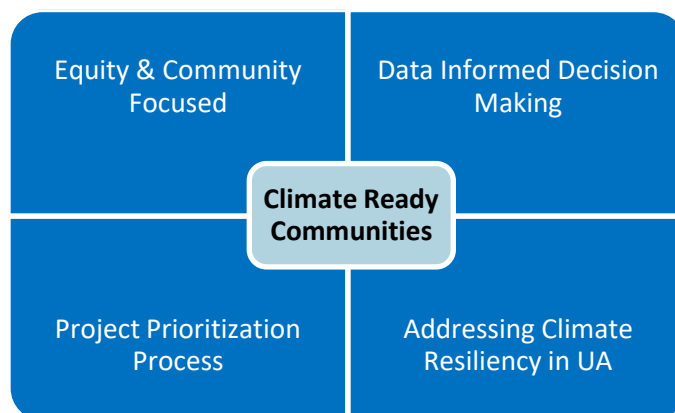
Executive Summary

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. In fact, FEMA rated Los Angeles County as the most susceptible county in the United States to natural disasters.¹ The County is on the frontline of the climate crisis and plays an important role in helping individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods understand their risks and build resilience.

The road to resilience requires an investment in preparing communities for evolving threats to emerge stronger. Climate Ready Communities (CRC), which the Board of Supervisors adopted on April 18, 2023, is an initiative to increase resiliency for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risk, while advancing equity and environmental justice, using data informed decision making, and prioritizing projects with limited resources. This work is about moving to action to tackle **five key climate hazards** in the unincorporated areas of the County - **extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding**.

CRC is aligned with and leverages existing County policies such as the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan, Equity in Infrastructure Initiative, the Parks Need Assessment Plus (PNA+), and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). Also, in line with the County's 2024 Strategic Plan's mission statement which seeks to "*establish superior services through inter-departmental and cross-sector collaboration that measurably improves the quality of life for the people and communities of Los Angeles County*," CRC seeks to work across nearly eight departments and work with nearly 15 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to complete this effort.

Figure 1 - Climate Ready Communities Framework



¹ <https://hazards.fema.gov/nri/>

Organizational Framework

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) has been meeting on a regular basis to guide the direction of the CRC. In addition, presentations about CRC were given to Board Deputies at the Community Services Cluster meeting on May 22, 2024, and the Board of Supervisors Environmental Deputies meeting on July 1, 2024. Through this collaboration, CRC is leveraging existing and upcoming efforts across all departments to provide efficient, cost-effective service and solutions for our most vulnerable unincorporated communities.

Executive Steering Committee

Co-Leads: Mark Pestrella, Public Works (PW)
Rita Kampalath, Chief Sustainability Office (CSO)

Members: Barbara Ferrer, Public Health (PH)
Amy Bodek, Regional Planning
Norma Edith García-González, Parks and Recreation
Kevin McGowan, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Gary Jones, Beaches and Harbor (DBH)
Anthony Marrone, Fire

Accomplishments

The **Equity** Group finalized the prioritized list of unincorporated area (UA) communities where social and climate vulnerability are the highest. It is critical that the CRC initiative intentionally focus action where people are most at risk for climate threats. This list of high priority communities for each climate risk is provided in the Equity section of this report and will be the priority communities for engagement efforts.

For each priority community, a local CBO or tribe will engage the community, verify the data, and gather feedback on infrastructure projects. The community engagement efforts will leverage existing engagement efforts, including the County Heat Action Plan (CHAP) and Cool Capital Stack project. Sea-level rise will be addressed by DBH's coastal resiliency initiatives and drought will be addressed by the County Water Plan's At-Risk Small Systems Task Force.

The **Infrastructure** Group has developed the CRC Climate Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project map, which identifies existing and upcoming climate related projects and programs across various Departments. The CIP in collaboration with the community engagement will help match the community needs with existing projects/programs. The CIP will also allow for cross departmental collaboration opportunities.

Regional Planning was recently awarded a Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), of which \$5.2 million is dedicated to the development of CIPs for the following Planning Areas: East San Gabriel Valley, Metro, South Bay, West San Gabriel Valley, and Westside. As a next step, the CRC CIP Project List will inform the development of the HUD-funded CIPs, which will be incorporated into the General Plan and address multiple County goals regarding climate resiliency, sustainability, and equity.

All these efforts will be summarized in a final **CRC Work Plan**. The CRC Work Plan will serve as an example for what a climate ready community in LA County should look like.

Finally, the **Funding** Group, in collaboration and close coordination with InfrastructureLA, is aware of approximately **\$1 billion in grants** that are pending or have been awarded to the Los Angeles region in the past six months including a \$500 million grant award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and a \$329 million grant award from the California Energy Commission (CEC) Equitable Building Decarbonization Grant program.

Equity & Community Engagement

OBJECTIVE(S)

- Establish a prioritized list of UA communities based on climate vulnerability.
- Conduct public outreach to build resilience and adaptive capacity for the people, communities, and infrastructure that are vulnerable to climate risk.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment

As indicated in the April 2023 Board Report, the Equity Group agreed to build upon the existing CVA process and incorporate new data while updating existing data so that it may provide additional insights to the social vulnerability index. Social vulnerability is composed of two inputs: social sensitivity index and climate hazard exposure. The result is that each community within the County falls into one overall relative risk category per climate risk. Figure 3 to Figure 7 include the final prioritized list of communities that are most vulnerable to each climate hazard. CRC will focus community engagement efforts in these communities.

To maximize resources and minimize redundancy to our communities, the CRC effort will coalesce various climate related community engagement efforts, such as the CSO's County Heat Action Plan and the Cool Capital Stack, into one unified effort as shown in Table 1. The CRC effort will also leverage the [PNA+](#), specifically, the Study Area Profiles, to inform CRC community engagement efforts. The overall goal of the community engagement effort is to work with existing community coalitions to seek input and integrate feedback about infrastructure projects.

For LA County operated beach facilities affected by sea-level rise or coastal flooding, DBH continues to work on advancing Living Shoreline projects to demonstrate nature based solutions to address coastal flooding issues. These adaptation projects will serve to build resilient beaches for both coastal residents who are directly impacted by sea-level rise and inland disadvantaged communities who rely on public beaches to escape from increasingly frequent extreme heat events. DBH held the second community/stakeholder engagement meeting on September 23, 2024, to gain input on demonstration projects and will continue to meet with stakeholders to review upcoming work product (e.g. early project design concepts including alternatives) for input and support. The goal for the stakeholder group is to solicit feedback and technical advice on resiliency solutions and join the coalition to help with fundraising and to help in educating the public about these important initiatives.

The County Water Plan (CWP) will address drought through their "At-Risk Small Systems Task Force." The drought priority communities (Figure 7) were developed by analyzing the California Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water Data² and the social vulnerability index. Most of the communities that are subject

² CA SAFER Drinking Water https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/safer_data.html

to drought are located in the Antelope Valley. These communities typically rely on a singular source of water with water quality issues and lack infrastructure redundancy. The Task Force seeks to develop infrastructure and administrative solutions to increase redundancy so that communities have access to reliable and safe water. The Task Force is funded by a grant from Senate Bill 552 and the County Water Plan has also partnered with UCLA – Luskin Center to support this effort. The Task Force met in September 2024 and will continue to meet regularly to address this climate risk.

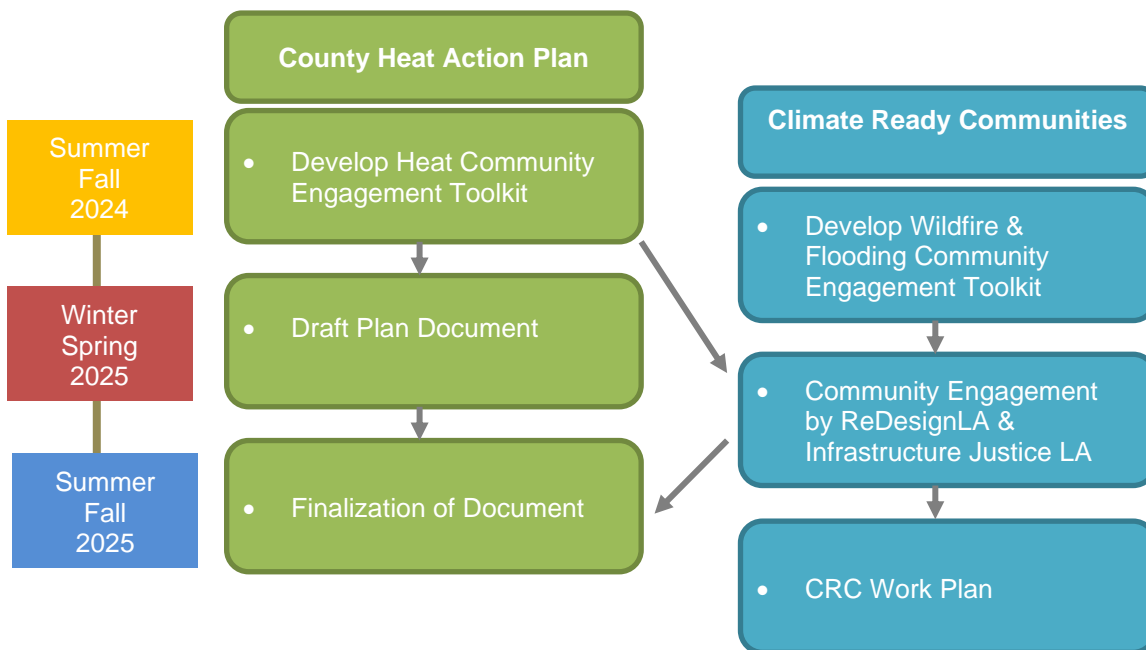
For the communities identified for sea-level rise and drought, DBH and CWP will perform community engagement in those communities specific to those climate hazards. The CRC CBO coalition will focus on acute climate risks - extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Community Engagement Collaboration

Program	County Heat Action Plan	Climate Ready Communities	Cool Capital Stack
Partners	Steering Committee (CBOs, cities, regional partners, academia)	ReDesign LA (CBO Coalition)	Infrastructure Justice LA (CBO Coalition) Metro
Focus	Extreme Heat Resilience County Wide	Climate Risk in Unincorporated LA County	Climate Risk in Unincorporated LA County
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Heat Engagement Toolkit County Heat Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Wildfire & Flooding Engagement Toolkit Perform Community Engagement in priority communities CRC Work Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform Community Engagement in priority communities Cool Capital Stack Project List
Schedule	Toolkit expected to be completed by early 2025	Start Community Engagement for Extreme Heat, Flooding, and Wildfire in 2025	Start Community Engagement for Extreme Heat, Flooding, and Wildfire in 2025
Funding		\$1M Grant from EPA	\$550k Grant from State

Figure 2 below describes the proposed interaction between the three engagement efforts.

Figure 2 - Community Engagement Framework



Figures 3 thru 5 below show the priority communities for extreme heat, wildfire, and flooding along with their associated community engagement lead from ReDesignLA or Infrastructure Justice LA.

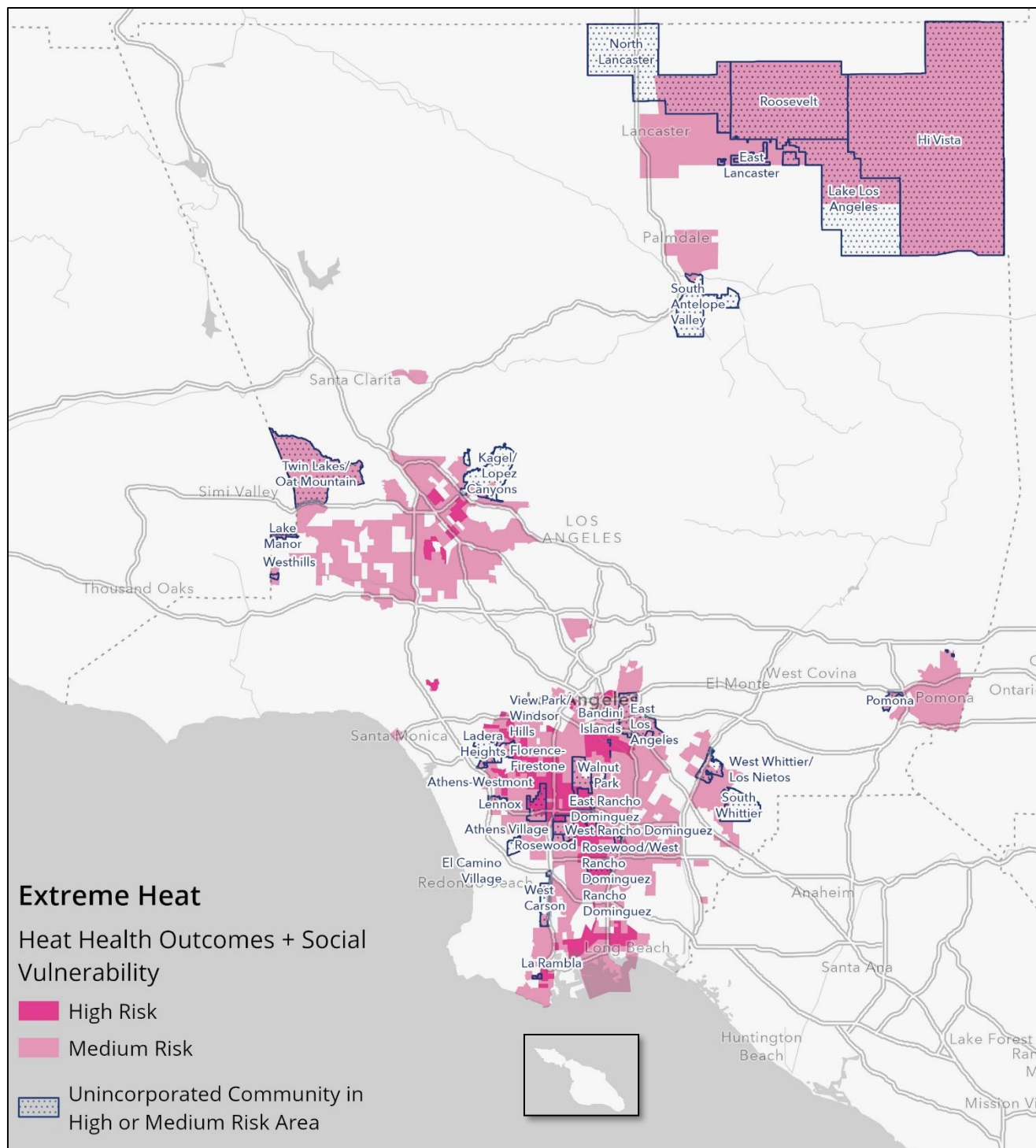


Figure 3 - Extreme Heat Communities

UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
East Los Angeles	1	East Yards
		Promesa Boyle Heights
Florence-Firestone	2	River in Action
		Nature for All
Athens-Westmont	2	Infrastructure Justice LA
Willowbrook	2	East Yards
Lennox	2	Infrastructure Justice LA
Ladera Heights	2	TBD
West Whittier Los Nietos	4	Infrastructure Justice LA
Walnut Park	4	East Yards
		River in Action
Altadena	5	Active SGV
		Day One
Castaic	5	Fernandeño
Lake Hughes	5	Tataviam Band of
Agua Dulce	5	Mission Indians (FTBMI)
Little Rock	5	Tataviam Land Conservancy
Pearblossom		

Note: Infrastructure Justice LA CBOs are tentative

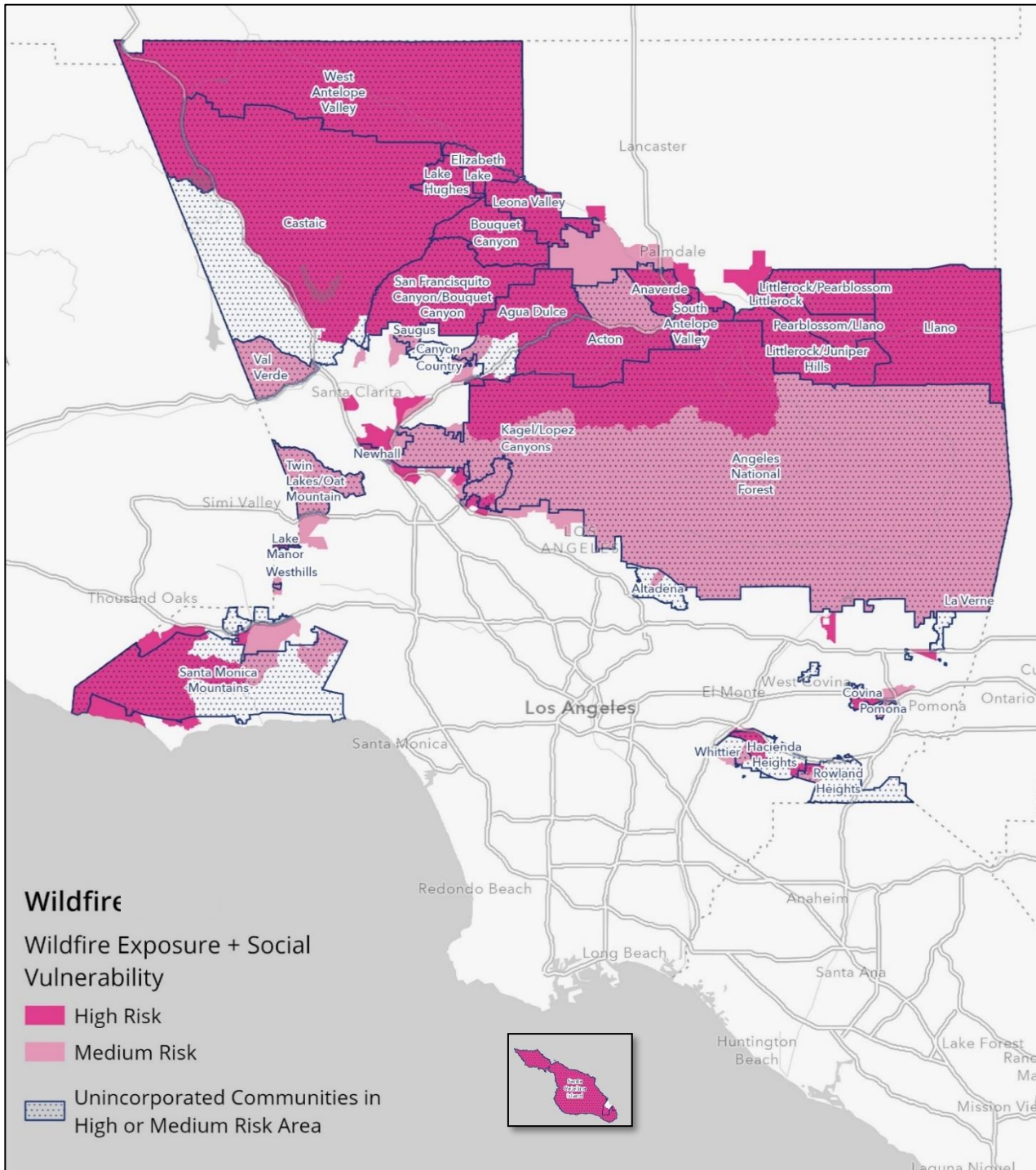


Figure 4 - Wildfire Communities

UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
Santa Monica Mountains	3	TBD
Hacienda Heights	1	Active SGV
Rowland Heights	1	
Altadena	5	Active SGV Day One
Castaic/Lake Hughes	5	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) Tataviam Land Conservancy
Kagel/Lopez Canyon	5	
Acton	5	
Val Verde	5	
La Crescenta-Montrose	5	
Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5	
Agua Dulce	5	

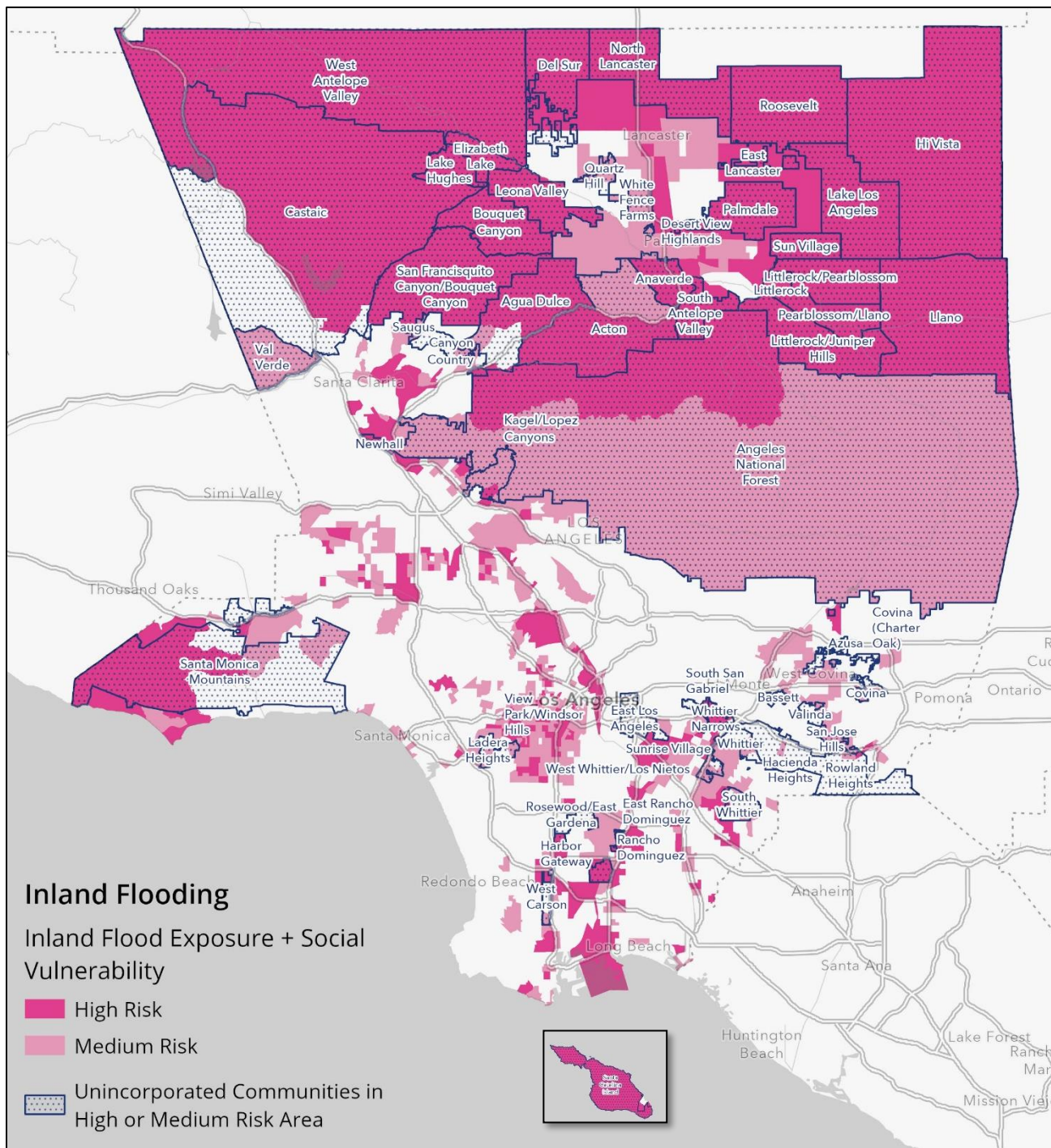
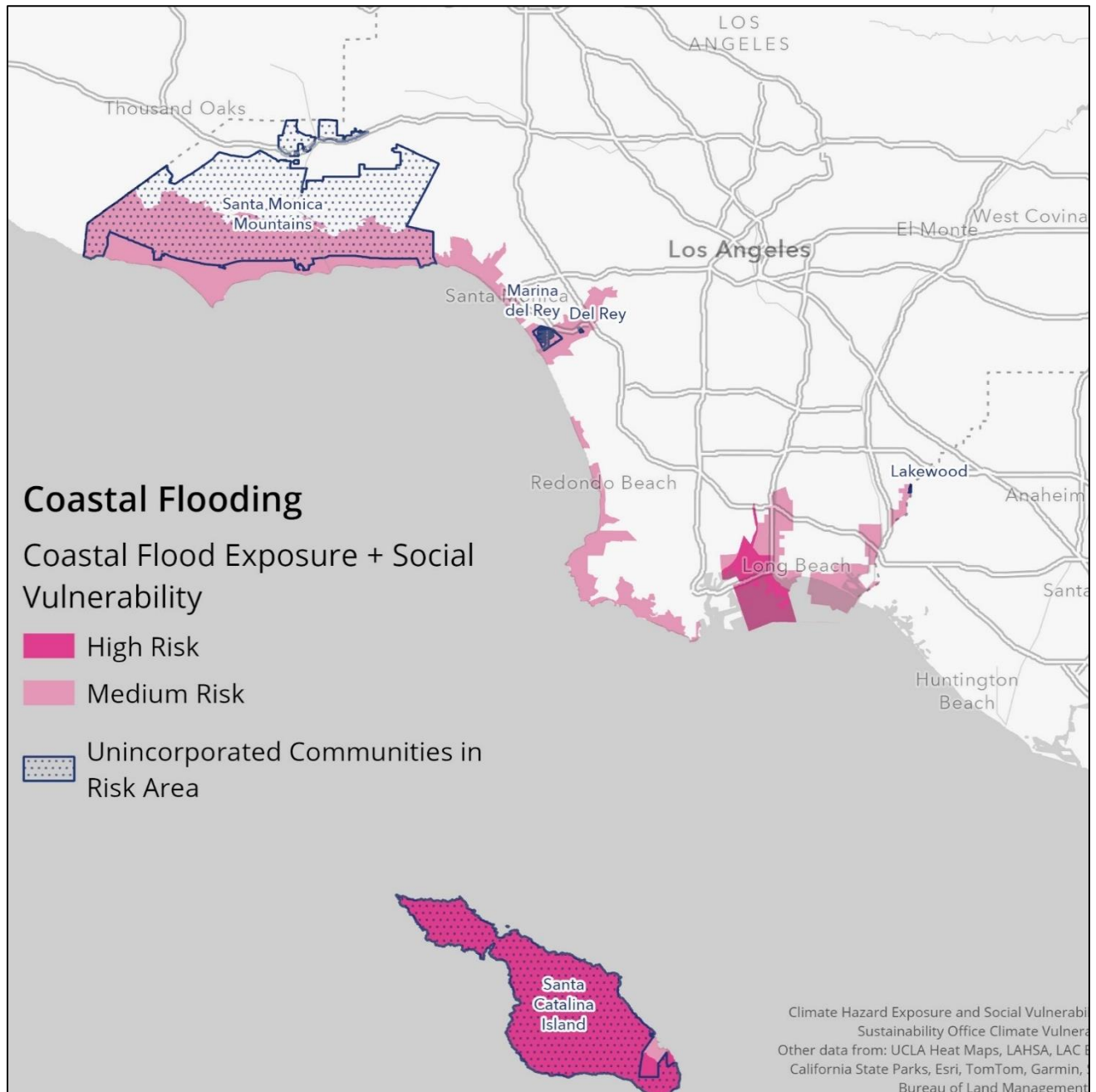


Figure 5 - Inland Flooding Communities

UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
East Rancho Dominguez	2	Infrastructure Justice LA
Ladera Heights	2	TBD
W. Carson	2	Infrastructure Justice LA
Santa Monica Mountains	3	TBD
South Whittier	4	Infrastructure Justice LA
Castaic/Lake Hughes	5	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) Tataviam Land Conservancy
Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5	
Agua Dulce	5	
Acton	5	

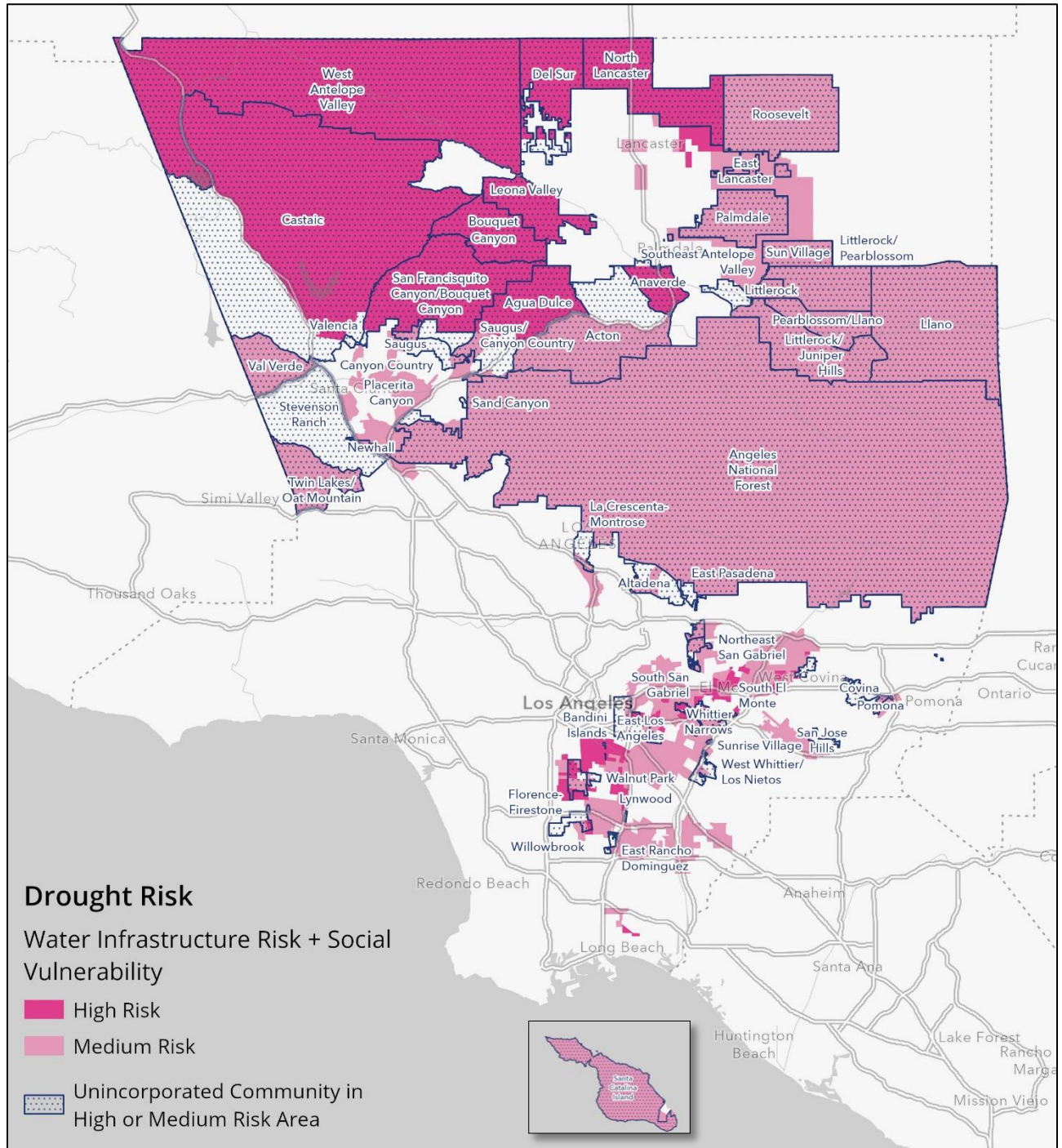
Note: Infrastructure Justice LA CBOs are tentative

Figure 6 - Sea Level Rise Communities



Marina del Rey is the only UA community that is subject to coastal flooding or sea-level rise. Santa Catalina Island and Santa Monica Mountains census tracts were identified as vulnerable communities in the data analysis; however, these communities are located at higher elevations and are not expected to experience sea-level rise impacts. Coastal exposure to sea-level rise at DBH managed facilities will be addressed by DBH led sea-level rise adaptation projects and coastal resiliency initiatives.

Figure 7 - Drought Risk Communities



Infrastructure

OBJECTIVE(S)

- Develop a Climate Capital Improvement Program that prioritizes climate infrastructure projects across all County Departments.
- Develop a CRC Work Plan that serves as an example of a Climate Ready Community.

Capital Improvement Program

The CRC Working Group has been collecting existing and planned climate related projects and programs across various County Departments including DBH, Parks, Regional Planning, and CSO. This collection of projects have been inputted into the [Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) Project Map](#)⁵. The goals of the CIP are as follows:

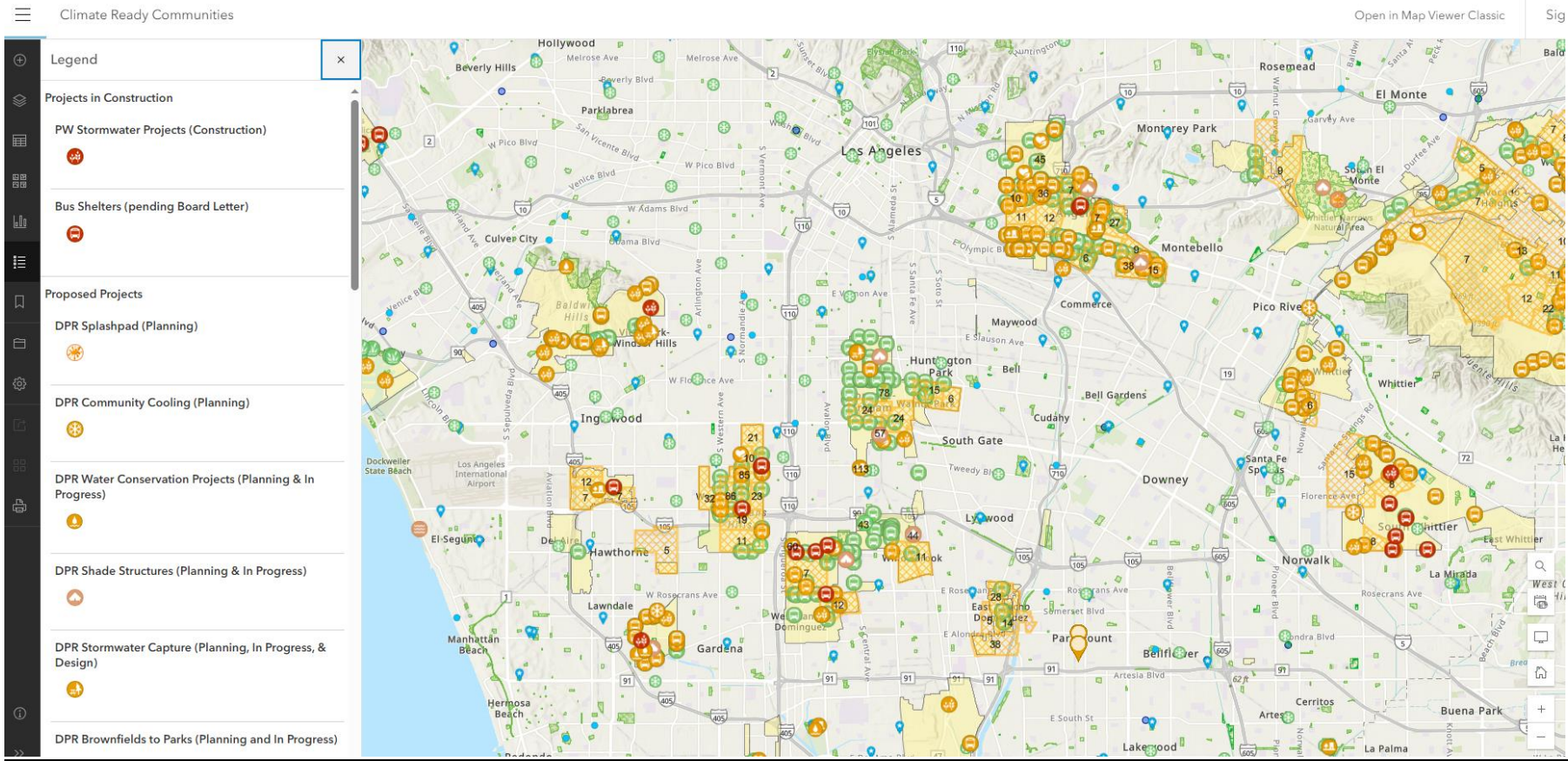
1. Identify existing and planned climate related infrastructure
2. Engage communities regarding upcoming projects
3. Identify inter-departmental collaboration opportunities

Various projects/programs and projects in need of funding have been mapped including the projects below. A screenshot of the map is show in Figure 8.

- Safe Clean Water Program multi-benefit stormwater capture projects
- Existing and planned bus shelters
- Parks and Recreation combination of existing, planned and projects in need of funding for interventions such as splash pads, cooling center, water conservation projects, shade structures, restoration of brownfields
- Beaches and Harbor's Coastal Resilience living shoreline adaptation projects
- Tree Planting Locations within public right-of-way and within County parks
- LA County Flood Control District – flood control projects

Regional Planning was recently awarded a PRO Housing grant from the HUD, of which \$5.2 million is dedicated to the development of CIPs for the following Planning Areas: East San Gabriel Valley, Metro, South Bay, West San Gabriel Valley, and Westside. The CIPs will support implementation of rezoning efforts and furthering fair housing goals. As a next step, the CRC CIP Project List will inform the development of the HUD-funded CIPs, which will be incorporated into the General Plan and address multiple County goals regarding climate resiliency, sustainability, and equity

Figure 8 - Climate Ready Communities: Capital Improvement Program Map



Climate Ready Communities Work Plan

All the efforts from the equity prioritization, the community engagement, infrastructure project development, to funding opportunities will be summarized in a final CRC Work Plan. The CRC Work Plan will serve as an example for what a climate ready community should look like.

The CRC Work Plan will include a comprehensive summary of the climate related efforts including the Coastal Resiliency Plan, County Heat Action Plan, and others as shown in Figure 9. The CRC Work Plan is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.

Figure 9 - CRC Work Plan



Climate Ready Public Works Roadmap

As part of CRC, PW is embarking on a specific effort called the Climate Ready Public Works Roadmap (Roadmap), which aims to embed sustainability, resiliency, and equity into PW's operations and ensure PW's infrastructure and services build adaptive capacity in the communities they serve. This PW Roadmap can also be incorporated into the CRC Work Plan.

The Roadmap Objectives include:

- Improve resiliency, sustainability, and equity in all of PW operations.
- Ensure our infrastructure and services build adaptive capacity in the communities we serve.
- Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions.
- Develop funding and financing strategies to implement climate ready communities.

PW is currently developing the Roadmap and will provide updates in future reports.

LA County-wide Climate Resilience Strategy

CSO will lead the development of a County-wide climate resilience strategy which aims to advance climate resilience for the entire County including UA and incorporated cities. The CRC Work Plan will serve as a foundation of the climate resilience strategy, which will be led by the newly appointed Climate Resilience Officer (CRO)³. The climate resilience strategy will be developed through the revision process of the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, and is expected to be completed in Fall 2025 as part of the OurCounty revision.

³ February 15, 2022 – Climate Resiliency Initiative
<https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/166296.pdf>

Funding

OBJECTIVE(S)

- Evaluate innovative funding strategies, including potential grant programs, to fund CRC implementation efforts.

Grant Summary

Below is a list of grant awards or pending applications related to sustainability and climate resiliency that total **nearly one billion dollars that the County** has been involved with in the past six months.

Table 2 – LA County Climate Resiliency Grants

Name	Project	Awarded Amount	Partners
EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	Greenhouse Gas Reduction – Transportation & Goods Movement	\$500 M	South Coast AQMD (LA, San Bernadino, Riverside, Orange Counties)
Urban and Community Forestry	Community Forest Management Plan	\$8 M	PW, Department of Economic Opportunity, CSO, Parks, Public Health (PH)
EPA Environmental & Justice Community Change	Puente Hills Environmental Justice Center	\$20 M (Submitted)	Parks, PW
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, & Cost Savings Transportation (PROTECT)	Resilient Castaic – Santa Clarita Valley	\$3.2 M	Public Works, Sheriff
Reconnecting Communities & Neighborhood	Belvedere Park /60 Freeway Cap	\$800 K	Parks, PW, Regional Planning
	Humphreys Avenue Crossing	\$10 M	PW, Metro
Safe Streets for All	LA County Various (Round 3)	\$29 M	PW, PH
Carbon Reduction Program	South Whittier Community Bikeway	\$17 M	PW
DOE Energy Futures Grant	EV Equity Workforce Program	\$500k	ISD
Equitable Building Decarbonization	Southern CA Equitable Building Decarbonization	\$329M	40+ CBO, LA to Riverside to San Diego and Imperial counties
DOT Charging Infrastructure	Charging Infrastructure	\$15 M	Internal Services Department (ISD), City of LA, Metro
Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant	Energy in County buildings	\$1.34 M	ISD
Extreme Heat and Community Resiliency Program	Cool Amenities at City Terrace Park, Obregon Park, & Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area	\$3.4 M (Submitted)	Parks & CBO partners
California Ocean Protection Council SB1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant	Los Angeles County Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan	\$1 M (Submitted)	DBH

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND LINDSEY HORVATH

April 18, 2023

Building Climate Ready Communities and Infrastructure in Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County is experiencing more extreme and severe weather patterns due to climate change. Natural disasters such as drought, wildfire, mudflows, heat storms, intense rainfall, and flooding events are on the rise, and will predominately affect vulnerable populations and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Extreme weather events also pose a variety of threats to public infrastructure, which connects and protects the people we serve.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken action to respond to the dangers presented by climate change. In August 2019, the Board unanimously adopted the “OurCounty Sustainability Plan” outlining a bold, inclusive, and regional vision to address the most pressing environmental issues impacting present and future generations. To advance this vision, the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO) prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) that examines the impacts of climate events on vulnerable communities, populations, and infrastructure. In April 2022, the Board directed the

MOTION

SOLIS

MITCHELL

HORVATH

BARGER

HAHN

Department of Public Health to create the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health as a central hub for health focused environmental justice and climate health goals. In addition, the Board recently directed the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the CSO, to assess the County's stormwater infrastructure, prepare a plan to advance equity and climate resiliency in stormwater infrastructure improvements, and prepare communities for increased flood risk due to climate change.

It is important for all residents in Los Angeles County to live in a safe and resilient community. Resilient communities have an ability to adapt and thrive in response to changing conditions or disasters. Accelerating resilience to climate change means taking action now to build "adaptive capacity" within our human and infrastructure systems. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change defines adaptive capacity as, "the capacity of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences."¹

Growing adaptive capacity is particularly critical in areas of the County where climate vulnerabilities are highest, including low-income communities and communities of color disproportionately burdened by systemic inequities. Certain individuals are also unfairly burdened by both environmental and climate risks, such as children, the elderly, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities and preexisting health conditions, individuals with limited English proficiency, and tribal and indigenous people.

With respect to infrastructure, increasing adaptive capacity will require investments that can withstand climate hazards, minimize disruption to essential services, and avoid

¹ MA, 2005: Appendix D: Glossary. In: Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Current States and Trends. Findings of the Condition and Trends Working Group [Hassan, R., R. Scholes and N. Ash(eds.)], Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), Island Press, Washington DC, USA, pp. 893-900.

cascading impacts to other dependent infrastructure systems. Resilient infrastructure increases the County's capacity to respond to the climate crisis and maintain continuity of operations and service to the public. Adaptive strategies must also include preparing communities for extreme weather and evolving threats in order to emerge stronger. The County plays a crucial role in helping residents understand their risks, build personal and community preparedness plans, and access resources to help them rebound.

The County's Climate Vulnerability Assessment was an important first step in science-based adaptation planning. By identifying climate vulnerability, we are positioned to build resilience and reduce impacts from climate change. The County must leverage the CVA to develop key adaptation strategies and actions to help prepare communities and infrastructure to be climate-ready. Having an interdepartmental working group within the County will allow departments to collaborate and consider multi-benefit and climate ready projects in our communities.

I WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of the Department of Public Works, in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office, to work in collaboration with relevant County departments, including but not limited to, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Emergency Management:

- 1) To lead a countywide initiative to build resilience and adaptive capacity for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, with a focus on advancing equity and environmental justice. A working group will be formed to identify opportunities and investments that build resilience where vulnerabilities are highest, based on findings from the County's Climate

Vulnerability Assessment;

- 2) Utilize the Climate Vulnerability Assessment Mapping Tool to identify and prioritize vulnerable populations and communities most susceptible to the five key climate hazards - - extreme heat, wildfire, extreme precipitation and inland flooding, coastal flooding, and drought;
- 3) Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions;
- 4) Establish and work with existing community coalitions through public engagement efforts that seek to integrate input and feedback from climate-vulnerable communities and populations. Maintain transparency on the efforts being made by developing a public-facing dashboard to serve as a repository for resiliency data and information;
- 5) Identify specific infrastructure solutions and adaptation strategies to accelerate adaptive capacity, including preparing residents for community-specific risks by identifying specific opportunities to improve early warning and public information systems regarding climate hazards, focused specifically on vulnerable communities (i.e. non-English speakers, the unhoused) through both official channels and collaboration with the media and community stakeholders to minimize climate vulnerability and quickly recover from climate disasters;
- 6) Identify and secure local, state, and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure investments that increase resiliency in climate vulnerable communities; and

7) Provide written reports every six months with updates on progress made and projects identified by the working group.

#

JH:dg



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>


ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

April 18, 2025

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

SPSO-0
10469-7-4

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella, PE 
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF APRIL 18, 2023, AGENDA ITEM 7 BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL 2025

On April 18, 2023, the Board instructed Public Works to lead a Countywide initiative to build resilience for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risks, while advancing equity and environmental justice. Extreme heat, wildfire, drought, inland flooding, and coastal flooding hazards are on the rise in Los Angeles County. Climate Ready Communities is about moving to action to address these five climate hazards in the unincorporated areas of the County. Public Works and the Chief Sustainability Office are co-leading this effort and have convened key County partners who are critical to reducing risk where climate vulnerabilities are highest.

The Board also directed Public Works to report back every 6 months on the progress. Attached is the fourth progress report summarizing accomplishments of the initiative to date. The next report will be provided in October 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Assistant Director Miki Esposito at (626) 458-4019 or mesposito@pw.lacounty.gov.

ME:tm

sharepoint.com/sites/pw-spsa/shared/docs/03_sustainability/programs/climate ready communities pw/board motion/reports/03 - october 2024/2024.10.18 - crc memo report 3.docx

Attach.

cc: Department of Beaches and Harbor (Gary Jones)
Chief Executive Office (Fesia Davenport, Kevin McGowan)
Chief Sustainability Office (Rita Kampalath)
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Fire (Anthony Marrone)
Parks and Recreation (Norma Garcia-Gonzalez)
Public Health (Barbara Ferrer)
Regional Planning (Amy Bodek)

BUILDING CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT ~ April 18, 2025

Executive Summary

In the wake of the devastating January wildfires, Los Angeles (LA) County is irrefutably on the frontline of the climate crisis. According to a new study¹ from World Weather Attribution (WWA), the hot, dry, and windy conditions that caused the Palisades and Eaton fires were 35 percent more likely due to human-induced climate change. From May 2024 to January 2025, the region only received 0.16 inches of rain and recorded its hottest summer in 130 years.² The heat and drought conditions of late 2024 followed above-average rainfall from two prior winters (2022-23 and 2023-24) which encouraged significant vegetation growth that turned to wildfire fuel after the protracted hot, dry period. These climate extremes set the stage for a significant conflagration event that burned 37,000 acres, destroyed over 16,000 structures, claimed at least 29 lives, and shattered thousands of livelihoods. Even more troubling than the devastation is the climate trend that is predicted to continue in LA County.³

In addition, the wildfires led to major economic losses. Preliminary estimates put economic impacts anywhere between \$250 billion to \$275 billion.⁴ The fires caused extensive damage to homes and businesses, setting a potential record for wildfire-related insurance claims⁵ in the U.S. Moreover, the destruction of thousands of homes exacerbated the housing shortage in Southern California.⁶ In fact, some landlords increased rents by 20 percent, violating California's price gouging laws which prohibit hikes of more than 10 percent during emergencies.⁷ Infrastructure losses, including public buildings, water, sewer, roads, and power, are still being assessed but could be in the billions. The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation estimates the loss of economic output over the next five years to be upwards of \$8.9 billion.⁸ These financial costs surpass most climate disasters in the U.S. with the exception of 2005 Hurricane Katrina, which cost an estimated \$200 billion.⁹

The County plays a critical role in helping individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods understand their risks and build resilience. Climate Ready Communities (CRC), which the Board of Supervisors adopted on April 18, 2023, is an initiative to increase resiliency for people, communities, and infrastructure vulnerable to climate risk, while advancing equity and environmental justice, using data informed decision making, and prioritizing projects with limited resources. This work is about moving to action to tackle **five key climate hazards** in the unincorporated areas of the County - **wildfire, drought, extreme heat, inland flooding, and coastal flooding**.

¹ [Climate change increased the likelihood of wildfire disaster in highly exposed Los Angeles area – World Weather Attribution](#), January 28, 2025.

² [U.S. sweltered through its 4th-hottest summer on record | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), September 10, 2024.

³ [Why California and the West could face a 'big fire season' later this year](#), MSN, April 7, 2025.

⁴ [AccuWeather estimates more than \\$250 billion in damages and economic loss from LA wildfires](#), January 13, 2025.

⁵ [Insurance Industry Stares at Potential Record Breaking Losses After Los Angeles Wildfires](#), Reuters, January 13, 2025

⁶ [Los Angeles County 2024 Affordable Housing Needs Report](#), California Housing Partnership, May 2024

⁷ [Rent rose by 20 percent across LA County after fires. That's illegal](#), Washington Post, January 25, 2025. /

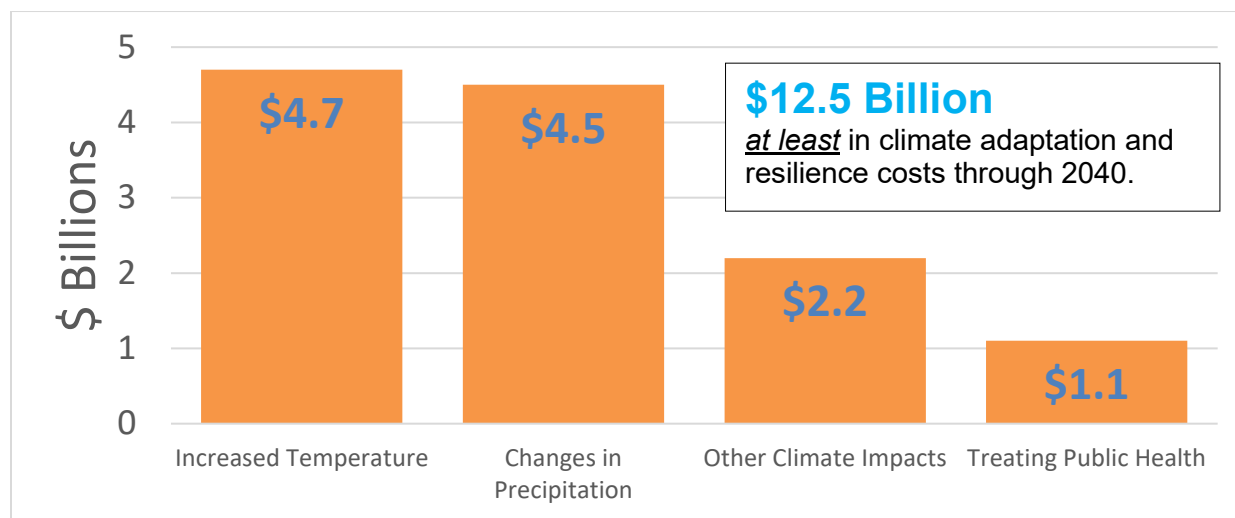
⁸ [2025 LA Wildfires and Comparative Study – Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation](#), February 2025.

⁹ [Estimated cost of fire damage balloons to more than \\$250 billion - Los Angeles Times](#), January 24, 2025.

The Cost of Climate Change

The study from the Center for Climate Integrity¹⁰ outlines the financial burden that LA County faces in addressing climate change impacts. The report calculates that the LA County region will need **\$12.5 billion to protect its communities from climate threats like heatwaves, floods, wildfires, rising seas, and health risks by 2040** as shown in Figure 1. This first-ever study evaluates the costs to mitigate fourteen different climate impacts, emphasizing the growing urgency of climate adaptation and resilience projects. Some key findings from the report:

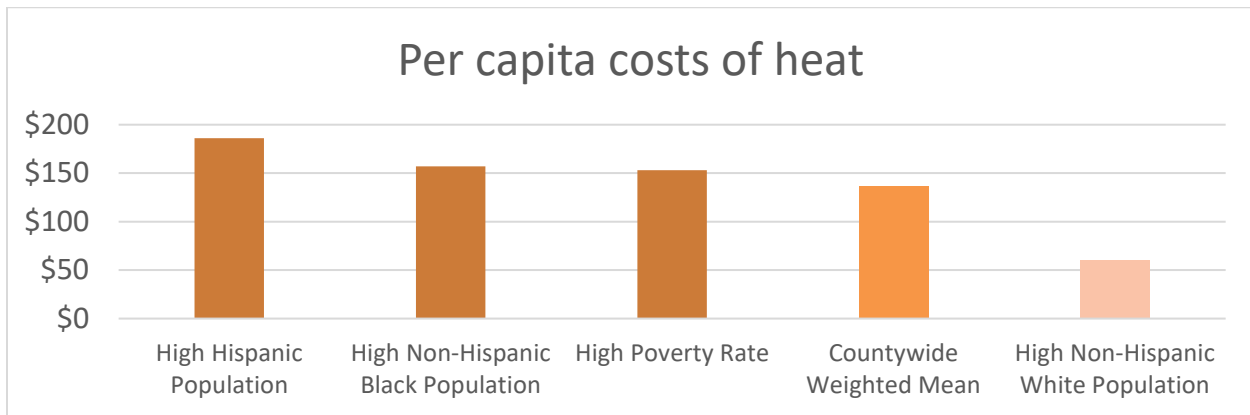
Figure 1 - Cost of Climate Change



- Combating **floods** from increased precipitation and more severe storms is the **most expensive climate cost** identified facing communities in LA County. Investing in stormwater drainage infrastructure to manage increased precipitation will cost communities \$4.3 billion from 2024 through 2040
- The second most expensive climate adaptation measure identified is the cost to address **urban heat islands** — areas where heat is intensified because of the near total absence of trees or green space, allowing buildings and roads to absorb, intensify, and radiate the sun's heat, making these areas up to 20°F hotter than surrounding, less urbanized areas. To help counteract rising temperatures, it will cost \$1.4 billion to plant and maintain urban trees.
- The burden of life-threatening heat does not fall equally across LA County communities. **Lower income and higher diversity communities** disproportionately lack green spaces that can cool urban environments, meaning these same populations **will face the highest per capita costs to combat worsening heat islands**. The analysis confirmed that the costs of adapting to climate impacts, particularly heat, are greatest in communities of color and those with lower income as shown in Figure 2.

¹⁰ [Los Angeles County's Climate Cost Challenge | Center for Climate Integrity](#)

Figure 2 - Equity Impacts for Climate Change



percent percent

CRC is aligned with and leverages existing County policies such as the OurCounty Sustainability Plan, the Los Angeles County Climate Action Plan, Equity in Infrastructure Initiative, the Parks Need Assessment Plus (PNA+), and the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). Also, in line with the County's 2024 Strategic Plan's mission statement which seeks to *"establish superior services through inter-departmental and cross-sector collaboration that measurably improves the quality of life for the people and communities of Los Angeles County,"* CRC seeks to work across nearly eight departments and work with nearly 15 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to complete this effort.

The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) has been meeting on a regular basis to guide the direction of the CRC. The priority communities have been identified through the CVA and the priority projects are being identified through the Climate Capital Improvement Program (CIP). However, the key **challenge that was identified was funding. How do we pay for resiliency investments before disaster strikes?** It is critical to invest in infrastructure as mitigation measures save \$6 from disaster recovery for every \$1 spent on mitigation¹¹. The report will focus on the various funding options available for LA County.

Priority Climate Vulnerable Communities

As indicated in the October 2024 Board Report, CRC will continue to build upon the existing CVA tool to identify priority vulnerable communities and focus community engagement efforts on these communities. Figure 3 to Figure 7 include the final prioritized list of communities that are most vulnerable to each climate hazard.

To maximize resources and minimize redundancy to our communities, the CRC effort will coalesce various climate related community engagement efforts, such as the Chief Sustainability Office's (CSO) County Heat Action Plan (CHAP), CSO's Cool Capital Stack, Beaches & Harbors' (DBH) Coastal Resilience Plan, and the County Water Plan (CWP) into one unified engagement effort. The overall goal of the community engagement effort is to work with existing community coalitions to seek input and integrate feedback about infrastructure projects into a final CRC Work Plan. The community engagement for the 15 CBOs led by ReDesignLA is expected to start in summer 2025.

¹¹ [FEMA – Natural Hazard Mitigation Report](#)

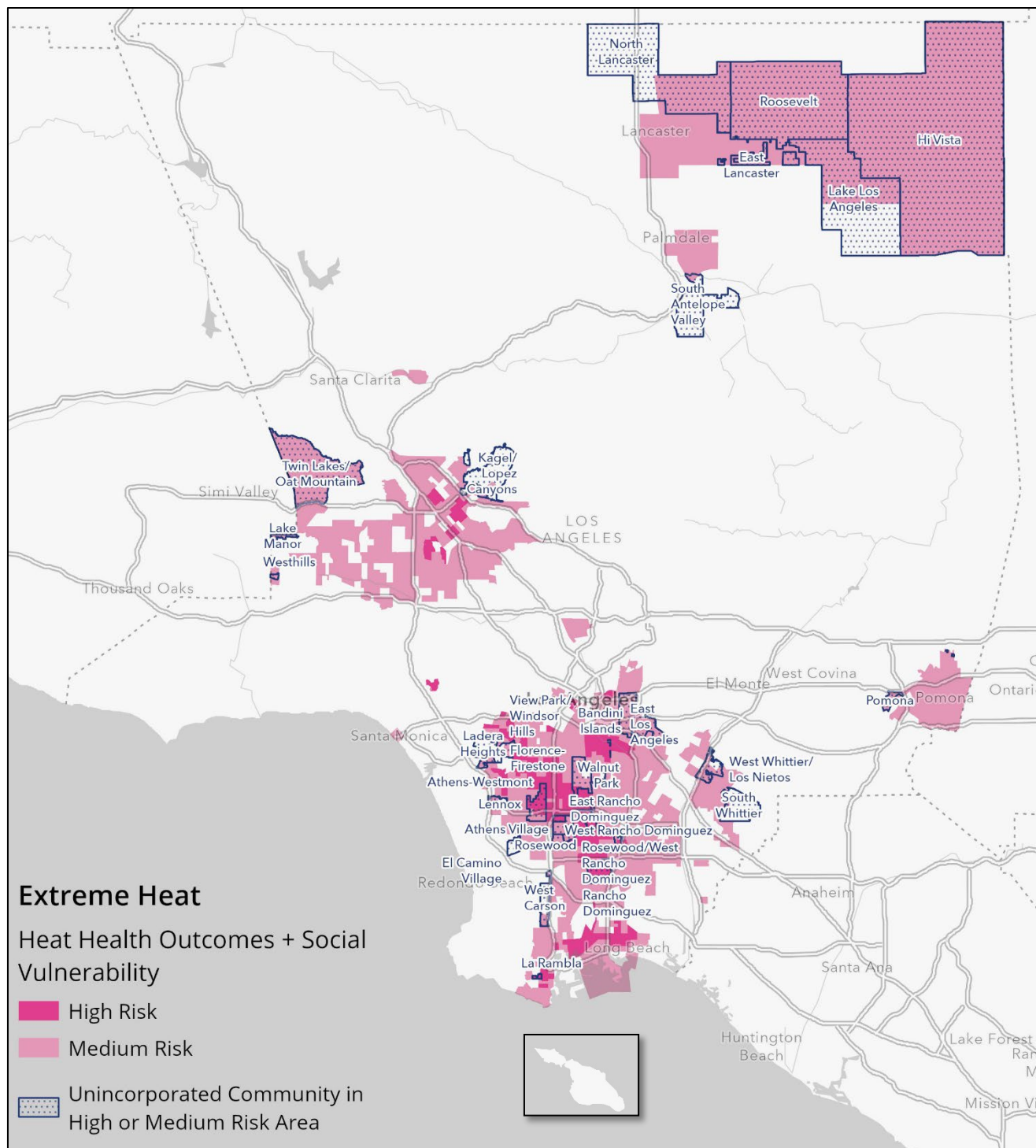


Figure 3 - Extreme Heat Communities

UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
East Los Angeles	1	East Yards
		Promesa Boyle Heights
		Climate Resolve
Florence-Firestone	2	River in Action
		Nature for All
Athens-Westmont	2	TBD
Willowbrook	2	East Yards
Lennox	2	TBD
Ladera Heights	2	TBD
West Whittier	4	Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Los Nietos	4	East Yards
Walnut Park	4	River in Action
		Active SGV
Altadena	5	Day One
Castaic	5	Fernandeño
Lake Hughes	5	Tataviam Band of
Agua Dulce	5	Mission Indians (FTBMI)
Little Rock	5	Tataviam Land Conservancy
Pearblossom		

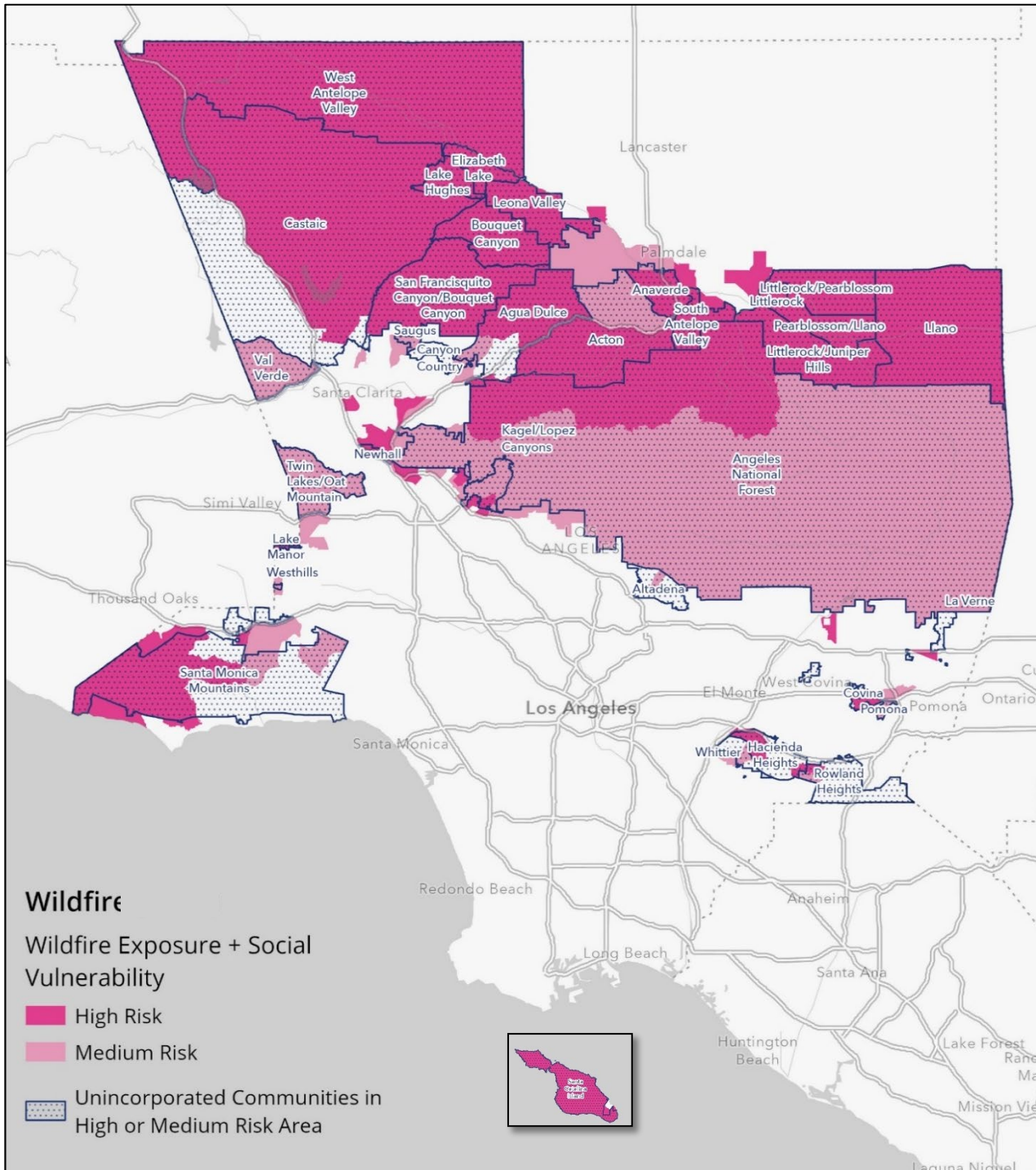


Figure 4 - Wildfire Communities

UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
Santa Monica Mountains	3	TBD
Hacienda Heights	1	Active SGV
Rowland Heights	1	
Altadena	5	Active SGV Day One
Castaic/Lake Hughes	5	Tataviam Land Conservancy
Kagel/Lopez Canyon	5	
Acton	5	
Val Verde	5	
La Crescenta-Montrose	5	
Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5	
Agua Dulce	5	

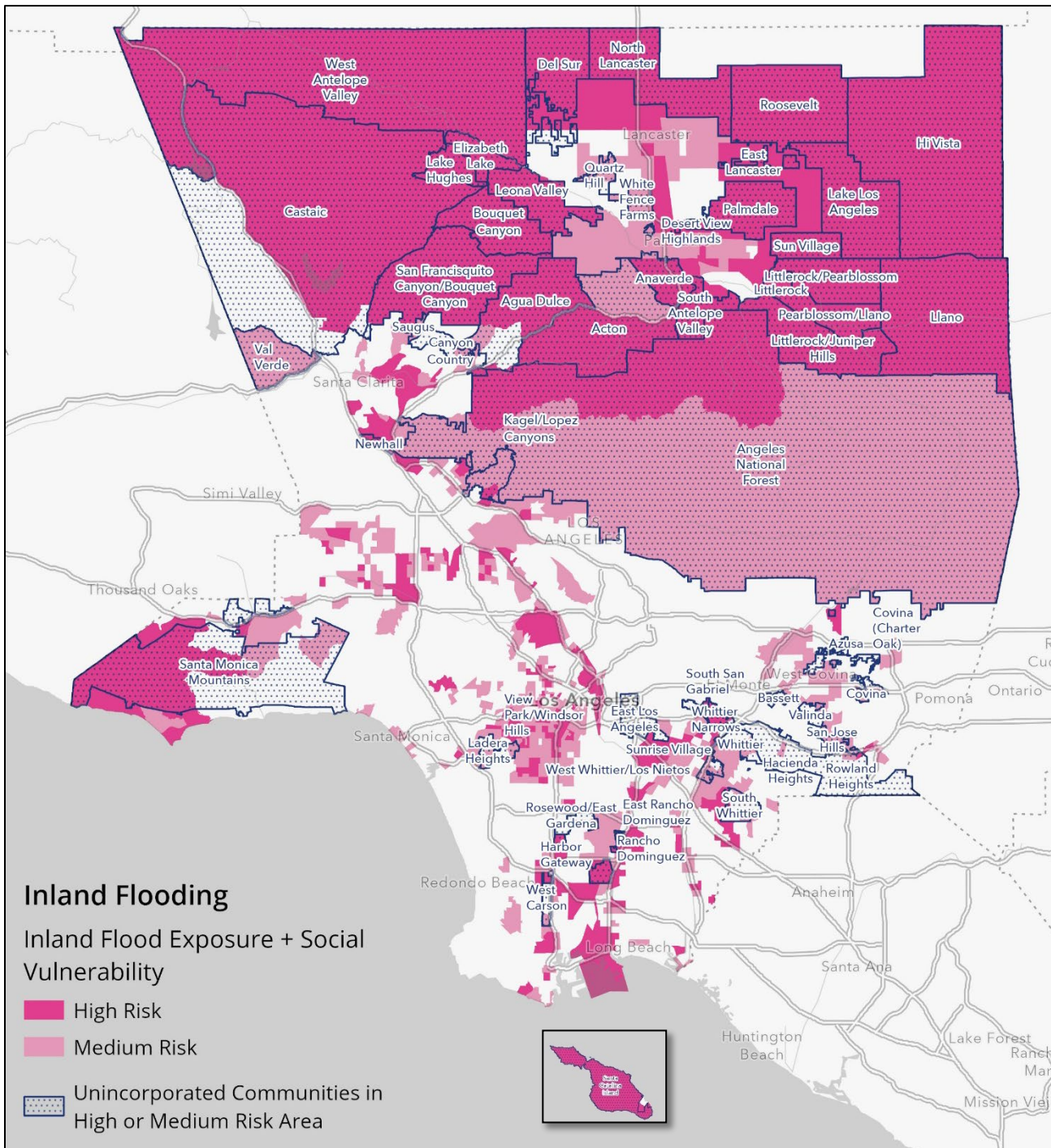
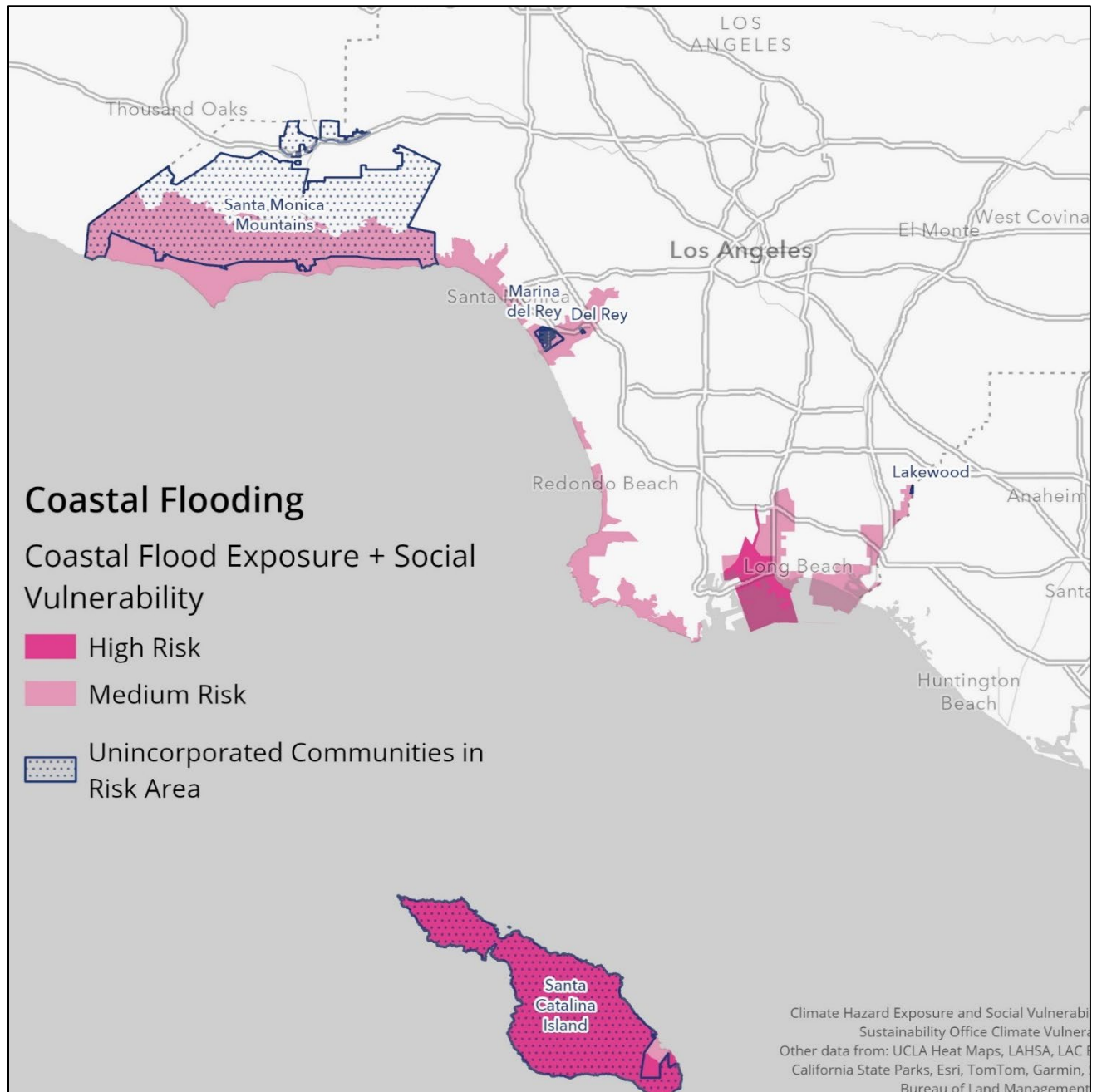


Figure 5 - Inland Flooding Communities

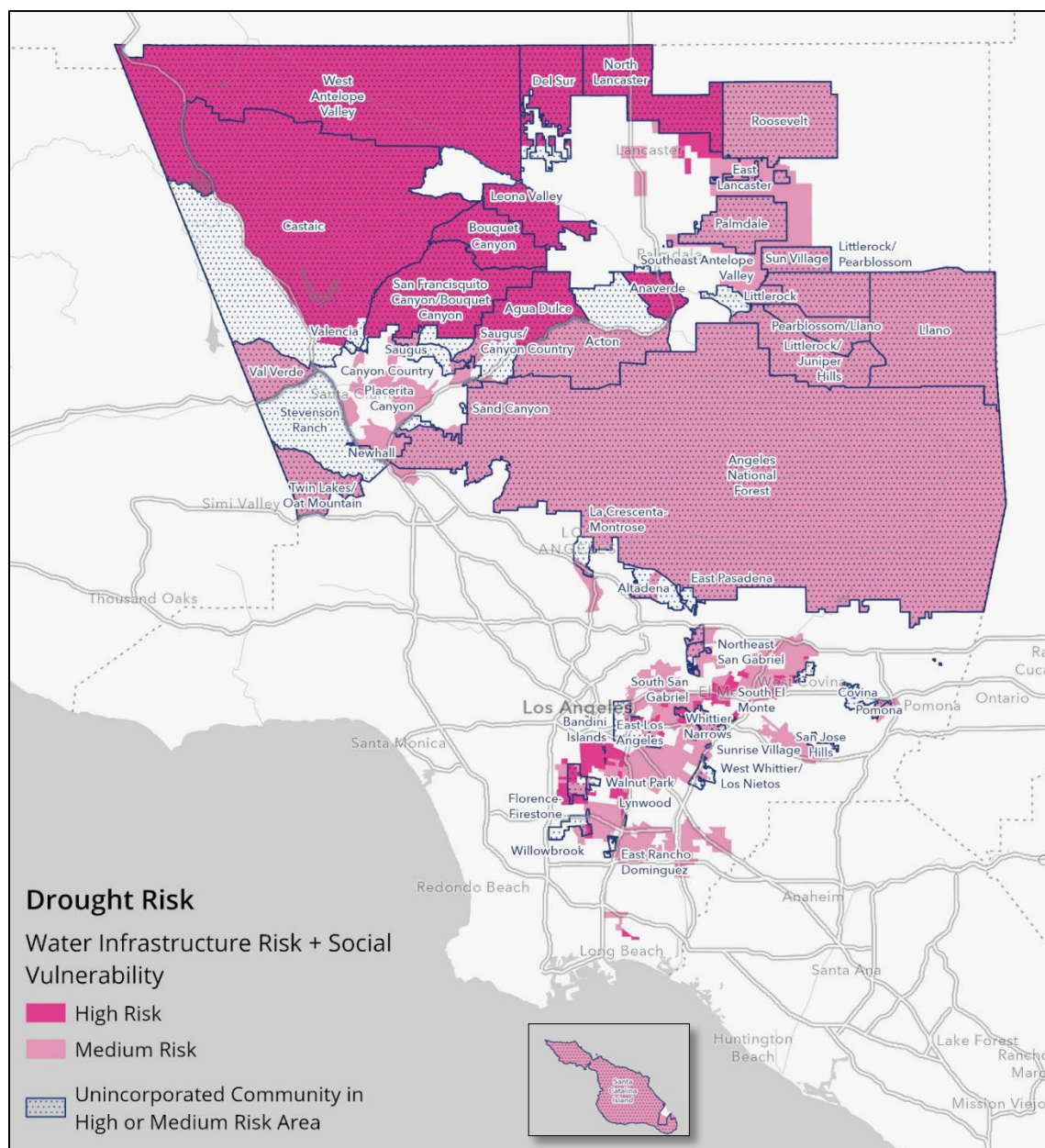
UA Community	SD	Community Engagement Lead
East Rancho Dominguez	2	TBD
Ladera Heights	2	TBD
W. Carson	2	TBD
Santa Monica Mountains	3	TBD
South Whittier	4	Conservation Corps of Long Beach
Castaic/Lake Hughes	5	FTBMI
Little Rock/Pearlblossom	5	Tataviam Land Conservancy
Agua Dulce	5	
Acton	5	

Figure 6 - Sea Level Rise Communities



For LA County operated beach facilities affected by sea-level rise or coastal flooding, DBH continues to work on advancing Living Shoreline projects to demonstrate nature-based solutions to address coastal flooding issues. These adaptation projects will serve to build resilient beaches for both coastal residents who are directly impacted by sea-level rise and inland disadvantaged communities who rely on public beaches to escape from increasingly frequent extreme heat events. DBH seeks to gain input on demonstration projects and will continue to meet with stakeholders to review upcoming work product for input and support. The goal for the stakeholder group is to solicit feedback and technical advice on resiliency solutions and join the coalition to help with fundraising and to help in educating the public about these important initiatives.

Figure 7 - Drought Risk Communities



The CWP will address drought through their “At-Risk Small Systems Task Force.” The drought priority communities (Figure 7) were developed by analyzing the California Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water Data¹² and the social vulnerability index. In addition, the Task Force will also have a dedicated effort for small systems in the fire recovery area of Altadena. The Task Force seeks to develop infrastructure and administrative solutions to increase redundancy so that communities have access to reliable and safe water. The Task Force is funded by a grant from Senate Bill 552 and the County Water Plan has also partnered with UCLA – Luskin Center to support this effort.

¹² CA SAFER Drinking Water https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer/safer_data.html

Infrastructure

Climate Capital Improvement Program

CRC has been collecting existing and planned climate related projects and programs across various County Departments including DBH, Parks, Regional Planning, and CSO. This collection of projects have been inputted into the Climate [Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) Project Map](#)⁵. The goals of the CIP are as follows:

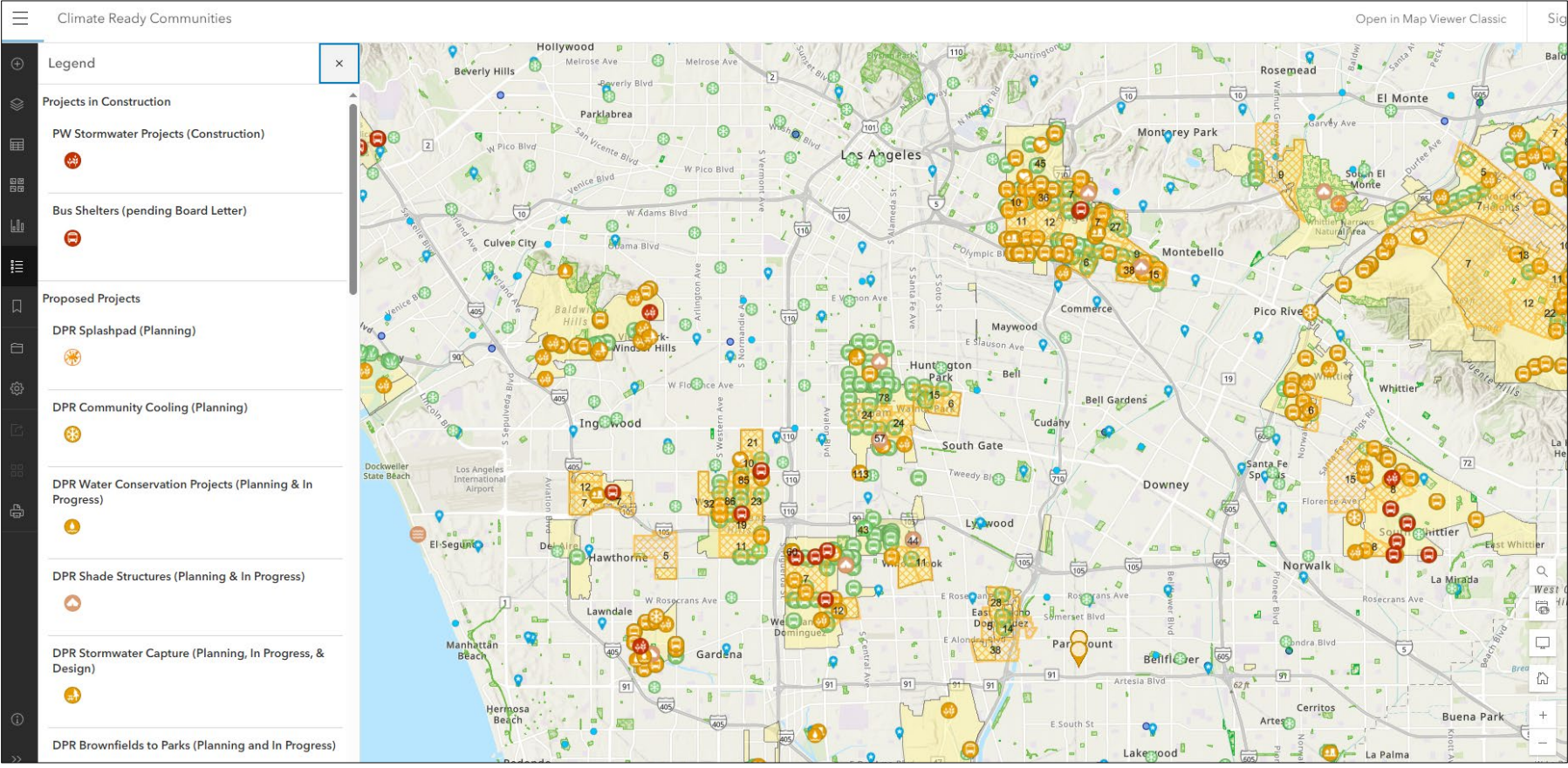
1. Identify existing and planned climate related infrastructure
2. Engage communities regarding upcoming projects
3. Identify inter-departmental collaboration opportunities

Various projects/programs and projects in need of funding have been mapped including the projects below. A screenshot of the map is show in Figure 8.

- Safe Clean Water Program multi-benefit stormwater capture projects
- Existing and planned bus shelters
- Parks and Recreation combination of existing, planned and projects in need of funding for interventions such as splash pads, cooling center, water conservation projects, shade structures, restoration of brownfields
- Beaches and Harbor's Coastal Resilience living shoreline adaptation projects
- Tree Planting Locations within public right-of-way and within County parks
- LA County Flood Control District – flood control projects

Regional Planning was recently awarded a PRO Housing grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), of which \$5.2 million is dedicated to the development of CIPs for the following Planning Areas: East San Gabriel Valley, Metro, South Bay, West San Gabriel Valley, and Westside. The CIPs will support implementation of re-zoning efforts and furthering fair housing goals. As a next step, the CRC CIP Project List will inform the development of the HUD-funded CIPs, which will be incorporated into the General Plan and address multiple County goals regarding climate resiliency, sustainability, and equity. **Regional Planning is currently in the process of hiring a consultant to develop the Capital Improvement Program.**

Figure 8 - Climate Ready Communities: Capital Improvement Program Map



Climate Ready Communities Work Plan

All the efforts from the equity prioritization, the community engagement, infrastructure project development, to funding opportunities will be summarized in a final CRC Work Plan. The CRC Work Plan will serve as an example for what a climate ready community should look like.

The CRC Work Plan will include a comprehensive summary of the climate related efforts including the Coastal Resiliency Plan, County Heat Action Plan, and others as shown in Figure 9 and 10. The CRC Work Plan is expected to be completed in 2026.

Figure 9 - LA County Climate Programs & Projects



Figure 10 - CRC Work Plan



Climate Ready Public Works Roadmap

As part of CRC, PW is embarking on a specific effort called the Climate Ready Public Works Roadmap (Roadmap), which aims to embed sustainability, resiliency, and equity into PW's operations and ensure PW's infrastructure and services build adaptive capacity in the communities they serve. This PW Roadmap can also be incorporated into the CRC Work Plan.

The Roadmap Objectives include:

- Improve resiliency, sustainability, and equity in all of PW operations.
- Ensure our infrastructure and services build adaptative capacity in the communities we serve.
- Identify key decision points in the infrastructure planning, design, and construction process where climate vulnerability can inform investment decisions.
- Develop funding and financing strategies to implement climate ready communities.

PW is currently developing the Roadmap and will provide updates in future reports.

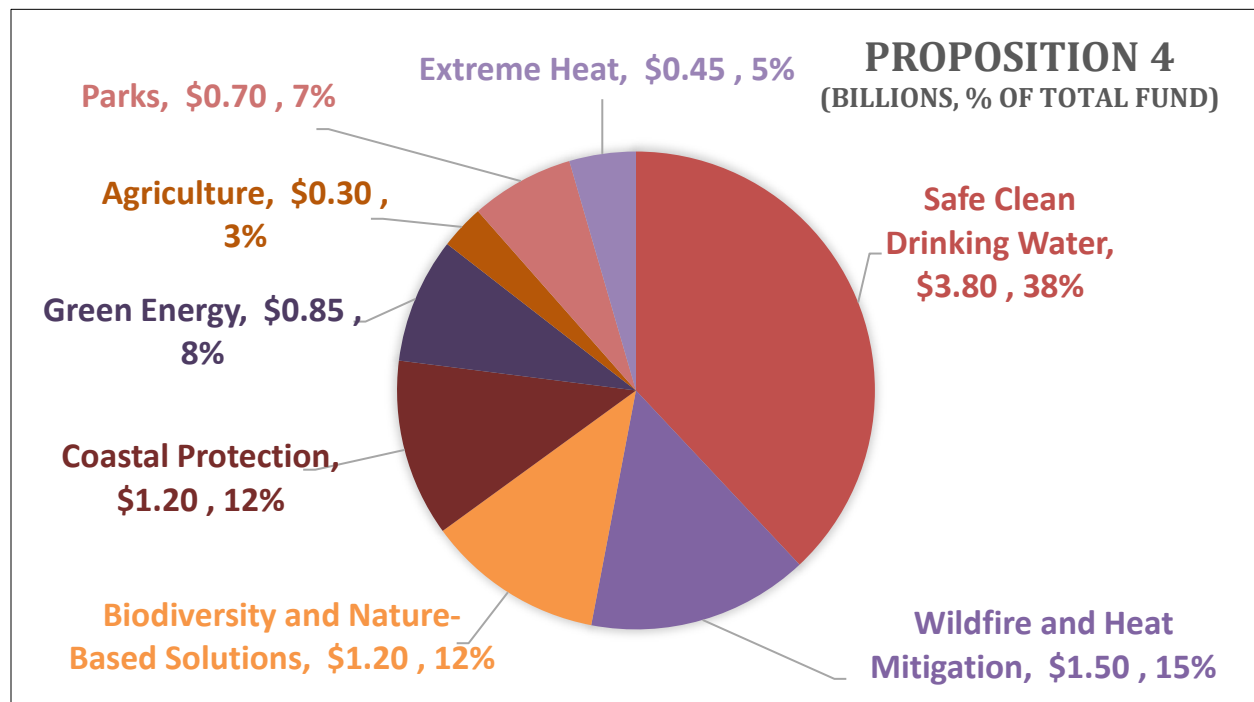
Funding

Proposition 4 – Climate Bond

In November 2024, California voters passed Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (“Climate Bond”). The Climate Bond provides \$10 billion over 10 years for climate resiliency and adaptation around the state in the following eight areas with the goal of mitigation climate change impacts and protecting natural resources:

1. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience
2. Wildfire and Forest Resilience
3. Coastal Resilience
4. Extreme Heat Mitigation
5. Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions
6. Climate Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands (Climate Smart Agriculture)
7. Park Creation and Outdoor Access
8. Clean Air and Energy

Figure 11 - Climate Bond Funding



The Climate Bond will prioritize lower income communities and those with higher environmental disaster risks and will primarily be distributed through existing grant programs. Public Works has prepared a report (Sub Attachment A) to help the County and their stakeholders identify and prioritize projects that best align with the investment categories. In addition, in response to the January 7 Board Motion – [Preparing Los Angeles County for Proposition 4: The Climate Bond](#), CSO has submitted a report back of the opportunities, projects, and legislative strategies to maximize funding in the LA region.

Climate Disaster Recover Funds

CRC has also created a memo that summarizes the federal and state funding programs that Los Angeles County may be able to access to support the rebuilding efforts after the devastating California wildfires of January 2025 (Sub Attachment B). Understanding that LA County seeks to “build back better” by reconstructing community infrastructure that is better able to withstand future threats and disasters, this memo highlights funding programs that support the integration of resilient project elements.

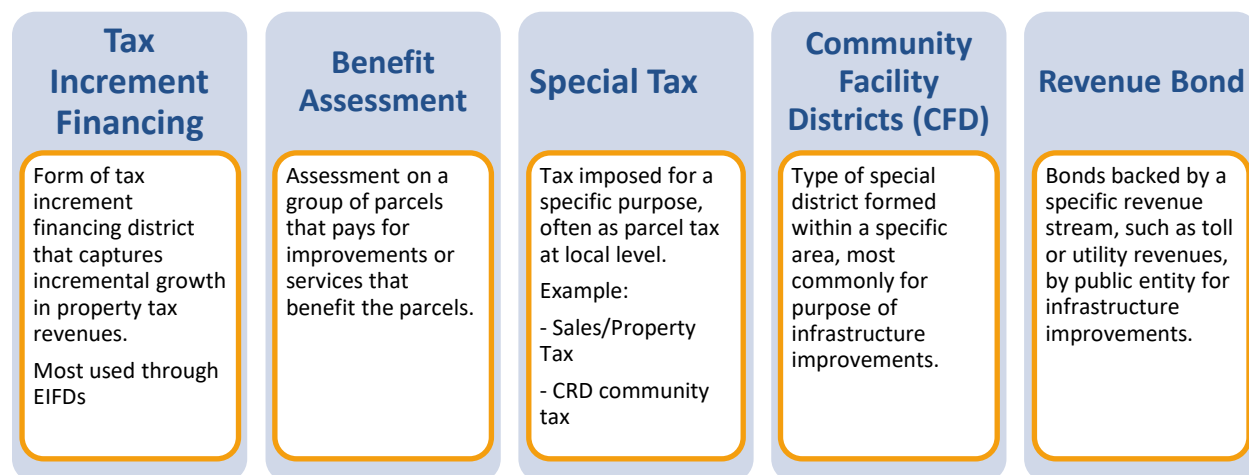
- **Section 1: Non-Competitive Post-Disaster Funding** describes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding program – Public Assistance (PA) – that should be the top priority for the County as it begins to rebuild. The PA Program is the primary funding vehicle that supports the reconstruction of public facilities after disasters. Although PA predominantly funds the rebuilding of facilities as they were before the disaster, recent FEMA guidance has expanded the types of “hazard mitigation” (resilience) actions that can be funded through the PA program via an expedited approval process. FEMA PA is led by the Office of Emergency Management for LA County. Two other non-competitive, post-disaster funding sources are also described.
- **Section 2: Post-Disaster, Eligibility-Restricted Funding Programs** presents the federal funding programs that restrict grant eligibility to projects in post-disaster areas, such as FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These funding programs should be a top focus area for the County in the months and year after the disaster, as competition for these funds is significantly less than other national or statewide programs.
- **Section 3: State of California Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding** presents key statewide grant programs that offer funding potential to LA County. Programs highlighted in this section including CAL FIRE grants for various fire presentation activities, as well as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program offered through the Strategic Growth Council.
- **Section 4: Federal and National Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding** presents additional grant programs from federal agencies such as FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Economic Development Administration as well as national foundations such as Land Trust Alliance that can support various resilient rebuilding projects.
- **Section 5: Financing Options for Rebuilding** briefly highlights financing options that the County may consider to accelerate the rebuilding process, with a particular focus on Climate Resilience Districts.
- **Section 6: Funding Options and Policy Framework for Powerline Undergrounding** addresses a key priority area for LA County as they seek funding options to underground powerlines and mitigate the risk of future wildfires.

Climate Resilience Districts (CRD)

Public Works developed a CRD [white paper](#) that describes the elements of CRDs and considers the tool’s applicability for unincorporated areas within LA County. A CRD is a new type of financing district, established through Senate Bill 852, that is available to local governments and special districts across California. The governance structure of CRDs

is modeled after Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) and can only be used for projects that address climate resilience, adaptation, or mitigation issues such as sea-level rise, extreme heat, extreme cold, risk of wildfire, drought, and risk of flooding. CRDs have authority to implement a wide variety of funding and financing mechanisms that already existed under California law as shown in Figure 12. CRDs must follow the same statutory and constitutional requirements as existing jurisdictions when seeking funding authority, including meeting voter approval requirements for new taxes or assessments.

Figure 12 - Financing Mechanisms Available through Climate Resiliency Districts



CRD boundaries can be flexible and include any combination of counties, cities, and special districts that agree to participate. The provision for flexible boundaries encourages cross-jurisdictional partnerships to address climate hazards, such as flooding or extreme heat, that affect disparate areas of LA County. CRD's have the potential to support significant new development and sustainable funding through Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

Tax Increment Financing

TIF is a public financing method used to encourage development or redevelopment in underdeveloped or blighted areas. It is typically used by local governments to fund infrastructure improvements, economic development projects, or to attract private investment. Here's how it works as shown below and in Figure 13:

1. **Establishing a TIF District:** A local government identifies a specific area (often one in need of revitalization) and designates it as a TIF district. The area's current property tax value is assessed, and this becomes the "base value."
2. **Future Increases in Property Tax Revenue:** Once the TIF district is established, any future increases in the property tax value (due to improvements, new development, or rising property values) are set aside in a special TIF fund. This is the "increment" or additional revenue that is generated by the development or improvements.
3. **Use of Increment:** The increment is then used to finance public improvements within the district, such as roads, utilities, or environmental remediation, or to fund the cost of private development (e.g., through subsidies, loans, or grants). This

money can be used to pay off bonds issued by the local government to finance the improvements.

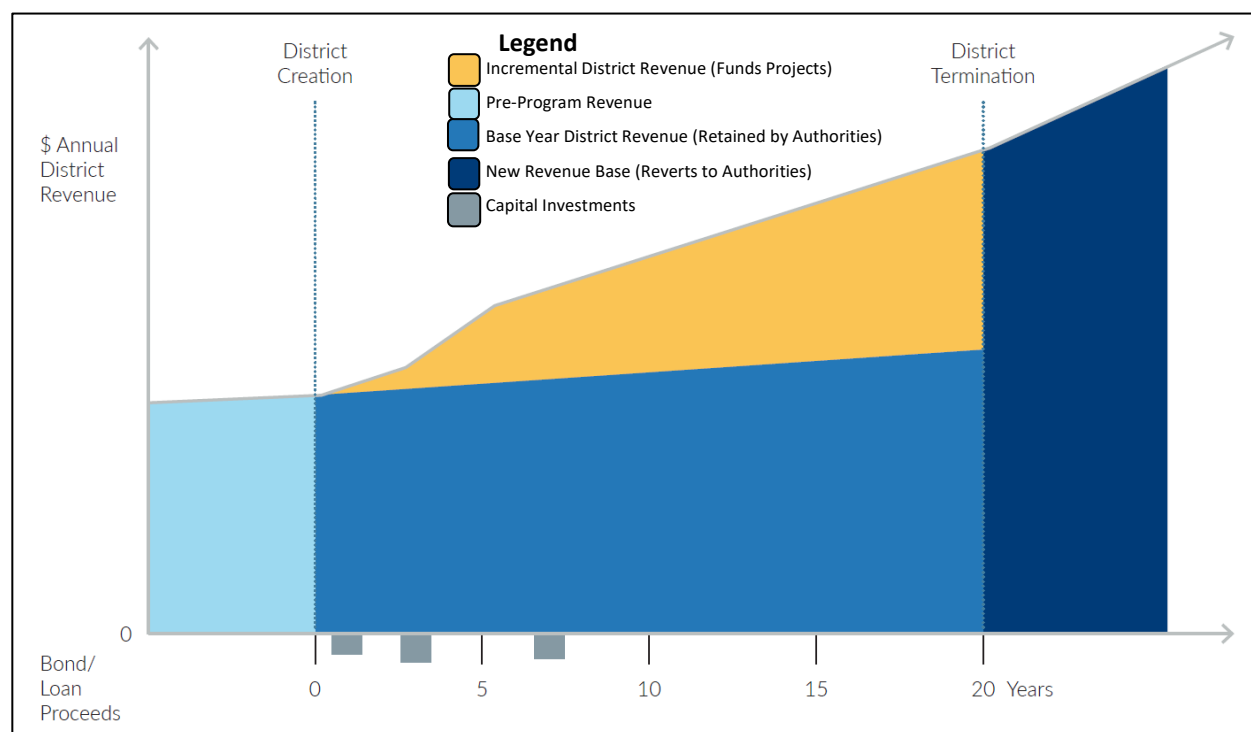
4. **Duration:** TIFs typically last for a fixed period, often 20 to 30 years, during which the increment is captured and used for the improvements. Once the TIF district expires, the increased tax revenue goes back to the general fund.

TIF allows governments to fund public infrastructure or development projects without needing to raise taxes or dip into existing budgets and can stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and revitalize declining areas especially areas such as Altadena and Sunset Mesa that are looking to rebuild after the fires.

However, TIF diverts property tax revenue from other areas, like schools or public services, potentially harming local budgets and there is risk that if the anticipated growth doesn't happen or the development fails, the local government could face challenges in repaying any bonds issued for the TIF.

Overall, TIF is a powerful tool for revitalizing areas, but it requires careful planning and oversight to ensure its success.

Figure 13 - Tax Increment Financing



Los Angeles County California Climate Bond Strategy Report

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

February 10, 2025



Executive Summary

This report summarizes California Proposition 4, the **Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024** (“Climate Bond”) and how the County of Los Angeles (County) and their stakeholders can access this historic funding opportunity to achieve their project priorities. The Climate Bond provides \$10 billion over 10 years for climate resiliency and adaptation around the state in the following eight areas:

1. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience
2. Wildfire and Forest Resilience
3. Coastal Resilience
4. Extreme Heat Mitigation
5. Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions
6. Climate Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands (“Climate Smart Agriculture”)
7. Park Creation and Outdoor Access
8. Clean Air and Energy

Climate Bond funding will primarily be distributed through existing grant programs.

This report is intended to help the County and their stakeholders identify and prioritize projects that best align with the investment categories and likely grant funding programs.

Section 1: Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) Background and Understanding introduces the Climate Bond, including the proposed funding categories and amounts. This section also describes eligibility, uses of funds, and general provisions that apply across all funding programs covered under the bond.

Section 2: Impact to Los Angeles County Regional Project Priorities presents funding for conservancies and programs in the Los Angeles region specifically identified in the text of the Climate Bond. Additionally, this section covers priorities of various County sustainability and climate resilience planning documents as they relate to the Climate Bond funding categories.

Section 3: Funding Mechanisms and Strategies highlights specific funding categories from the proposed budget that may benefit LA County priority projects, particularly in the water sector. This section also provides a table of all grant programs mentioned in the text of the bill and those that are likely to be funded under the bond measure, including a description and eligibility requirements.

Section 4: Governor’s Budget Proposal for FY25-26 presents the funding allocations in the Governor’s FY25-26 budget proposal, which includes \$2.7 billion from the Climate Bond for the first year.

Section 5: Evaluating Priority Projects provides some key considerations for evaluating and prioritizing projects to be eligible and competitive for funding programs, including cost match/share, equity, environmental justice, climate hazards, and project readiness. This section also highlights some publicly accessible online mapping tools available to allow applicants to evaluate their projects in relation to community and environmental attributes.

Section 6: Advocacy for Funding addresses various strategies that the County may use to advocate for Climate Bond funding to benefit County projects.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAAP	Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
CalSIP	California Stream Gage Improvement Program
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CALFIRE	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CDEC	California Data Exchange Center
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Climate Bond	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024
CVA	Climate Vulnerability Assessment
DAC	disadvantaged community
DOC	Department of Conservation
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EEMP	Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LACPW	Los Angeles County Public Works
NOFO	notice of funding opportunity
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O&M	operations and maintenance
OES	Office of Emergency Services
PV	photovoltaic
RMC	San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
SADW	Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SDAC	severely disadvantaged community
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board

1. Proposition 4 (Climate Bond) Background and Understanding

California Proposition 4, the **Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024** ("Climate Bond"), is a legislatively referred bond act, approved by California voters in November 2024, that permits the state of California to sell a \$10 billion general obligation bond to fund various projects aimed at reducing climate change risks. Much of the funds are available for loans and grants to local governments, Native American Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and businesses; some is also available to state agencies for state-run programs. Climate Bond funds will be allocated to the following eight areas:

1. Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience
2. Wildfire and Forest Resilience
3. Coastal Resilience
4. Extreme Heat Mitigation
5. Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions
6. Climate Smart, Sustainable and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands ("Climate Smart Agriculture")
7. Park Creation and Outdoor Access
8. Clean Air and Energy

The Climate Bond proactively addresses many of the state's environmental challenges and will accelerate projects and programs that deliver safe drinking water, wildfire resilience, clean energy, and protect natural resources and communities. Up to two-thirds of these investments support California's nature-based solution climate targets, increasing the health of natural systems and their ability to absorb more carbon than they release. On the other hand, bonds are an expensive way to fund government spending that are reliant on the bond market and must be allocated and approved in the state's annual budget process.

The [Governor's Proposed Budget \(FY2025-26\)](#), released on January 10, 2025 (although subject to revision by the Legislature until May 2025), proposes \$2.7 billion for the first year of a multi-year expenditure plan to implement the \$10 billion Climate Bond. Table 1-1 presents the Climate Bond allocations, proposed 2025-26 budget amounts, remaining funding (Out-Years), and pending allocations under each investment category of the Climate Bond.

Table 1-1. Climate Bond Expenditure Plan (\$ in Millions), adapted from Governor’s Proposed Budget, 2025-26

Investment Category	Bond Allocation	Proposed 2025-26	Out-Years	Pending Allocation
Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, & Water Resilience	\$3,800	\$1,074	\$2,716	\$10
Wildfire & Forest Resilience	\$1,500	\$325	\$1,086	\$89
Coastal Resilience	\$1,200	\$173	\$1,027	\$0
Extreme Heat Mitigation	\$450	\$102	\$348	\$0
Biodiversity & Nature-Based Solutions	\$1,200	\$286	\$813	\$101
Climate Smart Agriculture	\$300	\$134	\$106	\$60
Park Creation and Outdoor Access	\$700	\$286	\$183	\$231
Clean Air and Energy	\$850	\$275	\$252	\$323
Total	\$10,000	\$2,655	\$6,531	\$814

Funding will be available based on Legislature appropriation; the Legislature may enact legislation to implement programs in this division. Allocations for some bond programs have not yet been scheduled to a specific fiscal year. The Administration will engage with the Legislature on the expenditure plan for these allocations as part of the annual budget process. Further, many of the funding allocations do not have existing programs, and some do not yet specify which state agency will administer them, such as the \$1.14 billion allocated for stormwater management/flood risk reduction (Section 91020 of the bill). Some implementing legislation will be required to identify the administrative agency to limit competing over funds. This presents an opportunity for the County to educate decision makers and perhaps weigh in on the development of the programs and program criteria, both administratively and legislatively.

1.1 Eligibility, Use of Funds, and General Provisions

The following highlights the general provisions of the bond, as well as some specific restrictions, and provides more detail for the most relevant programs.

- Eligible applicants will vary by grant program. However, the bond funding generally is applicable to the following organizations/applicants: a public agency, local agency, nonprofit organization, special district, joint powers authority, tribe, public utility, local publicly owned utility, or mutual water company.
- The following general provisions apply to the expenditure of all bond funds:
 - Up to 10% of the funds in each chapter may be allocated for technical assistance to disadvantaged communities (DACs), severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), or vulnerable populations. Funds may exceed 10% if the administering state agency determines there is a need for additional funding.
 - Defines “vulnerable populations” to be a subgroup that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to climate change impacts and lacks resources to address such impacts.

- Defines “disadvantaged community” to be less than 80% of the area average or less than 80% of annual statewide household median income (80% of \$89,870 equals approximately \$72,000 in 2023).
 - [California and Justice40 Disadvantaged or Low-income Communities | California Energy Commission GIS Open Data](#)
- Defines “severely disadvantaged community” to be less than 60% of the area average or less than 60% of the annual statewide household median income (60% of \$89,870 equals approximately \$54,000).
- The Natural Resources Agency and its departments, boards, and conservancies may use division funds to fund projects at a landscape or multi-jurisdictional scale.
- The following expenditures are **allowable**:
 - Advanced payments of up to 25% and reimbursement for negotiated indirect costs.
 - Administrative costs of 7% or \$20 million per project, whichever is less.
 - A project that receives bond funds may provide workforce education and training and contractor and job opportunities for vulnerable populations, to the extent practicable.
- **Expenditure prohibitions:** Funds from this division cannot be utilized for environmental mitigation requirements or compliance obligations.
- **Priorities for distribution of funds:**
 - Of the total funds available, 40% must directly benefit vulnerable populations or DACs, and 10% must directly benefit SDACs.
 - Projects using services from the California Conservation Corps or certified community conservation corps will receive preference for grant awards.
 - Priority shall be given to projects that leverage federal, local, or private funds or produce the greatest public benefit.
- Projects shall include signage stating from where the project received funds, to the extent practicable.
- Projects shall include planning, monitoring, and reporting, where appropriate.

2. Impact to Los Angeles County Regional Project Priorities

2.1 Funding Directed Toward Los Angeles Region

The bill has competitive and formulaic funding allocations, primarily by geography. In the Los Angeles region, the total impact could be significant through a combination of competitive (grant) and formulaic funds over the ten-year period. There are several Los Angeles-area agencies that are identified in the text or likely to be considered for direct funding for existing programs that they already administer.

For example, \$313 million is anticipated to be directed toward several Los Angeles-area projects and conservancies, including:

- \$211 for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for climate resilience, wildfire resilience, and urban conservation projects
- \$80 million for LA River revitalization and parkway connectivity
- \$22 million for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands

There are other discretionary sources of funding that will be made available to local agencies in the Los Angeles region in the form of competitive grants and discretionary allocations by the state and its agencies.

2.2 LA County Sustainability and Climate Resilience Priorities

This section introduces some of the sustainability and climate resilience priorities of the County and regional partner agencies that relate to the funding made available under the Climate Bond, including key planning documents and candidate capital projects.

2.2.1 Priorities from Key Planning Documents

Table 2-1 presents some of the foremost climate-related planning documents developed by Los Angeles County and other regional or city agencies that specifically relate to some of the topics funded the Climate Bond. This is not a comprehensive list of documents, but rather a scan to highlight some of the priorities of the planning documents that can be used to align projects with funding opportunities. It is also important when submitting applications to show conformity with past planning documents.

Table 2-1. L.A. County Regional Climate Planning Documents

Planning Documents	Priorities
<u>Our County: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan (2019)</u>	<p><i>Our County: Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan (Our County)</i> is the County of Los Angeles' sustainability plan that informs the Climate Action Plan for the County. The plan includes 12 cross-cutting goals that describe a shared vision for a sustainable Los Angeles County. The 12 goals lead to 37 strategies and 159 action items. The plan identifies lead County entities and partners who will work expeditiously to bring these 12 goals to fruition, implementing related strategies and actions identified in this document. The 12 goals of the plan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resilient and Healthy Community Environments 2. Buildings and Infrastructure

Planning Documents	Priorities
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Equitable and Sustainable Land Use and Development 4. Prosperous Economy 5. Thriving Ecosystems 6. Accessible Public Spaces 7. Fossil Fuel-Free Future 8. Sustainable Transportation 9. Sustainable Resource Production and Consumption 10. Sustainable Food System 11. Inclusive Governance 12. Creative and Coordinated Funding
<u>Los Angeles County 2045 Climate Action Plan (2045 CAP) (2024)</u>	<p>This comprehensive plan, adopted in June 2024, outlines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. It includes targets for reducing emissions by 40% below 2015 levels by 2030, 50% by 2035, and 83% by 2045, with an aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2045.</p>
<u>LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (2021)</u>	<p>The Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) aims to understand how climate hazards and adaptation strategies impact different communities and sub-populations within LA County. It uses both qualitative and quantitative methods to highlight the experiences of highly vulnerable groups. The assessment is divided into four main components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Hazard Assessment 2. Social Vulnerability Assessment 3. Physical Vulnerability Assessment 4. Cascading Impacts Assessment <p>The plan identifies the following climate hazards that are expected to become more severe and frequent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extreme Heat 2. Wildfires 3. Extreme Precipitation and Inland Flooding 4. Coastal Flooding 5. Drought <p>The CVA outlines several key priorities to enhance climate resilience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equity and Inclusion 2. Community Resilience 3. Infrastructure Resilience <p>Health and Well-being</p>
<u>Metro Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (2019)</u>	<p>Metro's <i>Climate Action and Adaptation Plan</i> (CAAP) builds on Metro's existing commitments to environmental and sustainability stewardship by creating a visionary path for minimizing contributions to climate change while building resilience to a changing climate through 2050. The CAAP is focused on reducing</p>

Planning Documents	Priorities
	<p>GHG emissions by 79% relative to 2017 levels by 2030 and 100% by 2050. To achieve this, Metro has identified 13 measures. Lastly, the plan also includes different types of adaptation actions to increase resilience against climate change. The plan also includes risk assessment due to extreme heat faced at and around Metro infrastructure.</p> <p>The 13 measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2. Renewable Energy 3. Energy Efficiency 4. Zero-Emission Vehicles 5. Sustainable Building Practices 6. Water Conservation 7. Waste Reduction 8. Climate Resilience 9. Sustainable Procurement 10. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health 11. Public Engagement 12. Equity and Environmental Justice 13. Monitoring and Reporting
<p><u>SCAG Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy (2024)</u></p>	<p>Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, <i>Connect SoCal 2024 Plan</i>, was published in April 2024 with an outlook to 2050 for the Southern California region (Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside counties). There are four goals for Connect SoCal designed to help achieve the regional vision. They fall into four core categories: mobility, communities, environment, and economy. The plan also includes performance measures for each goal and its associated strategies.</p>

3. Funding Mechanisms and Strategies

This section covers the funding mechanisms and strategies for pursuing funding in the Climate Bond. Section 3.1 provides some of the highlights of the funding allocations identified under the Climate Bond that may be most relevant to the priorities of LA County and partner agencies, broken out by category and purpose, as defined in the bill. Section 3.2 provides a list of grant funding programs that have already been proposed recipients of funding allocations under the Climate Bond, as well as some programs that align with the Climate Bond and are likely to receive allocations.

3.1 Funding Highlights for Projects in LA County

Provided in the list below are some Climate Bond funding set-asides for programs for which counties are eligible and that may be most significant or of interest to the County and its partner agencies and constituents. A few funding categories under the bill may not be as critical to the projects prioritized by the members of Infrastructure LA Sustainability Committee or Water Committee, such as Clean Air and Energy and Climate Smart Agriculture, though these still comprise \$850 million and \$300 million, respectively, of funding allocations.

- **Chapter 2**, which provides most of the funding available in the bond for water-related infrastructure projects, requires all funded projects to be consistent with policies and guidelines established by the Water Resilience Portfolio, California's Water Supply Strategy, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, as applicable:
 - **Water Quality/Drinking Water (Section 91011):** \$610 million allocated to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), with \$25 million set-aside for tribal infrastructure projects. Allows a public agency to apply for a competitive grant to address contamination above the amount an identified responsible party is required to contribute to a drinking water infrastructure project. Requires consideration of reasonable geographic allocation to eligible projects.
 - **Groundwater (Section 91012):**
 - \$386 million allocated to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), for projects related to groundwater storage, banking, recharge, or instream flow projects that support the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water supplies.
 - \$193 million for projects that support conjunctive use and groundwater recharge, including improved regional watershed management, regional adaptation to climate change and drought management, and ecosystem benefits for fish and wildlife and improved stream flow for anadromous fish.
 - \$193 million for projects that support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
 - **Groundwater (Section 91013):** \$200 million allocated to the Department of Conservation's (DOC) existing Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program, for groundwater sustainability projects. Eligible projects reduce groundwater use, repurpose agricultural land, provide wildlife habitat, improve drought resilience, or provide floodwater management.
 - **Water Recycling/Reuse (Section 91014):** \$386 million available, upon appropriation, to the SWRCB for grants and projects related to water reuse and recycling. Requires a 50% local cost-share that may be suspended, waived or pro-rated in DACs or SDACs. Other loans or grants may qualify as local cost-shares. Requires the SWRCB to adopt modified grant funding requirements for large-scale projects.


- **Storage (Section 91015):** \$75 million available, upon appropriation, to the California Water Commission for projects under the existing Water Storage Investment Program. Priority for existing approved projects that require supplemental grants due to increased costs resulting from inflation or increased public benefits.
- **Desalination (Section 91016):** \$62.5 million available for capital improvements for brackish desalination, contaminant and salt removal and salinity management projects to improve water and drought resilience. Priority is given for projects that use renewable energy. No administering agency is identified.
- **Conveyance (Section 91018):** \$75 million available, upon appropriation, to the Natural Resources Agency and DWR for competitive grants for regional conveyance projects or project repairs. Regulations or guidelines will likely need to be adopted. Funding priorities for projects are established as follows:
 - Regional or interregional water supply or reliability
 - Increased groundwater recharge or mitigation of overdraft, subsidence, salinity intrusion, or water quality degradation
 - Adaptation to hydrologic changes
 - Improvements in water security
 - Safe drinking water for DACs and economically distressed areas
- **Flood risk reduction and storm water management (Section 91020):** \$1.1 billion (no program or administering agency identified) with flow-downs as follows:
 - **Water Conservation (Section 91020):** \$75 million available, upon appropriation, to DWR, for projects that increase water conservation in agricultural and urban areas. No mention if the program will be loans, grants, or direct expenditures. Funding could be used for existing Ag and Urban Conservation programs. A new program could be developed through budget or through regulation legislation.
 - **Flood Management (Section 91021):** \$550 million available to the Natural Resources Agency and its departments, boards, and conservancies for flood management projects. Priority for projects that achieve flood safety and ecosystem functions, while providing additional unnamed benefits. Includes \$150 million for the existing Flood Control Subventions Program at DWR.
 - **Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program at the Department of Water Resources (Section 91022):** \$480 million for competitive grants through the existing program. Provides grants for projects that enhance dam safety and reservoir operations and protect public safety at state jurisdictional dams. [LA County has several dams and numerous debris basins under state jurisdiction. Eligible projects include one-time projects to remove sediment resulting from wildfires or extraordinary storm events.](#) Funds cannot be used to raise dams, increase reservoir space or increase water impoundment.
 - **Urban Stormwater Management (Section 91023):** \$110 million allocated, upon appropriation, to the SWRCB for grants for multi-benefit urban stormwater management projects. Eligible projects include stormwater capture and reuse, planning and implementation of low-impact development, restoration of urban streams and watersheds, debris flow mitigation and increasing permeable surfaces. Preference is given for natural infrastructure projects. [LA County manages the Safe Clean Water Program which has many projects that would be eligible for these funds](#)

- **Integrated Regional Water Management (Section 91031):** \$100 million available, upon appropriation, to DWR for projects related to regional water management to improve climate resilience on a watershed basis. Requires DWR to update existing program guidelines to address impacts associated with climate risk.
- **Chapter 3 Wildfire and Forest Resilience (Section 91510 (a) (2)):** \$135 million available, upon appropriation, to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) for, among other things, a wildlife mitigation grant program. Eligible projects include grants to local agencies for water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas.
- **Chapter 4 Coastal Resilience (Section 92010 (a) (3))**
 - \$410 million available, upon appropriation, for projects identified by the State Coastal Conservancy for coastal resilience projects. Eligible projects include natural infrastructure projects that use existing natural areas to minimize coastal flooding, erosion, and runoff.
 - \$350 million available, upon appropriation, to the State Coastal Conservancy for coastal and combined management projects and activities for developed coastlines, including areas with critical infrastructure. Requires funds to be allocated to multi-benefit projects including those designed to address flooding, sea level rise and shoreline stability engineered with nature-based features. Requires funds to be available to local agencies as matching funds for federally funded flood risk management projects.
 - All Chapter 4 funded projects are required to be consistent with policies and guidelines established by the California Coastal Commission, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the Ocean Protection Council, the State Lands Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the State Coastal Conservancy, as applicable.
- **Chapter 8 Park Creation and Outdoor Access (Section 94010):** \$200 million, available, upon appropriation, to the DPR for their existing competitive local parks grant program. Although the funds are dedicated to an existing program, this bond gives priority to projects that provide multiple benefits, including mitigating impacts of sea level rise or flooding, and enhancing stormwater capture.

3.2 Grant Funding Programs




Table 3-1 contains a list of California state grant programs, both that are specifically called out in the Climate Bond text and that are expected to be funded under the bond. Programs are organized under the relevant Climate Bond funding category described in Section 1 (such as, "Drought, Flood, and Water Supply" or "Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention"). The table includes the program name with a link to the program webpage, funding agency, total funding, program description, eligible applicants, and eligible project types.


The funding amounts specified in Table 3-13-1 include allocations to specific programs described in the Governor's Budget Summary 2025-26 (January 10, 2025), if available, or in the text of the Climate Bond bill. Alternatively, programs that have not yet been identified but align with the funding categories, and that can be reasonably expected to be included, have also been included with point-in-time funding estimates from past notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs). The latter are subject to change according to appropriation by the Legislature to funding agencies, as well as money allocated to awarded projects after the time of research. The bond measure may allow funding programs to continue to be funded at their current levels, or they may increase, depending on how many new programs are created as a result.



Grant programs on the table with the following icon () represent those that are past state programs that are not specifically referred to in the Climate Bond and/or Governor's Proposed Budget (FY25-26) but are likely candidates for funding allocations. The funding amounts identified with these programs are also generally assumptions based on previous rounds of funding.

Grant programs listed under the "Other" category include those that were not identified in the Climate Bond and do not fit neatly under another category but may touch on some of the Climate Bond priorities. Refer to the appropriate guidelines or NOFO for each funding program to learn more about the eligibility, evaluation and merit criteria, grant administration, and other requirements, priorities, and definitions. Potential new programs to distribute Climate Bond funding are not yet identified and therefore not included in this list. Until more information is available, this list was created under the assumption that these existing programs will continue to be funded.

Table 3-1. Funding Programs

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience (\$3.8B)	Backup Generator Funding Program - CA State Water Resources Control Board – via Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SADW) 	\$6M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Provides backup generators to drinking water systems that do not have adequate backup electrical supply to ensure continuous operations during power failures	Generator recipients must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Serve small, DACs;▪ Be classified as community water systems; AND▪ Agree to having Technical Assistance perform a technical, managerial, and financial assessment, and to take necessary steps to address recommended actions noted by the TMF assessment.
	CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Loan Program (Prop 1) - CA DWR 	\$6.75M total <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ \$1.75M for water use efficiency upgrades▪ \$5M for fixing expensive and difficult-to-repair customer leaks Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Loan program for local agencies for specific types of water conservation and water use efficiency projects and programs to achieve urban water use targets	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local Agencies (any city, county, city and county, municipal utility district, community services district, sanitary district, sanitation district, water district, or private water company under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission). Eligible Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pilot project for local agencies to provide water efficiency upgrades to eligible residents at no upfront costs.▪ Local agencies to provide low-interest loans to customers to finance the installation of onsite improvements to repair or replace, as necessary, cracked or leaking water pipes to conserve water.
	California Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP) - CA DWR 	\$7M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations, at no additional cost to them, that will share important stream flow data that can help inform water management decisions.	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local agencies (e.g., counties, cities)▪ Special districts (e.g., community service districts, irrigation districts, flood control districts, reclamation districts, water districts, groundwater sustainability agencies)▪ Colleges and universities▪ Federally recognized Tribes

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			Evaluation Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Installer & operator experience▪ Long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) funding commitment, priority watershed▪ Watershed gage density▪ Reactivation of previous site▪ Proximity to existing nearby gages▪ Amount of program funding spent in watershed/area, stage▪ Flow▪ Temperature data▪ Cost & benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To be eligible for CalSIP funding, gages must provide real-time stream data through the California Data Exchange Center. Eligible Gaging Sites Must <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be on natural waterways within California (not on canals or diversion ditches where flows are controlled by diversion structures where primary function is for conveyance and distribution of surface water).▪ Provide telemetered real-time stream gage data (15-minute intervals). The measurement and reporting of the stage (water surface elevation in feet, North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD88]), flow (discharge in cubic feet per second), and water temperature in °F, are preferred▪ Have an operational gage by October 1, 2026.
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund - CA SWRCB 	Not specified	Offers low-cost financing to maintain abundant clean water for human uses and environmental protection. Priority scoring on the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Drinking water source▪ Delta water quality▪ Water recycling▪ Impaired water body▪ Water quality control plan or permit	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government entities▪ Tribes▪ Nonprofits Eligible Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Publicly owned treatment facilities▪ Nonpoint source projects▪ Estuary projects Wastewater treatment plants and sewer systems are the most common types of applications. Two types of projects are automatically fundable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Projects from Applicants that qualify as a Small, SDAC or a Small DAC

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Health Projects
	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - CA SWRCB 	Not specified	<p>Provides low-interest loans, additional subsidy (principal forgiveness), and technical assistance to public water systems for infrastructure improvements to correct system deficiencies and improve drinking water quality for the health, safety, and welfare of all Californians</p> <p>Criteria Considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SustainabilityInnovation	<p>Eligible Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Publicly owned community water systems (e.g., counties, cities and districts)Privately-owned community water systems (e.g., for-profit water utilities, nonprofit mutual water companies)Nonprofit or publicly owned non-community water systems (e.g., public school districts)Community water systems created by the project <p>Eligible Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Planning/design and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Treatment systemsDistribution systemsInterconnectionsConsolidationsPipeline extensionsWater sourcesWater metersWater storages
	Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience - CA SWRCB (via SADW) 	<p>\$130M per year</p> <p>Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds</p>	<p>A set of tools, funding sources, and regulatory authorities designed to ensure that Californians who currently lack access to safe drinking water receive safe and affordable drinking water as quickly as possible</p> <p>Project Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Water systems and domestic wells	<p>Eligible Recipients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public agenciesNonprofit organizationsPublic utilitiesMutual water companiesCalifornia Native American Tribes

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communities Special Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none">Greenhouse gas reduction fund projectsSchools and non-transient non-community water systemsCommunities with a large proportion of secondary homesAbility to pay; other considerations (like a community's cost of living, unemployment rate, high water rates, and proportion of households with many people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AdministratorsA groundwater sustainability agencies Funding provided to a public utility that is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or a mutual water company must have a clear and definite public purpose and benefit the customers of the water systems and not the investors or shareholders. Eligible Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provision of interim replacement water (e.g., temporary bottled water, point-of-use or point-of-entry installation)Planning or design (e.g., feasibility study)ConstructionConsolidation (physical or managerial)Administrator fundingO&MTechnical Assistance (e.g., assistance with construction application)
	Non-Point Source Grant Program - CA SWRCB	Varies annually	Supports projects that implement full scale, on-the-ground management measures or practices in alignment with the watershed-based plans to address water quality problems in surface water and groundwater resulting from non-point source pollution; goals are to restore water bodies. Project Narrative Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">Readiness to proceedClimate change resilienceAdaptability/ transferability	Eligibility Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicant must be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization; Federally Recognized Tribe; federal, state, or local agency; or public collegeProject must address a watershed or waterbody listed in the "Program Preferences" of the Grant Program GuidelinesProject must have a Watershed-Based PlanProject must be completed in 3.5 years or lessProject must provide 25% funding match (waivers of match available for projects benefitting DACs)Minimum funding request \$250,000, maximum \$1,000,000


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Environmental justice and human right to water	Eligible Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Address one or more of the NPS Program Preferences (section I of the NPS Grant Guidelines) identified by the NPS Grant Program.Be located in a watershed that has a plan or suite of plans that meet the nine-element watershed-based plan (see Appendix 1)Provide the minimum required match consistent with the Program Guidelines. A waiver of match is available for DACs (see Appendix 4)Be located in an area not subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (note: projects are not subject to this requirement if the project activity is specifically excluded/exempted from the requirements of the NPDES permit.)Implement forest management measures on ‘forest lands’ (specific requirement for Timber Funds)
	Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program - DOC	\$200M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Program for groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, provide wildlife habitat, improve drought resilience or floodwater management, or support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Selection Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">GoalsPartnerships and collaborationCommunity engagementDisadvantaged community benefitsFiscal and administrative capacity	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Federally recognized CA Native American tribesNon-federally recognized CA Native American tribes on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage CommissionNonprofit groups with 501(c) status with meaningful connections to or on behalf of eligible tribes Project Type Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creation or restoration of habitat, including pollinator habitat, wetland habitat, upland habitat, and riparian habitatCreation of multi-benefit recharge areasConversion of irrigated land to dryland farming or non-irrigated rangelandPlanting cover crops or conservation cover


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Policy and project expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reestablishment of tribal land usesImplementation of tribal cultural practicesFacilitation of renewable energy projects that have an overall net GHG reductionCreation of parks or community recreation areasIncentive payments to landowners, farmers, and ranchers to implement multi-benefit land repurposing projects that create a public benefit for at least ten yearsLand acquisitions to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land usesEasement acquisitions to facilitate land repurposing and protect repurposed land uses
	Water Storage Investment Program - California Water Commission	\$75M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Priority for these funds is to support timely completion of existing approved projects by providing supplemental grants.	TBA
	Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program - Department of Water Resources	\$480M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Provides state funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">RepairsRehabilitationEnhancementsOther dam safety projects at existing state jurisdictional dams and associated facilities that were in service prior to January 1, 2023 Public benefit priorities in order: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Protection of public safetyRestoration of water storageFlood risk reductionEnhancement of water supply reliability	Eligible Funding Recipients Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any California public agencyNonprofit organizationPublic utility agencyMutual water companyPrivate entity that owns a state jurisdictional dam and associated facilities Eligible Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dam repairs to allow water storage to full capacity.New spillway and spillway repair projects at existing dams.Dam and reservoir seismic retrofit projects.Enhancement of water supply and downstream flood risk reduction such as implementation of Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations.


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			5. Enhancement, protection, or restoration of habitat for fish and wildlife 6. Protection of water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One-time projects to remove sediment resulting from wildfires or extraordinary storm events.Improvements to dam appurtenances to address dam safety-related deficiencies identified by the department
	Integrated Regional Water Management Program - Department of Water Resources	\$100M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Has grant programs for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitigating drought impactsImproving water supply reliabilityReducing flood and fire riskIncreasing surface and groundwater storageRestoring and enhancing ecosystemsImproving water quality	Eligibility varies based on grant program.
	Riverine Stewardship Program	\$50M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Delivers technical and financial assistance for the protection of listed fish species in combination with flood risk reduction and ecosystem enhancement of urban streams; includes public outreach and DAC support Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project purpose and strategic fitOrganizational capacity and projectSustainability; project readinessProject characteristics and benefitsRiverine stewardship improvementsWater quality and water supply	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">TribesLocal public agenciesCertified nonprofits are eligible to receive fundingOther applicant types such as community groups, will be considered on a case-by-case basis Eligible Costs <ul style="list-style-type: none">Project planningEngineering and designCalifornia Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document preparation and complianceEnvironmental permitting and complianceAcquisition of a conservation easement or other title restrictionProject implementation (includes construction)


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Grant administration▪ Project monitoring▪ Community education and outreach▪ Overhead expenses incidental to, but directly related to the funded project▪ Long-term management plan development
	Urban Streams Restoration Program - Wildlife Conservation Board	\$25M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	For Projects that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protect and restore riparian habitats and watersheds▪ Improve climate resilience▪ Enhance natural drainages▪ Provide public access Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project purpose and strategic fit▪ Organizational capacity and project sustainability▪ Project readiness; project characteristics and benefits▪ Community collaboration▪ Access▪ Flood control	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tribes▪ Local public agencies▪ Certified nonprofits are eligible to receive funding under the RSP▪ Other applicant types such as community groups, will be considered on a case-by-case basis Project Type Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stream cleanups▪ Bank stabilization projects▪ Revegetation efforts▪ Recontouring of channels to improve or reestablish floodplain function and localized flood protection▪ Installation of bioswales or other green infrastructure prior to water reaching urban streams▪ Removing culverts or storm drains to stabilize channels to achieve flood control objectives and daylighting of streams▪ Purchase of lands or structures on lands to allow for floodplain reconnection and floodwater detention or wetlands/tidal zone restoration

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Stream Flow Enhancement Program	\$150M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	For Projects that Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The acquisition of water or water rights▪ Acquisition of land that includes water rights or contractual rights to water▪ Short- or long-term water transfers and leases Projects should Provide at least one of the Following Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protected or enhanced biodiversity▪ Climate change resiliency and connectivity▪ Support of the State Wildlife Action Plan priority habitats▪ Conserved or enhanced working landscapes▪ Conserved or enhanced water-related projects▪ Enhanced public access	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations▪ Local governmental agencies▪ Federal agencies▪ State agencies▪ California Native American tribes Grants can also be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Private landowners▪ Public utilities▪ Federally recognized Indian tribes▪ Mutual water companies Eligible Project Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Water Transactions (refer to California Water Code section 79709)▪ Water conservation projects (actions that provide more efficient use of water diverted or reduces the amount diverted from a stream, resulting in enhanced stream flow) coupled with adequate long-term (≥20 years) protections for the conserved water▪ Changing points of diversion▪ Groundwater storage and conjunctive use▪ Reservoir operations both at existing and new storage sites▪ Habitat restoration projects that enhance stream flow and improve aquatic and riparian conditions▪ Acquisition of land or interests in land that lead to a direct and measurable enhancement to stream flow, improving upon existing flow conditions▪ Stream flow gaging


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scientific studies that assess effectiveness of previously implemented projects and/or inform design and implementation of future stream flow enhancement project(s)
	State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program - Department of Food and Agriculture's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation	\$40M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Provides grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce GHGs and save water on CA agricultural operations Project Expected Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Groundwater sustainabilityEnergy efficiencyRenewable energyWater qualityWater recyclingAir qualityClimate and drought adaptationIrrigation training	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">California farmersRanchersCalifornia Native American Indian Tribes Eligible Project Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">Soil moisture monitoring and automation to improve efficiency and reduce water useSwitching to drip irrigation from less efficient methods (i.e. flood)Switching to low-pressure irrigation systemsFuel savings through reduced pumping, new fuel-efficient equipment, and water-saving strategiesImproved energy efficiency of pumps and the addition of variable frequency drivesInstallation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energyReduced pumping through water-saving strategiesSubsurface drip for dairy effluent
	Lower LA-Urban Streams and Rivers Program - San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) 	\$10M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Funds projects focusing on the Water and Environment Plan element of the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan that conserve and restore natural river and watershed functions. Evaluation Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">Alignment with funding and program goalsProject design and budgetTimeline	Eligible Applicants for projects located within the boundaries of the RMC are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">State agenciesFederal agenciesTribal entities recognized on the current U.S. Federal Register or the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribeLocal public agencies, including city or county; water districts; school districtsCertified local conservation corpsNonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Long-term management and likelihood of success▪ Workforce development, collaboration, and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Joint Powers Authority (JPA) if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant Eligible Project Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community and urban greening▪ Grey-to-green development/ implementation▪ Water conservation or infiltration improvements▪ Restoration of wetlands, riparian, and complementary habitats▪ Increase regional self-reliance and integrated water management across all levels of government▪ Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management▪ Stormwater Flooding and/or capture
Wildfire and Forest Resilience (\$1.5B)	California Forest Improvement Program – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) 	\$10M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Ensures <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Adequate high quality timber supplies▪ Related employment and other economic benefits▪ The protection, maintenance, and enhancement of a productive and stable forest resource system Scope Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improvement of all forest resources including fish and wildlife habitat▪ Soil and water quality	Eligibility Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Landowners must own at least 20 acres of forestland but not more than 5,000 acres of forestland in California▪ Land must be zoned for uses compatible with forest resource management▪ Commercial timber operations require the approval of a timber harvest plan, non-industrial timber management plan, emergency notice or exemption by CALFIRE Eligible Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Registered Professional Forester Supervision (must be associated with one or more of the on-the-ground practices identified below)▪ Site Preparation▪ Trees and Planting▪ Tree Shelters▪ Pre-commercial Thinning▪ Pruning

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Release▪ Follow-up▪ Land Conservation / Habitat Improvement
	Climate Resilience, Wildfire Prevention, Community Access, and Nature Based Solutions Fund - Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy 	Funding amount not yet specified	Year-round local assistance program to support projects that promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Climate resilience▪ Community access▪ Wildfire and nature-based solutions in the Conservancy territory Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Urgency▪ Equity▪ Leverage▪ Innovation▪ Readiness	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Any public entity or nonprofit organization established pursuant to the laws of the state of California and qualified under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(5).▪ Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Tribes on the list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission may also apply.▪ Joint proposals between multiple organizations involved in similar or related activities are strongly encouraged.▪ Grant funds, however, may only be encumbered by one organization per agreement.
	Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program - Office of Wildfire Prevention and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	\$135M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Funds may be Used to Benefit <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ DACs▪ SDACs▪ Vulnerable populations to provide:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Loans- Rebates- Direct assistance▪ Matching funds for projects that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prevent wildfires	Applicant Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Be the legal property owner in a participating area at the time of application▪ Be willing to participate in a home assessment to determine the measures that may be taken to safeguard your home▪ Be willing to sign a right of entry to your property and allow contractors to implement the defensible space and home hardening activities Current Project Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lake County – Kelseyville, Riviera▪ San Diego County – Dulzura, Campo, Potrero▪ Shasta County – Whitmore, Lakehead, Oak Run


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase resilience- Maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects- Reduce the risk of wildfires to communities- Increase home or community hardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Siskiyou County – Mt. Shasta
	Community Forest Legacy Program – CALFIRE 	Funding amount not yet specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protects environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to non-forest uses▪ Supports benefits like:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sustainable timber production- Wildlife habitat- Recreation opportunities- Watershed protection open space Characteristics Considered <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Importance▪ Strategic value▪ Threat▪ Readiness	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service, other than institutions of higher education▪ Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)▪ City or township governments Priority is given to lands that can be effectively protected and managed and have important: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Scenic▪ Recreational▪ Timber▪ Riparian▪ Fish and wildlife▪ Threatened and endangered species▪ Other cultural and environmental values CALFIRE regularly partners with other funding agencies to select high value landscapes for conservation easement projects.
	Forest Health Program - CALFIRE	\$175M	For Projects To conserve forests and:	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local, state, and federal public agencies



Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
		Program funding amount from Climate Bond	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve forest health by significantly increasing fuels reduction▪ Fire reintroduction▪ Treatment of degraded areas▪ Conservation of threatened forests with landscape-scale projects developed and led by regionally based efforts. Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Budget▪ Net GHG benefit▪ Jobs▪ Disadvantaged or low-income community benefit▪ Regional priority alignment▪ Local fire plan and other state plan compatibility▪ Collaboration▪ Community engagement and local support▪ Administrative capacity and past forest management history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Native American tribes▪ Universities▪ Special districts▪ Industrial and non-industrial private forest landowners▪ Nonprofit organizations Eligible Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Forest fuels reduction▪ Prescribed fire▪ Pest management▪ Reforestation▪ Biomass utilization
	Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program - DOC	\$185M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	To Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop▪ Prioritize	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local agencies▪ Tribal governments▪ State conservancies


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes by improving:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ecosystem healthCommunity wildfire preparednessFire resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">JPAsResource conservation districtsNonprofits Essential Program Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct regional priority planning.Administer project development activities.Build capacity and sustainability among regional partners.Lead outreach and engagement.Participate in Task Force efforts to coordinate regions.
	Wildfire Prevention Grant Program - San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy 	\$27M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	<p>To increase the region’s resiliency to wildfire, funded projects should advance the California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: A Comprehensive Strategy, with a focus on hazardous fuels clearance, post-fire restoration, work force development, and environmental education to increase the region’s resiliency to wildfire</p> Application Evaluation Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">Multi-benefit and Multi-JurisdictionalEnvironmental JusticeProject ReadinessUrban Land UseRecreationStakeholders / PartnersEducational / Interpretive	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">State agenciesFederal agenciesTribal entities recognized on the current U.S. Federal Register or the Native American Heritage Commission as a California Native American tribeLocal public agencies, including city or county; water districts; school districts; certified local conservation corpsNonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designationJPA if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant Project Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">Multi-benefit projects that promote sustainability and community engagement while addressing climate and societal challenges and simultaneously providing community well-being and biodiversity benefitsUrban greening, introduction of native vegetation in cities and communities, like trees and shrubs at parks

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Climate SustainabilityAccess, Trails / BikewaysWater Resources and QualityHabitat Protection/ RestorationCultural or Historic ResourceStewardship and Management PlanWorkforce Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Water conservation, stormwater capture, and infiltration improvements, such as permeable surfaces and nature-based water capture featuresExpanding floodplains, restoration of wetlands, riparian, and complementary habitatsCoordination with California Native tribes to have access to natural cultural resources and cultural landscapesConverting abandoned land and brownfields into open space or community spaces to enhance social cohesion and regenerate disadvantaged communitiesAcquisition of vacant/undeveloped land for parks creation and/or habitat conservationIncrease resilience of the region to wildfire impacts through priority planning for hazardous fuels removal, implementing fuels reduction projects, and work with job training groups to grow the region's workforce capacity.
Extreme Heat Mitigation (\$450M)	Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program - Office of Planning and Research	\$50M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Funds Projects that reduce the impact of extreme heat, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creating extreme heat action plansProviding shadeIncreasing building and surface reflectance, providing passive or low-energy cooling strategiesPromoting evaporative cooling Priority Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Heat vulnerableRegional diversityFunding targets<ul style="list-style-type: none">CA Native American Tribes,DACs	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local and regional public entitiesCA Native American tribesCommunity-based organizationsCoalitions, collaboratives, or associations of nonprofit organizations that are fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or academic institution (coalitions)Academic institutions Eligible Projects <p>Will fund a wide range of planning and implementation projects related to extreme heat and community resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Possible planning projects include<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conducting studiesDeveloping comprehensive extreme heat action plans or other planning documents


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			Scoring Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project vision and description▪ Communities served partnership and community engagement▪ Projects with multiple benefits▪ Work plan and budget justification▪ Capacity building needs (small projects only) Interview or site visit (large projects only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Capacity building and partnership development▪ Possible implementation projects include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Creating communications campaigns and programs- Providing mechanical or natural shade- Increasing building and surface reflectance Developing passive or low-energy cooling strategies
	Transformative Climate Communities Program - Strategic Growth Council	\$150M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Funds community-led development and infrastructure projects in CA's most DACs; empowers communities most impacted by pollution to choose the strategies and projects At least 3 of the following strategies must be advanced: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equitable Housing and Neighborhood Development▪ Land Acquisition for Neighborhood Stabilization▪ Transit Access and Mobility 4. Solar Installation, Energy Efficiency, and Appliance Electrification▪ Water Efficiency and Resiliency▪ Recycling, Composting, and Waste Reduction	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community-based organizations▪ Local governments▪ Nonprofit organizations▪ Philanthropic organizations and foundations▪ Faith-based organizations▪ Coalitions or associations of nonprofits▪ Community development finance institutions▪ Community development corporations▪ JPAs▪ California Native American tribes Project Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Affordable and sustainable housing developments▪ Transit stations and facilities▪ Electric bicycle and car share programs


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Urban Greening and Green Infrastructure▪ Health Equity and Well-Being▪ Indoor Air Quality▪ Community Microgrids Brownfield Redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solar installation and energy efficiency▪ Water-energy efficiency installations▪ Urban greening and green infrastructure▪ Bicycle and pedestrian facilities▪ Recycling and waste management▪ Health equity and well-being projects▪ Brownfields redevelopment▪ Community microgrids Indoor air pollution reduction
Coastal Resilience (\$1.2B)	Climate Ready Grant Program: Nature Based Sea Level Rise Adaptation Projects – CA Coastal Conservancy 	Unspecified	Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protect existing natural lands▪ Restore or enhance habitats to enhance resilience to climate change for wildlife▪ Maintain vegetative communities that sequester carbon▪ Provide habitat stability and resistance to natural disasters such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Flooding- Wildfire- Protection from sea level rise Selection Criteria Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equity▪ Enjoy the coast▪ Protect & restore the coast Climate ready	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government agencies▪ Nonprofit organizations▪ Tribal governments Eligible Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop plans and permits for projects that meet the funding priorities▪ Implement projects that meet the funding priorities below Acquire property that furthers the funding priorities


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Climate Ready Program: Public Infrastructure Sea Level Rise Projects - CA Coastal Conservancy 	Unspecified	Protects communities and natural resources from sea level rise, with a focus on adaptation of public infrastructure along the coast including urban waterfronts, ports, and ecosystems Selection Criteria Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Equity▪ Enjoy the coast▪ Protect & restore the coast▪ Climate ready	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government agencies▪ Nonprofit organizations▪ Tribal governments▪ Eligible Projects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop plans and permits for projects that meet the funding priorities▪ Implement projects that meet the funding priorities below▪ Acquire property that furthers the funding priorities
	Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program (Prop 1) - CA DWR 	Unspecified	Funds Projects intersection between the Bay Area or California Coast; projects will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Address flood and public safety▪ Enhance coastal ecosystems▪ Promote natural resources stewardship▪ Public access corridors	Eligible Project Features may: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve flow and water quality in coastal watersheds▪ Restore natural fluvial and related biological processes, including protecting riparian habitats▪ Relocate or flood-proof structures▪ Divert floodwater for conjunctive use▪ Provide transitory storage
	Explore the Coast - CA Coastal Conservancy	\$1M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Funds programs that bring people to the coast or to the shores of the San Francisco Bay; 70% of participants served must be from an Explore the Coast (ETC) priority community, provide an enjoyable experience at the coast, and reduce barriers to accessing/enjoying the coast Secondary Goals	Eligible Applicants Public agencies, federally recognized tribes, and nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding. To be eligible, a nonprofit organization must qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Other community-based organizations and tribes or California Native American communities that are not federally recognized may apply with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. Examples of Eligible Projects



Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Inspire coastal stewardship▪ Promote community leadership▪ Provide lasting positive impact Selection Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enjoyable/ healing coast experience▪ Reduces economical, physical, or societal barriers▪ Serves groups facing barriers to the coast▪ Mindful outreach strategy▪ Inclusive▪ Serves participants with varying physical/ cognitive capabilities▪ Promotes leadership of community through partnerships/leadership roles▪ Positive impact▪ Project description▪ Clear budget and reasonable▪ Project effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Connecting low-income youth to the coastline through a series of expeditions including hiking the Coastal Trail, visiting tidepools, kayaking in the sea, camping near the beach, and birdwatching.▪ Serving adults with developmental disabilities by implementing a weeklong summer day camp at the coast with activities such as yoga, sandcastle building, and whale watching.▪ Providing tribal youth and families with two summer camping trips in their ancestral lands to participate in fishing, tide pooling, edible kelp gathering, beach exploration, and cooking.▪ Taking low-income children and their families from inland communities to Catalina Island for an overnight camping excursion.▪ Taking students on a field trip where they participate in a community science project.▪ Hosting a surf camp over several weeks for children that are victims of abuse.▪ Providing a safe space for joyful experiences and mentorship. Provide leadership opportunities to teens that have graduated from the program
	Ocean Protection Council Grant Program (Prop 68) – Ocean Protection Council 	\$30M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	For projects that contribute to healthy coast and ocean ecosystems, while also improving community resilience to climate change and adaptation Project Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Climate change and resiliency & coastal ecosystems	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Public agencies (including local, state, and federal)▪ Public or private universities▪ Nonprofit organizations, including community-based organizations▪ NGOs▪ Private entities▪ Federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American tribes


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Biodiversity▪ Marine protected areas, priority populations and communities▪ Alignment with Ocean Protection Council Equity Initiatives Scoring Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Alignment with Prop 68▪ OPC Priorities▪ Key Policy Priorities in the Solicitation▪ Priority Community Benefits▪ Access, and/or Partnerships▪ Project Proposal Scope, Readiness, and Applicant Capacity▪ Project Methodology, Innovation, and Effectiveness▪ Leveraging of Funding Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tribally led entities located in California▪ Nonprofit organizations must be 501(c)(3) as verified by the Internal Revenue Service Project Eligibility and Timing <p>Prop 68 funds must be spent consistent with the General Obligation Bond Law, Government Code section 16727. In general, this means projects must provide long-term benefits to the state; “long-term benefits” are generally considered to be a minimum of 15 to 30 years. Priority will be given to projects that address the priorities listed in Section 1.4 OPC’s Priorities for Proposition 68 funding and that conserve, protect, and restore marine wildlife and healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems with a focus on the state’s system of marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries, and projects that assist coastal communities, including those reliant on commercial fisheries, and other vulnerable communities, with adaptation to climate change. Climate adaptation projects may address ocean acidification and hypoxia, sea level rise, or habitat and restoration and protection. Research and monitoring projects shall be designed to improve the management, protection and/or restoration of coastal and ocean resources. Funding may also be used for technical assistance, community access, and planning and evaluation projects.</p>
	Lower Cost Coastal Accommodations Program - CA Coastal Conservancy	Unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ TBA	TBA
	Sea Level Adaptation Planning Grant Program - DPR	\$50M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Comprehensive roadmap responding to sea level rise across the State Park system; supports continued access and recreational opportunities and protect coastal natural and cultural resources.	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local governments▪ Regional governments▪ Federally recognized tribal governments



Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			Technical Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Align with OPC’s Strategic Plan and SLR Adaptation CriteriaUse of Best Available Science; Relative Need for SLR PlanningLikelihood of Success/EffectivenessEquity and Environmental JusticeTribal Consultation and PartnershipMatching funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizations or consultants who apply on a government’s behalf may be considered, however, explicit support and collaboration between the organization and government must be provided within the application (via Letter of Commitment) Priority Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">Track 1: SLR Adaptation PlanningPhase 1: Pre-planning (explore, define, assess)Community VisioningVulnerability Assessment Phase 2: Data Collection <ul style="list-style-type: none">Data/Information Gathering Phase 3: Planning (define adaptation frameworks and strategies) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Outer Coast Sea Level Rise Adaptation PlanSingle Jurisdiction San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation PlanMulti-jurisdictional San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation PlanSector-Specific Adaptation Plan Track 2: SLR Implementation Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Phase 4: Project Implementation (implement, innovate, assess, adjust)Nature-based and Green-Gray Hybrid3 Adaptation Projects/Feasibility Study/Design Plans
	SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant - Ocean Protection Council 	\$77M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Provides funding for coastal communities to develop consistent sea level rise adaptation plans and projects to build resilience to SLR along the entire coast of CA and SF Bay	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local governmentsRegional governmentsFederally recognized tribal governments



Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			Technical Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Align with OPC’s Strategic Plan and SLR Adaptation CriteriaUse of Best Available ScienceRelative Need for SLR PlanningLikelihood of Success/EffectivenessEquity and Environmental JusticeTribal Consultation and PartnershipMatching funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organizations or consultants who apply on a government’s behalf may be considered, however, explicit support and collaboration between the organization and government must be provided within the application (via Letter of Commitment) Priority Project Types <ul style="list-style-type: none">Track 1: SLR Adaptation PlanningPhase 1: Pre-planning (explore, define, assess)Community VisioningVulnerability Assessment Phase 2: Data Collection <ul style="list-style-type: none">Data/Information Gathering Phase 3: Planning (define adaptation frameworks and strategies) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Outer Coast Sea Level Rise Adaptation PlanSingle Jurisdiction San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation PlanMulti-jurisdictional San Francisco Bay Subregional Shoreline Adaptation PlanSector-Specific Adaptation Plan Track 2: SLR Implementation Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Phase 4: Project Implementation (implement, innovate, assess, adjust)Nature-based and Green-Gray Hybrid3 Adaptation Projects/Feasibility Study/Design Plans
Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions (\$1.2B)	Bond Grant Program - San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy 	\$48M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	In certain years, voters approve state general obligations bonds to support Natural Resources Management. Due to the diverse landscape across the RMC’s jurisdiction, projects funded through bond funding fall into three main program areas to allow for	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">State agenciesFederal agenciesTribal entitiesLocal public agenciesCertified local conservation corps


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<p>equitable distribution of funds across the region. These program areas are: Urban Areas, Rivers and Tributaries, and Mountains, Hills, and Foothills</p> <p>RMC Project Evaluation Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Urban Land▪ Recreation▪ Stakeholders / Partners▪ Educational / Interpretive▪ Sustainability▪ Public Health▪ Access▪ Water Resources and Quality▪ Habitat▪ Restoration▪ Trails / Bikeways▪ Cultural or Historic Resource▪ Stewardship and Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation▪ JPA if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant <p>Project Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Multi-benefit projects that promote sustainability and community engagement while addressing climate and societal challenges and simultaneously providing community well-being and biodiversity benefits▪ Urban greening, introduction of native vegetation in cities and communities, like trees and shrubs at parks▪ Water conservation, stormwater capture, and infiltration improvements, such as permeable surfaces and nature-based water capture features▪ Expanding floodplains, restoration of wetlands, riparian, and complementary habitats▪ Coordination with California Native tribes to have access to natural cultural resources and cultural landscapes▪ Converting abandoned land and brownfields into open space or community spaces to enhance social cohesion and regenerate disadvantaged communities▪ Acquisition of vacant/undeveloped land for parks creation and/or habitat conservation▪ Increase resilience of the region to wildfire impacts through priority planning for hazardous fuels removal, implementing fuels reduction projects, and work with job training groups to grow the regions workforce capacity
	Community Wetland Restoration - CA Coastal Conservancy 	Unspecified	TBA	TBA


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Habitat Conservation Fund - CA Dept of Parks & Recreation 	\$14M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	Allocates \$2M each for 7 unique categories; eligible projects include nature interpretation programs to bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas, protection of various plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails	Eligibility Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Vary based on Habitat Conservation Fund category.
	Land & Water Conservation Fund - CA Dept of Parks & Recreation 	Funding not yet specified	Funds the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians. Project Selection Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Unmet need▪ Type of project▪ New acreage placed under Land and Water Conservation Fund protection▪ Park-deficient or economically disadvantaged area▪ Population served▪ Public input▪ Project readiness▪ Applicant capacity	Eligible Local Agencies Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cities and counties▪ Federally recognized Native American tribes▪ JPA where all members are public agencies. A JPA can include a state agency if at least one member is a local (non-state) public agency or district, and the JPA was formed for the purpose of providing park and recreation areas.▪ Non-state agency recreation and park districts and special districts with authority to acquire, operate, and maintain public park and recreation areas. Eligible State Agency Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Department of Parks and Recreation▪ Department of Water Resources▪ Department of Fish and Wildlife/Wildlife Conservation Board Eligible Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Acquisition projects OR development projects are eligible. Acquisition Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New park▪ Wildlife corridor that supports public viewing and outdoor recreational use (not habitat conservation for its own sake—all projects must have a primary purpose of public outdoor recreation)



Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreational/active transportation trail corridor that connects neighborhoods to workplaces, schools, homes, and other recreational opportunities Development of Recreation Feature Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">Athletic courts (basketball, tennis, futsal, pickleball, etc.)Athletic fields (soccer regulation or futbol rapido, baseball, softball, football, etc.)Community, demonstration, and botanic gardensDog parks and fixed features, such as fixed obstacle coursesOPEN SPACE and natural areasOutdoor gyms (aerobic or strength building equipment)Outdoor performing arts venuesPicnic areasPlaygrounds and tot lotsRecreational trailsSkate parks and BMX or pump tracksTracks, jogging loops, and par coursesOutdoor swimming pools and aquatic features
	Land and Water Conservation Fund + Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program - CA Dept of Parks & Recreation 	Funding not yet specified	Funds Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Near military bases to acquire, or acquire and develop, lands for public outdoor recreation Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve access and benefits of public outdoor recreation opportunities;Promotion of compatible military goals or initiatives;	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">State governments Project Type <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acquisition: These include the acquisition of land and waters or partial rights to them. There must also be public access, however, access may be controlled, but not prohibitedDevelopment: These include the development of certain outdoor recreation activities and support facilities needed by the public for recreation use of an area.




Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Partnering and leveraging resources;▪ Project alignment with scorp and other applicable plans;▪ Project feasibility and likelihood of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Combination: When it is advantageous to do so, a state may submit projects that combine acquisition and development
	Local Assistance Grants - The Baldwin Hills and Urban Watersheds Conservancy 	Funding not yet specified	TBA	TBA
	Restoration Grant Programs - CA DFW 	Funding not yet specified	<p>Funds projects that provide one or more of the following benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Protect or enhance biodiversity2. Climate change resiliency and connectivity3. Support of the State Wildlife Action Plan priority habitats4. Conserve or enhance working landscapes; CDFW/WRGB General Grant Guidelines 25) Conserve or enhance water-related projects; and/or 6) Enhance public access <p>Additional Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Protect biodiversity▪ Climate resilience	<p>Eligible Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tribes▪ Nonprofit organizations▪ Public agencies <p>Project Categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planning▪ Implementation▪ Acquisition▪ Monitoring▪ Scientific studies▪ Capacity building and technical assistance▪ Non-lethal beaver damage management▪ Contingency funding


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Access for all▪ Nature-based solutions▪ Long-term durability▪ Benefits disadvantaged communities▪ Partnerships	
	Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program - Natural Resources Agency 	\$10M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The return of ancestral lands to tribal ownership and stewardship▪ Planning and implementation of habitat restoration projects▪ Protecting our coast and oceans▪ Advancing wildfire resiliency and cultural fire▪ So many more multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects across California Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Critical need▪ Multi-benefit▪ Nature-based solution Public engagement/tribal consultation	Eligible Applicants California Native American tribes and tribally led entities located in California Eligible Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planning for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects▪ Implementation of multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects Ancestral land return for the purpose of advancing multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects
Climate Smart Agriculture (\$300M)	Community Composting Grant Program – CalRecycle 	Funding not yet specified	Program will help lower GHGs by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increasing the number and efficiency of community composting sites▪ Promoting community activities that increase organic waste diversion in	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local governments▪ Special districts▪ Nonprofit organizations (except private schools)▪ State agencies


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<p>disadvantaged and lower-income communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reducing food and organic waste disposed in landfills▪ Providing compost to enhance community gardens, grow fresh produce, support neighborhood climate adaptation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ UC, Cal State, or CA Community colleges▪ Qualifying tribal entities <p>Eligible Projects</p> <p>Include the creation, improvement, or expansion of community composting sites to increase composting of organics and reduce generation of methane from organic waste decomposing in landfills</p>
	Farmworker Housing Component of the Low-Income Weatherization Program – CA Dept. of Community Services and Development	<p>\$10M</p> <p>Program funding amount from Climate Bond</p>	<p>Provides no-cost rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and energy efficiency upgrades to low-income farmworker households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy costs for participants.</p> <p>Program Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reduce energy usage and GHG emissions▪ Provide co-benefits	<p>Eligibility for Farmworker Housing Administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Private, nonprofit, public organizations▪ Local government agencies or JPA▪ Federally Indian Tribal Governments <p>Energy Efficiency Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Insulation▪ Central heating and cooling system upgrades▪ Washers, dryers, refrigerators, and freezers▪ Lighting upgrades▪ Water heater replacement▪ Window replacement▪ Rooftop solar PV systems
	Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup – CalRecycle 	Funding not yet specified	<p>Helps clean up and prevent illegal dumping on farm or ranch property.</p> <p>Eligible Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Unauthorized solid waste disposal has occurred on a farm or ranch parcel(s).	<p>Eligible Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cities▪ Counties▪ Resource conservation districts▪ Federally recognized Native American Tribes <p>Eligible Costs</p>


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Property needs cleanup to abate a nuisance or public health and safety threat and/or a threat to the environment.The owner is not responsible for the illegally disposed waste.Property is zoned or otherwise authorized for agricultural activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">AdministrationDisposal/recycle costsEquipmentMaterialsSite security measures
Park Creation and Outdoor Access (\$700M)	Recreational Trail and Greenways - CA Natural Resources Agency 	Funding not yet specified	Provides non-motorized recreational infrastructure development and enhancements that promote new or alternate access to parks, waterways, outdoor recreational pursuits, and forested or other natural environments to encourage health-related active transportation and opportunities for Californians to reconnect with nature.	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">NonprofitPublic AgencyTribal Government Project Examples <ul style="list-style-type: none">New/alternate non-motorized trails where one does not currently exist.New non-motorized trail segments to expand and connect to an existing trail or trail system to provide access to parks, waterways, outdoor recreational pursuits and forested or other natural environments.Non-motorized bridges that continue a trail over a waterway or other physical obstacle.Access enhancements including trailhead facility, parking lot, restrooms, interpretive signage, kiosks, entry gate, and planting of trees and shrubs to provide shade, carbon sequestration, habitat values and erosion control. Acquisition of land for purposes of future development into an eligible project type
Clean Air and Energy	Charging Infrastructure for Government Fleets -	Funding not yet specified	TBA	TBA


Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
(\$850M)	California Energy Commission 			
	Co-Digestion Grant Program – CalRecycle 	Funding not yet specified	For building new and expanded food waste co-digestion projects that increase the tonnage of CA-generated organic waste diverted from landfills to a co-digestion system Scoring Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ New co-digestion capacity▪ Project readiness▪ Community benefits▪ Budget Work plan	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Local governments▪ Cities, counties, and cities and counties.▪ Regional or local sanitation agencies, waste agencies, or JPAs. Eligible Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Design▪ Construction Installation of new and expanded food waste co-digestion systems at existing publicly owned wastewater treatment plants
	Long-Duration Energy Storage Program - State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission	\$50M Program funding amount from Climate Bond	Invests in demonstration and deployment of non-lithium-ion long duration energy storage technologies across CA.	TBA
	Carbon Removal Innovation Support Program - California Energy Commission	Funding not yet specified	Helps develop direct air capture technologies that use mechanical and chemical processes. Scoring Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Technical merit	Eligible Applicants Open to anyone but must be a CA based company (industries, aggregators, administrators). Aggregators could be more applicable to demand response/load flexibility programs

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Technical approach▪ Impacts and benefits for California▪ Team qualifications▪ Capabilities Resources	Eligible Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Research development and demonstrations Pilot research test center
Other (Not Specified in Climate Bond text) 	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - CA Dept. of Housing and Community Development 	Funding not yet specified	The program aims to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment through expanding economic opportunities, principally, for persons of low and moderate income. Scoring Matrix	Eligible Applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Non-entitlement jurisdictions [cities with populations under 50,000 and counties with populations under 200,000 in unincorporated areas that do not participate in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG entitlement program]▪ Non-federally recognized Native American communities▪ Colonia as defined by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990. Eligible Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Community development▪ Housing▪ Public improvements▪ Community facilities▪ Public services▪ Planning and technical assistance▪ Native American housing and housing-related activities; water and sewage▪ Colonia: needs related to water, sewage, housing▪ Economic development▪ Enterprise fund▪ Planning and technical assistance▪ Over-the-counter

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation Program (EEMP) - CA Natural Resources Agency 	\$7M Funding assumption based on previous funding rounds (2024 NOFO)	<p>For environmental enhancement and mitigation projects that are directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of modifying existing transportation facilities or for the design, construction, or expansion of new transportation facilities</p> <p>General Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mitigation and enhancement▪ Statewide project goals▪ Other sources of funds/local cash contributions▪ Project readiness/organizational capacity▪ Community participation and other benefits <p>Project Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Urban forestry (suitability, sustainability, cost effectiveness)▪ Resource lands (resource value of lands lost or injured by the RTF, resource value of EEMP lands, sustainability, cost effectiveness)▪ Mitigation project beyond the scope of the lead agency (suitability, elements of mitigation, sustainability, cost effectiveness)	<p>Examples of Eligible Projects</p> <p>Urban Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Planting of trees and other plants along urban streets and medians.▪ Greening existing public lands and structures, including school campuses and urban parks.▪ Greening vacant lots and abandoned sites.▪ Restoration of urban creeks. <p>Resource Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Removal of invasive and restoration of natural plant species.▪ Enhancement or restoration of natural areas such as inland wetlands, forests, oak woodlands, mountain meadows, creeks, and streams with riparian or riverine fish or wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors and fish passages, coastal estuaries, grazing land and grasslands.▪ Acquisitions in fee title or through conservation easements to safeguard regional water supplies, protect riparian and wildlife habitats, conserve agricultural lands for secure wildlife migration corridors and other purposes, and provide public access for compatible wildlife/nature-oriented recreation by the wider community.▪ Acquisitions to preserve in perpetuity Resource Lands for agricultural uses, open space, wetlands, biodiversity, etc.

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program – CalRecycle 	Funding not yet specified	Assists recycling manufacturers in financing machinery, equipment, and ancillary costs to site and expand in California	<p>Eligible Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government▪ Private, for-profit entities▪ Nonprofit organizations (except private schools)▪ Eligible Projects <p>Construction, Renovation, or Expansion of Facilities to Increase In-state Infrastructure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The digestion or composting of organics into compost, soil amendments, biofuels, or bioenergy▪ The manufacturing of value-added finished products using California derived recycled content fiber, plastic, or glass <p>Construction, Renovation, or Expansion of Facilities to Increase In-state Infrastructure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The preprocessing of organics when providing preprocessed materials to an in-state digestion or composting facility that is using the waste to make compost, soil amendments, biofuels, or bioenergy▪ The preprocessing of fiber, plastic or glass waste when providing preprocessed materials to an in-state manufacturing facility that is using the waste to make finished products▪ Expansion of projects that have previously received Greenhouse Gas Reduction grants or loans from CalRecycle are eligible provided the project meets the loan criteria and the previously funded project is progressing in a manner satisfactory to CalRecycle.
	Local Partnership Competitive - CA Transportation Commission	<p>\$72M</p> <p>Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds</p>	<p>Provides Funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Counties▪ Cities	<p>An Eligible Applicant under the Competitive Program is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A local or regional transportation agency:

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Districts▪ Regional transportation agencies in which voters have approved fees or taxes dedicated solely to transportation improvements or that have imposed fees, including: uniform developer fees, dedicated solely to transportation improvements <p>Evaluation Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Accessibility▪ Air quality and GHG; community engagement▪ Economic development, job creation and retention, and cost effectiveness▪ Deliverability; projects that leverage funds above the required matching funds amount▪ Safety▪ System preservation▪ Transportation, land use, and housing goals▪ Vehicle-miles traveled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- That has sought and received voter approval of taxes, tolls, or fees which taxes, tolls, or fees are dedicated solely to transportation improvements and that agency administers those taxes, tolls, or fees- That imposes fees, including uniform developer fees as defined by subdivision (b) of Section 8879.67 of the Government Code, which fees are dedicated solely to transportation improvements <p>Eligible Projects may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improvements to the state highway system▪ Improvements to transit facilities▪ Acquisition of zero-emission buses, and the cleanest available rail cars, locomotives, vans, or other rolling stock▪ Capital projects that employ advanced and innovative technology▪ Improvements to the local road system▪ Improvements to bicycle or pedestrian safety or mobility with an extended useful life▪ Improvements to mitigate the environmental impact of new transportation infrastructure on a locality or region’s air quality or water quality▪ A separate phase or stage of construction for an eligible project may include mitigation of the project’s environmental impacts▪ Sound walls for a freeway that was built prior to 1987 without sound walls and with or without high occupancy vehicle lanes▪ Road maintenance and rehabilitation▪ Other transportation improvement projects▪ The Commission encourages projects that align with the state’s climate and equity goals as well as those that identify and incorporate the installation of conduit or fiber, where appropriate and feasible, along strategic corridors.

Prop 4 Funding Category	Program and Funding Agency	Total Funding	Program Description	Eligibility
	Climate Resilience Grant Program - San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy 	\$11M Funding amount assumption based on previous funding rounds	<p>Investments will support multi-benefit and nature-based solutions, which includes funding to support climate change impacts on fish and wildlife, habitat restoration, and activities that accelerate climate smart management of California’s natural and working lands and help meet the state’s 2030 GHG reduction goals.</p> <p>RMC Project Evaluation Criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Urban Land▪ Recreation▪ Stakeholders / Partners▪ Educational / Interpretive▪ Sustainability▪ Public Health▪ Access▪ Water Resources and Quality▪ Habitat▪ Restoration▪ Trails / Bikeways▪ Cultural or Historic Resource▪ Stewardship and Management Plan	<p>Eligible Applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ State agencies▪ Federal agencies▪ Tribal entities▪ Local public agencies▪ Certified local conservation corps▪ Nonprofit organizations with a 501©(3) designation▪ JPA if at least one of the parties to the joint powers agreement qualifies as an eligible applicant <p>Eligible Project Costs and Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Grant funds may be used for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources▪ Land acquisition costs may include appraisals, land, improvements, relocation costs, title reports, surveying, and escrow▪ Land must be acquired from willing sellers (acquisitions)▪ Facilities development projects must demonstrate a strong relationship and value to natural resource▪ Stewardship or environmental education▪ Rehabilitation and restoration projects must be biologically and technically feasible▪ For implementation projects, planning and pre-project costs may be included, though shall not exceed 10% of total Grant Funds. These costs may include consultant fees, plan documentation, specifications, CEQA planning, and direct project management costs

4. Governor's Budget Proposal for FY25-26

The Governor's proposed budget for FY25-26 was released on January 10, 2025. The budget proposed nearly \$2.7 billion in spending for FY25-26 from the Climate Bond in the areas described below. This budget is the first year of spending of the 10-year Climate Bond; thus, it includes a fraction of the total \$10 billion. The categories of spending are still broad in many respects, without identifying a specific grant program.

4.1 Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience

- Dam Safety and Climate Resilience—\$231.5 million to the Dam Safety and Climate Resilience Local Assistance Program for competitive grants for projects that support dam safety and reservoir operations, such as funding for repairs, rehabilitation, and enhancements.
- Water Quality and Safe Drinking Water and Tribal Water Infrastructure—\$183.2 million for grants and loans that improve water quality and help provide clean, safe, reliable drinking water, such as water quality monitoring and remediation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, implementation of countywide drought and water shortage contingency plans, prevention and treatment of contaminated groundwater, consolidation or extension of water or wastewater systems, and \$11.1 million dedicated to tribal water infrastructure projects
- Flood Management Projects—\$173.1 million for flood control projects to evaluate, repair, rehabilitate, reconstruct, expand, or replace levees, weirs, bypasses, and facilities of the State Plan of Flood Control, as well as funding for the Flood Control Subventions Program. • Water Reuse and Recycling—\$153.4 million for water reuse and recycling projects that support treatment, storage, conveyance, or distribution facilities for potable and nonpotable use, dedicated infrastructure to serve retrofit projects, and multi-benefit projects that allow use of recycled water.
- In addition to these investments, the Budget proposes \$173.5 million to improve water storage, replenish groundwater, improve conditions in streams and rivers, and complete various water resilience projects and programs.

4.2 Wildfire and Forest Resilience

- Forest Health Program—\$82.2 million for projects that improve forest health by significantly reducing fuels, reintroducing beneficial fire, restoring degraded areas, and conserving threatened forests.
- Regional Projects—\$79.5 million for block grants to support landscape-scale, multi-benefit projects developed by forest collaboratives in high-risk regions.
- Local Fire Prevention Grants—\$59.1 million for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to support local projects in and near fire-threatened communities, including fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety.
- Resilient State-Owned Lands—\$33.4 million to help restore health and resilience to 3.8 million acres of state-owned lands vulnerable to destructive wildfires, including expansion of beneficial fire.
- State Conservancies–Watershed Improvement and Wildfire Resilience—\$22.4 million for various conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency for watershed improvement, forest health, biomass utilization, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development.

- Wildfire Mitigation—\$9.1 million for the Wildfire Mitigation Program, administered by the OES and CALFIRE, which offers financial assistance to vulnerable populations in wildfire-prone areas throughout the state for cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting to create fire-resistant homes, as well as defensible space and vegetation management activities.
- In addition to these investments, the Budget proposes \$39.3 million for various wildfire and forest resilience projects and programs, including defensible space, home hardening, reforestation, and wood utilization.

4.3 Coastal Resilience

- Coastal Resilience—\$30.8 million for projects to protect coastal lands, public access facilities, and habitats, as well as an additional \$20 million for projects that address sea level rise, flood management, and wetland restoration, consistent with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Act or the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program.
- Sea Level Rise Mitigation and Adaptation—\$20.3 million for planning and implementation of projects that help communities prepare for impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding, and \$7.5 million for grants to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems and protect marine wildlife.
- Dam Removal and Related Infrastructure—\$8.5 million for removal of obsolete dams and modifications to related infrastructure to increase habitat connectivity, build climate resilience for culturally and economically important fisheries and improve coastal sediment supply for beaches and shorelines.
- In addition to these investments, the Budget proposes \$85.9 million for various coastal resilience and sea level rise adaptation projects.

4.4 Extreme Heat Mitigation

- Urban Greening Program—\$46.8 million for greening communities through the creation and expansion of green streets, parks, and schoolyards.
- Fairground Updates—\$37.6 million to modify or upgrade fairgrounds to enhance communities' emergency preparedness capabilities, particularly in response to climate change.
- Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Program—\$16.1 million to fund projects that reduce the impacts of extreme heat, reduce urban heat island effect, and build community resilience to extreme heat.
- In addition to these investments, the Budget proposes \$1.5 million for various extreme heat mitigation projects and programs.

4.5 Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions

- Protect and Enhance Fish and Wildlife Resources—\$176 million for projects including, but not limited to, land conservation acquisitions and easements, habitat enhancement and restoration, floodplain reactivation and wetland restoration, and wildlife connectivity.
- State Conservancies Supporting Regional Action—\$79.9 million for various conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency to drive climate action through nature-based solutions, such as land conservation and habitat restoration and enhancement, and to improve equitable access to nature.

- Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program—\$9.4 million for grants to California Native American tribes for multi-benefit nature-based solutions projects including ancestral land return, planning and implementation of habitat restoration projects, protecting the state’s coast and oceans, and advancing wildfire resilience and cultural fire across California.
- In addition to these investments, the Budget proposes \$20.7 million for various biodiversity and nature-based solutions projects and programs.

4.6 Climate Smart Agriculture

- Invasive Species Projects—\$19.9 million to fund invasive species projects and activities recommended by the Invasive Species Council of California. The Council provides interagency leadership and coordination to exclude or rapidly eradicate invasive species from California.

4.7 Park Creation and Outdoor Access

- Statewide Park Program—\$190 million to create new parks and improve existing parks in the state’s most disadvantaged communities. The Statewide Park Program is the largest park-related grant program in California’s history, creating and enhancing community open spaces where they are needed most in the state.
- Deferred Maintenance Program—\$84.4 million to help address deferred maintenance projects throughout the State Park System. These projects will enhance visitor experiences and increase access to California’s state parks.
- Reduction of Climate Impacts and Creation, Protection, and Expansion of Outdoor Recreation—\$11 million to enhance visitor access on and increase the resilience of public lands by improving safety and accessibility of trails and facilities, increasing interpretive information, and completing wildfire preparedness and mitigation projects.

4.8 Clean Air and Energy

- Development of Port Upgrades to Serve Offshore Wind Generation and Other Purposes—\$228.2 million for port upgrades, including construction and improvements of publicly owned port facilities for manufacturing, assembly, staging, and integration of components and vessels, to support the development of offshore wind generation and other activities.
- Demand-Side Grid Support Program—\$50 million for load reduction and backup generation efforts that support electric grid reliability during extreme weather events.

4.9 General Fund

Given the significant investments made possible by the Climate Bond, the budget proposes shifting \$273 million from prior General Fund obligations to Climate Bond funding. These include:

- Stewardship of State-Owned Land—\$68 million General Fund
- Water Recycling—\$51 million General Fund
- Dam Safety—\$47 million General Fund
- Watershed Climate Resilience—\$32 million General Fund

- Demand-Side Grid Support Program—\$18 million General Fund
- Systemwide Flood Risk Reduction Program—\$15 million General Fund
- Community Resilience and Heat Program—\$15 million General Fund
- Deferred Maintenance—\$14 million General Fund
- Home Hardening—\$13 million General Fund
- In addition, the Budget proposes a \$32 million shift of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the Clean Energy Reliability Investment Plan to the Climate Bond to address a projected shortfall within the Motor Vehicle Account.

5. Evaluating Priority Projects

The state uses a variety of evaluation criteria to assess the alignment of a project with a specific program. The County of Los Angeles has developed plans, such as the LA County Climate Action Plan and the LA County Heat Action Plan to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change. These plans consider equity and sustainability, both of which are leading considerations for state agencies when evaluating projects for any kind of state funding. For example, the Climate Action Plan prioritizes the conservation of open land to better avoid additional GHG emissions and other negative effects caused by human activity. It is anticipated that these themes will be prioritized in state funding solicitations for programs which receive funding from the Climate Bond.

Some key considerations include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Funding Need and Match:** Funding match requirements vary per program, but a general rule of thumb can be used to assume a 20% local match for state funded projects, especially if a project is not located in a DAC.
- **Project Readiness:** Readiness (phase, readiness to proceed) is a key consideration for capital projects. In general, projects that are ready for bid pending award of state funding are the most competitive. If a project is not ready for bid at the time an application is submitted, it should be clearly and understandably explained how a project will be prepared for bid as quickly as possible.
- **Priority Populations/Equity:** Equity is a key consideration for state funding. Projects that are in state-identified disadvantaged communities according to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, which is governed by Senate Bill (SB) 535. It is expected that the state will prioritize communities identified as disadvantaged pursuant to state law.
- **Environmental Justice:** Much like priority populations, the state is expected to prioritize funding to communities that experience exacerbated environmental burdens when compared to other baseline communities. These communities can also be identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0, governed by SB 535.
- **Climate and Natural Hazards:** The state will prioritize areas that have been identified by state agencies as more prone to climate and natural disasters. For example, wildfire prevention funding programs will likely rely on the CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones to prioritize communities that are at greater risk for wildfire events.
- **Past Investments:** Applicants that show previous efforts have been made to initiate a project are often more competitive because they further demonstrate commitment to completing a project. Past investments may also strengthen project readiness criteria, if they have allowed a project to proceed through early phases (e.g., planning or design have been completed, allowing for immediate implementation). Past investments in community engagement or partnership building that indicate commitment to the goals of the project, or even other grants for similar projects that show the ability of the applicant to carry out a grant, can be beneficial. Occasionally, past investments may be used towards a funding match.
- **State of Good Repair:** Projects that provide State of Good Repair benefits are expected to be prioritized by the state. Applicants should clearly explain this benefit in the narrative of their grant applications and quantify the benefits in any relevant and necessary cost-benefit analyses.
- **Ecosystem/Habitat Conservation or Restoration:** Projects that demonstrate habitat restoration and natural-based solutions rather than traditional interventions will likely score higher in a state

competition. These nature-based solutions and the rationale for using them should be clearly explained in the narrative of grant applications.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction:** Projects that demonstrate GHG emissions reductions are expected to be prioritized by the state. The LA County Climate Action Plan and the State Climate Action Plan indicate a state goal of reducing GHG emissions significantly by 2040.

There are several tools available to help analyze the likely competitiveness of potential projects for funding opportunities based on their geography, demographics, environmental factors, climate risk, and so forth. Examples of some of the available tools and weblinks to those tools are included in Table 2-1. It is important to note that many federal tools that were previously available are no longer or not currently available, such as the Centers for Disease Control Social Vulnerability Index and the Community and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Table 2-1. Project Evaluation Tools

Tool	Description
CalEnviroScreen	CalEnviroScreen takes a number of key performance indicators based on census tracts and evaluates each one based on a weighted score. The score is from 1-100. Scores above 75 indicate a disadvantaged community.
CALFIRE Fire Hazard Safety Zones	The tool evaluates zones identified by the California Department of Forest and Fire Protection as more susceptible to wildfire. The tool uses climate data, including weather, identified winds, fuel loading and slope to identify areas more prone to wildfire.
California Heat Assessment Tool	The tool uses historic temperature data and population data to assess communities at risk of extreme heat.
Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment	The tool assesses at the tract level areas that are more vulnerable to specific natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, sea level rise and earthquakes.
FEMA National Risk Index	The tool uses climate data and census data to determine how severely exposed counties are to risk associated with natural disasters.

6. Advocacy for Funding

Los Angeles County and the Southern California region may benefit significantly by highlighting some of the critical needs and advocating the state Legislature to direct a larger share of this bond funding to the region. With the large population (23.8 million in Southern California versus 15.8 million in Northern California¹) and extensive amount of critical infrastructure existing in the region and expected growth, the cost of recent and predicted disasters, and the need for retrofitting infrastructure and buildings to withstand such disasters.

SCAG projected in its [Connect SoCal 2024 Plan](#) that the region, consisting of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties, will grow in population by approximately 2,082,000, or 1,621,000 households, by 2050. Additionally, the region would add 1,300,000 new jobs. Additional housing, transportation, water, wastewater, and other infrastructure will be needed to adequately accommodate the current and projected population.

According to the [2020 County of Los Angeles All-Hazards Mitigation Plan](#), Los Angeles County is particularly vulnerable to natural hazards and secondary hazards, as a result of a natural hazard, such as climate change, dam failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, tsunami, and wildfire. It was decided that climate change should be included in this plan, as increasing surface temperatures will likely result in more droughts and subsequently the risk of wildfires. However, undeclared and slow-moving disasters related to extreme heat, poor air quality, drought, sea level rise, and ecosystem degradation, among others, also contribute to increased negative public health impacts, loss of life, and economic losses.

The estimated cost of climate-related disasters in the region has topped hundreds of billions of dollars. Most notably, the most recent wildfires in Los Angeles County (Eaton Fire and Palisades Fire) are expected to top \$250 million.² The loss of life and property, lost jobs, land value, and high cost of rebuilding homes and infrastructure are major factors for these staggering estimates. The FEMA NRI can also provide census-tract level estimates of losses and vulnerability across the region for a more detailed look at hazard risks, especially for areas that have not been hit by specific disasters.

According to the California State Board of Equalization's [Chronological List of Governor-Proclaimed Disasters for Property Tax Purposes](#), there have been 96 disasters in Southern California versus 93 disasters in Northern California (*since October 20, 1991*).³ Five of the ten Southern California counties comprise the top five California counties in total number of declared disasters. During this period, the greatest number have occurred in Los Angeles County (39), followed by San Bernardino County (31), Riverside County (24), Ventura County (23), and Santa Barbara (23). Orange County (21) is ranked ninth, followed by Kern County (18) in tenth.

The language in the Climate Bond focuses eligible expenditures on projects with multi-benefits that also address climate impacts and risks including floods and droughts. Because of that, watershed, clean water,

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. "Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019." Population count taken by county and aggregated. January 26, 2025.

² Danielle, Monica. 'AccuWeather estimates more than \$250 billion in damages and economic loss from LA wildfires.' AccuWeather. January 13, 2025. <https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/accuweather-estimates-more-than-250-billion-in-damages-and-economic-loss-from-la-wildfires/1733821>

³ Based on Southern California counties including the following: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

and water infrastructure funding not only directly comprise 38% of the funds available, but emergency water supplies, sea level rise, flooding, and stormwater capture activities exist throughout other sections of the bond, increasing funding opportunities. Multi-benefit projects that incorporate such features will likely be prioritized for funding throughout a variety of programs.

Post-Disaster Funding Options for Resilient Recovery

Prepared for:
Los Angeles County

DRAFT VERSION 2.0

February 7, 2025



Executive Summary

This memo summarizes the federal and state funding programs that Los Angeles County may be able to access to support the rebuilding efforts after the devastating California wildfires of January 2025. Understanding that LA County seeks to “build back better” by reconstructing community infrastructure that is better able to withstand future threats and disasters, this memo highlights funding programs that support the integration of resilient project elements.

Section 1: Non-Competitive Post-Disaster Funding describes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding program – Public Assistance (PA) – that should be the top priority for the County as it begins to rebuild. The PA Program is the primary funding vehicle that supports the reconstruction of public facilities after disasters. Although PA predominantly funds the rebuilding of facilities as they were before the disaster, recent FEMA guidance has expanded the types of “hazard mitigation” (resilience) actions that can be funded through the PA program via an expedited approval process. Two other non-competitive, post-disaster funding sources are also described.

Section 2: Post-Disaster, Eligibility-Restricted Funding Programs presents the federal funding programs that restrict grant eligibility to projects in post-disaster areas, such as FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. These funding programs should be a top focus area for the County in the months and year after the disaster, as competition for these funds is significantly less than other national or statewide programs.

Section 3: State of California Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding presents key statewide grant programs that offer funding potential to LA County. Programs highlighted in this section including CAL FIRE grants for various fire presentation activities, as well as the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program offered through the Strategic Growth Council.

Section 4: Federal and National Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding presents additional grant programs from federal agencies such as FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Economic Development Administration as well as national foundations such as Land Trust Alliance that can support various resilient rebuilding projects.

Section 5: Financing Options for Rebuilding briefly highlights financing options that the County may consider to accelerate the rebuilding process, with a particular focus on Climate Resilience Districts.

Section 6: Funding Options and Policy Framework for Powerline Undergrounding addresses a key priority area for LA County as they seek funding options to underground powerlines and mitigate the risk of future wildfires.

Appendix A presents a detailed funding table of the federal and state grant programs that are described in each section of this memo.

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1. Non-Competitive Post-Disaster Funding

This section describes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program, emphasizing opportunities to access funding for hazard mitigation measures during the rebuilding process. The FEMA Community Assistance program as well as recent State of California Funding is passed through California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CALOES).

1.1 FEMA Public Assistance Program (PA)

The PA Program provides supplemental grants for repairs to disaster-damaged facilities to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. Please note that for-profit utility companies like Southern California Edison or private water companies are not eligible for federal funds such as the PA program.

FEMA also encourages protecting these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation (i.e. resilience) measures during the recovery process for disaster-damaged facilities to help prevent future damage through a separate but streamlined PA Hazard Mitigation proposal. Approved mitigation proposals are included as a separate fixed cost amount within the subaward and must align with the actual recovery work planned. This hazard mitigation scope of work and cost estimate are separate from the repair project itself. Mitigation measures must not exceed 100 percent of the eligible repair cost.

The federal cost share for PA activities is not less than 75% and can be increased to up to 90%. Reimbursement is estimated to be available as soon as three months after documentation has been submitted and approved. All coordination for FEMA PA is conducted through the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management.

Eligibility for PA

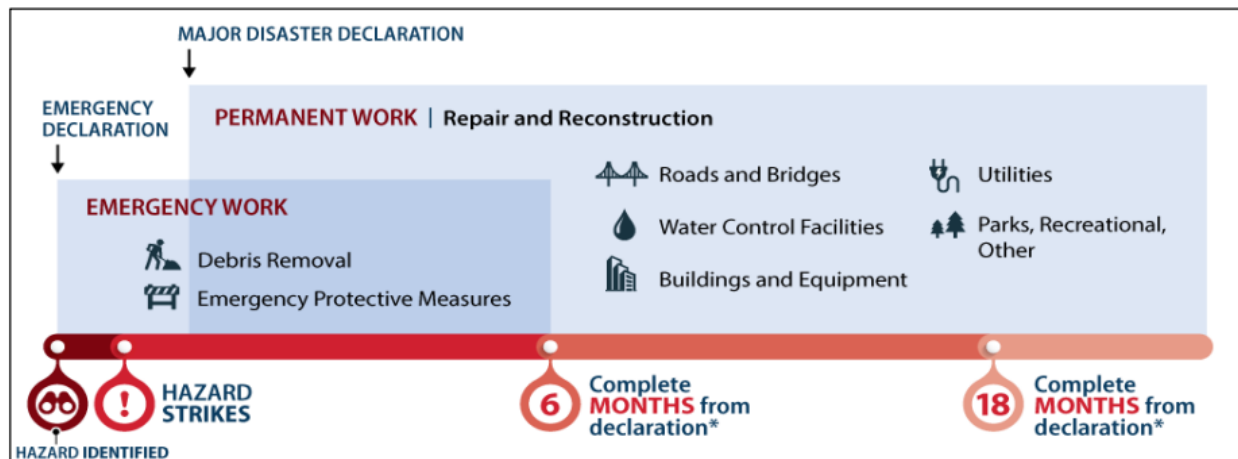
PA will fund the reconstruction or rebuilding of eligible facilities only. An eligible public facility is one that a state, local, Tribal Nation, or territorial (SLTT) government owns or has legal responsibility for maintaining. Some facilities owned by private non-profit organizations are also eligible for PA funding. A facility includes any:

- System including flood control, navigation, irrigation, reclamation, public power, sewage treatment and collection, water supply and distribution, or watershed development;
- Building, such as maintenance and storage sheds, restroom facilities, bath houses, or outbuildings including ancillary facilities;
- Non-federal-aid street, road, or highway; ramps, or access roads;
- Public buildings, structure, or system, including those used for educational, recreational, or cultural purposes;
- Airport facility including runways;
- Park including piers, docks, trails, benches, picnic tables, swimming pools, golf courses, or ball fields; or

- Other public facilities including pumping stations, communication towers and antennas, contents, supplies, equipment, vehicles, fences, parking lots, stairs, signage, lighting, sidewalks, gutters, ditches, guard rails, integral ground, catch basins, or outfall structures.

Activities covered under FEMA PA are divided into Emergency Work (debris removal and emergency protective measures) and Permanent Work (roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities, and parks, recreational, and other). Emergency Work typically must be completed within six months from the disaster declaration, with the possibility to extend an additional six months. Permanent Work must be completed within 18 months of declaration, except for Category I projects (Building Code and Floodplain Management Administration and Enforcement Activities Grouping), which must be completed within 120 days. Applicants may request extensions through written requests to the FEMA Regional Administrator. Figure 1 presents an illustration of the eligible project types and timing of FEMA PA funding.

Figure 1: Timing and Eligibility of FEMA Public Assistance Program Funding



Incorporating Hazard Mitigation Measures into PA-funded Projects

Typically, PA funding can only be used to rebuild structures or facilities as they were before the disaster; however, FEMA also allows for the rebuild process to include elements (known as measures) that can help prevent future disasters. To be eligible for PA “hazard mitigation” funding, measures must:

- Directly reduce potential for future damage to the damaged portion(s) of the facility
- Meet cost-effectiveness criteria¹
- Be technically feasible and effective
- Comply with all other federal, state, and local requirements

Importantly, the mitigation measures that FEMA will fund can offer protection for all hazards, not just the hazard that caused the damage or destruction of the facility.

¹ Meeting the FEMA cost-effectiveness criteria, as demonstrated by a FEMA-compliant benefit-cost analysis (BCA), can be a challenge for many projects, however the most recent version of the [Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) has broadened the number of measures that FEMA will consider cost-effective without the need for PA applicants to develop a BCA. The full list of these measures is found in Appendix J of the PAPPG and includes a broad range of drainage structures, transportation facilities, electrical power systems, storage tanks, and other buildings and systems improvements.

Examples of the types of hazard mitigation measures that FEMA would fund are the following:

- Creating defensible space around facilities or structures with wildfire risk by removing or reducing the volume of flammable vegetation.
- Constructing floodwalls or vegetated swales around damaged facilities.
- Installing new drainage structures (including culverts or permeable pavements) along a damaged road.
- Applying fire-resistant materials and/or creating defensible space around eligible facilities.

FEMA provides PA funding for engineering analysis and design services, including surveys, to develop a potential hazard mitigation proposal if the work is included in the approved mitigation scope of work and the work has been completed.

1.2 FEMA Community Assistance Recovery Support Function

Although this program does not support the construction of capital projects, after a disaster, FEMA Community Assistance (CA) teams can deploy to convene partners to meet the recovery needs of local governments for planning, capacity-building, and incorporating resilience. Examples of the support that CA can provide include:

- Just-in-Time Training – Hosts training series offered to local staff and leadership that provides critical information about disaster processes and planning and capacity considerations.
- Community Engagement and Partnership Development – Provides advice and support to communities to engage all stakeholders to support equitable and inclusive recovery.
- Recovery Planning Technical Assistance – Works with impacted communities and CA partners to provide planning technical assistance and identify potential funding sources for identified recovery projects.
- Management Capacity – With partners, works with impacted community leaders to identify management needs and resources.

1.3 State of California Emergency Funding

A special legislative session resulted in the passage of two bills (AB X1-4 and SB X1-3) in late January 2025, which together allocated up to \$2.5 billion, predominantly for emergency response and recovery activities. However, a small amount of this initial state funding is allocated to recovery efforts. The bills direct \$4 million to the Department of Housing and Community Development for local governments in areas impacted by the wildfires to provide additional planning review and building inspection resources for the purpose of expediting building approvals for homeowner rebuilding. \$1 million will be allocated to impacted school districts to begin rebuilding activities.

2. Post-Disaster, Eligibility-Restricted Funding Programs

Federal and state grant programs in this section provide funding for post-disaster recovery, as well as hazard mitigation activities to reduce risk of future hazards in areas affected by Presidentially declared disasters. These programs are eligibility-restricted, meaning that applications are accepted only from areas that have experienced a specific disaster.

2.1 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. In California, these funds are administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Hazard Mitigation Branch. Eligible subapplicants include state agencies, local governments, special districts, and some private non-profits. The HMGP funding opportunities provide support for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, and project scoping activities referred to as Advanced Assistance. For eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities, the PrepareCA Initiative provides additional support for capacity building and to cover the local cost share for eligible mitigation activities.

Applications are submitted to Cal OES for review and are competitive only within the state of California for funding. The applicant must [submit all sub-applications to FEMA within 12 months of the date of the presidential major disaster declaration](#). Upon written request and justification from the applicant, FEMA may extend the application submission timeline in 30- to 90-day increments, not to exceed 180 days. Projects are typically funded 2+ years after application submittal. Work started prior to FEMA review and approval is ineligible for funding. Grant recipients have 36 months from the close of the application period to complete their projects.

Examples of post-fire activities that are eligible under the HMGP program are presented in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Prioritized HMGP Post Fire Activities²

Project Type	Examples of Prioritized Projects
Wildfire Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Defensible space ▪ Reducing hazardous fuels ▪ Removing standing burned trees ▪ Ignition-resistant construction
5-Percent Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Installing warning signs
Infrastructure Retrofit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen or harden water systems that were burned and caused contamination
Soil and Slope Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reseeding ground cover ▪ Planting grass to prevent spread of noxious weeds ▪ Mulching with straw or chipped wood ▪ Placing logs/other erosion barriers to catch sediment on slopes ▪ Installing debris traps to modify road and trail drainage mechanisms
Post-Wildfire Flood Prevention and Sediment Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Modifying or removing culverts ▪ Adding drainage dips and constructing emergency spillways ▪ Constructing straw, rock, or log dams in small tributaries to prevent flooding

2.2 HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

This Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant program can fund a variety of recovery activities, including housing, infrastructure, economic development, administration, and planning. In California, applications are submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD conducts an unmet needs assessment to determine the most critical funding needs and activates CDBG-DR programs based on those needs. HUD requires that funds can only be expended within federally declared disaster areas and that 80% of the total allocation is spent in the designated most impacted and distressed areas. The remaining 20% may be spent in the other federally declared disaster areas.

CDBG-DR-Infrastructure (DR-INF) is a program that funds projects to assist with unmet infrastructure needs of eligible local communities. It provides funding for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) match projects, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) match projects, other non-FEMA match projects, and stand-alone projects identified by eligible communities.

Since 2021, CDBG-DR also includes Mitigation Set-Aside Funds to proactively address the impacts of climate change and natural disasters to build long-term community resilience. This set-aside replaces CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT). Grantees must conduct a risk-based assessment of current and future hazards to inform the use of their CDBG-DR mitigation set-aside and also assess disaster mitigation needs to enable continuous operation of indispensable services, such as critical business and government functions, health and human safety services, and economic security

² FEMA. "How to Apply for Post-Fire Funding in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" Link: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/post-fire/apply>

After the California wildfires and floods that affected Los Angeles County and other areas in 2017, HUD appropriated \$212M in CDBG-DR funds to the state of California to address various disaster impacts. Of the total, \$124M was intended to address unmet recovery needs and \$88M was to be used for preparedness and mitigation needs.

2.3 EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides support to communities impacted by Presidentially declared disasters through Disaster Supplemental Funding. When Disaster Supplemental Funding is available, EDA solicits applications under the authority of its Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program. **Funding helps communities devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies to recover and become resilient to future disasters through a variety of construction and non-construction projects.** EDA expects every project it funds to be resilient to future disruptions, to the greatest extent possible, including the impacts of climate change. Applications are submitted to EDA.

In the past, Disaster Supplemental Funding has generally been made available about 6 months after major natural disasters occur. In April 2023, Disaster Supplemental Funding was made available for regions experiencing extreme distress due to Hurricanes Ian and Fiona and other natural disasters occurring in 2021 and 2022. In June 2019, Disaster Supplemental Funding was made available for regions that experienced a major disaster in the calendar year 2018 or that experienced tornadoes and floods in 2019. In February 2018, the funding was made available for communities experiencing economic distress due to natural disasters occurring in the calendar year 2017.

Eligible applicants include units of local government and agencies engaged in economic or infrastructure activities in any region that has experienced a Federally declared disaster, such as the 2025 California wildfires. It is unclear how much funding will be available for regions experiencing disasters in the year 2025, but past appropriations have been around \$600 million. There is generally a 20% non-federal cost share required.

EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding helps communities devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies to recover and become resilient to future disasters through a variety of construction and non-construction projects. EDA expects every project it funds to be resilient to future disruptions, to the greatest extent possible, including the impacts of climate change. Public Works Infrastructure is an eligible category of spending.

Examples of past projects include:

- In October 2020, [Paradise, California was awarded \\$1.8 million](#) to support the development of a master plan that would guide the recovery and redevelopment of the community's transportation infrastructure. The grant supplied Paradise with the resources it needed to access additional state and federal investment. Planning and scoping supported by the grant allowed Paradise to fully articulate its needs to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\)](#) program. In August 2022, Paradise learned it qualified for \$200 million in CDBG-DR funds, the largest single grant awarded by HUD that year. The City credits the \$1.8 million in seed money from EDA with enabling it to submit a competitive and successful application.
- [Chico, CA received \\$13.3 million](#) for infrastructure improvements after the 2018 Camp Fire, including widening a critical two-mile stretch of Cohasset Road to better connect three major job

centers in north Chico and increase capacity along a staging area used by first responders during natural disasters.

- In 2020, EDA [awarded North Carolina \\$1 million](#) to provide economic guidance and strategic training on preparing for natural disasters. The award was also designed for the establishment of a statewide framework on disaster resilience planning. Funding was used to improve capacity for local leaders in response to climate issues and to create a portfolio of projects to address those problems. Most significantly, it led to the development of the Resilient Communities Guidebook, a climate resilience resource for areas across the state.

2.4 FTA Emergency Relief Program

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s Emergency Relief program, established under MAP-21 legislation, enables FTA to provide assistance to public transit operators in the aftermath of an emergency or major disaster. The program helps states and public transportation systems pay for protecting, repairing, and/or replacing equipment and facilities that may suffer or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency, including natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. The program can fund capital projects to protect, repair, or replace facilities or equipment that are in danger of suffering serious damage, or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency. The program can also fund the operating costs of evacuation, rescue operations, temporary public transportation service, or reestablishing, expanding, or relocating service before, during or after an emergency.

In 2023, \$110 million funding was made available for regions experiencing disasters in 2017 and in 2020-2022. Awards were [announced in February of 2022](#) and ranged from \$6,700 to \$75 million.

[Past award examples](#) include:

- \$2.1 million to the Hillsborough Regional Transit (HART) in Hillsborough County, Fla., for providing emergency services during Hurricane Ian in 2022.
- \$420,000 to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet on behalf of the Fulton County Transit Authority to replace vehicles following a December 2021 tornado that struck Mayfield County, Ky.
- \$18.6 million to the Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District in the Plaquemines Parish of Louisiana to rehabilitate the Pointe à la Hache Ferry Crossing, which has been damaged by several major storms, including Tropical Storm Harvey in 2017 and Hurricane Ida in 2021.
- \$75 million to the New Jersey Transit Corporation to support repairs and relocation of a 70-year-old facility damaged during Hurricane Ida in 2021.
- \$201,160 to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority for emergency response operating costs following the December 2022 blizzard that impacted Erie and Niagara County, N.Y.
- Nearly \$13.2 million to the Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority to rehabilitate Tren Urbano rail system facilities and systems following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017.
- \$400,000 to the Brazos Transit District, which provides transportation services for 21 counties in central and east Texas, to repair a maintenance facility damaged in a February 2021 winter storm.

3. State of California Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding

The State of California offers a variety of competitive grant programs through its agencies. The programs identified below provide funding for rebuilding and infrastructure improvements to enhance mitigation of and resilience to hazards.

3.1 Land Trust Alliance Land and Climate Grant Program

The Land and Climate Grant Program aims to support and build the capacity of land trusts and other groups that conserve and steward land to integrate climate change into land protection and management decisions. The program supports the development of climate-informed land conservation, stewardship, policy or communications plans that address one or more of the following issues: habitat resilience, carbon mitigation, renewable energy siting or community adaptation to climate impacts such as stronger storms, flooding, drought, fire or extreme heat.

3.2 CPUC California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account

The California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account funds are awarded to subsidize the cost of middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure to expand the State's broadband network by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

3.3 Caltrans State of Good Repair

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State of Good Repair program funds the repair, upgrade, and improvement of a transit agency's existing transportation services and infrastructure. This includes the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing vehicles, transit facilities, and the purchase of new, energy efficient transit vehicles.

3.4 CTC Active Transportation Program (ATP)

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) is a biannual, competitive funding opportunity aimed at encouraging the use of active transportation modes like bicycling and walking. ATP consolidates various federal and state transportation programs into a single initiative, administered by the California Transportation Commission. The program's goals include increasing the proportion of trips made by walking and biking, enhancing safety and mobility for non-motorized users, supporting regional greenhouse gas reduction efforts, improving public health, and benefiting a broad spectrum of users, including disadvantaged communities.

3.5 CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program (UHC)

CAL FIRE's Urban & Community Forestry Program (UCF) works to expand and improve the management of trees and related vegetation in communities throughout California. The program funds street tree planting and maintenance with a minimum of 80% of implemented funding targeting disadvantaged communities. Award sizes range from \$150,000 to \$1.5 million.

3.6 SGC Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)

The Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program funds affordable housing and transportation projects near jobs, schools, and other daily destinations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging walking, biking, and public transit use. Funded by California's Cap-and-Trade program, AHSC is administered by the Strategic Growth Council and implemented by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The program supports:

- Affordable housing developments (new construction or renovation)
- Sustainable transportation infrastructure (e.g., new transit vehicles, sidewalks, bikeways)
- Transportation-related amenities (e.g., bus shelters, benches, shade trees)
- Programs encouraging active transportation and public transit use

Successful projects often involve partnerships between housing developers, local governments, regional transportation agencies, and public transit providers. Joint proposals and technical assistance for application submission are also available.

3.7 CNRA Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP)

The EEM Grant Program seeks projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified public transportation facilities. Urban forestry projects aimed at offsetting vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide are eligible. Every EEM project must mitigate, either directly or indirectly, the environmental impacts of the modification of a Related Transportation Facility (RTF). An RTF is defined as a public street, highway, mass transit guideway (trains, ports, light rail lines, city streets, airports, etc.) or their appurtenant features (e.g., park-and-ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.) Award size is generally limited to \$750,000.

3.8 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention (CAL FIRE) Wildfire Prevention Grants Program provides funding for wildfire prevention projects and activities in and near wildfire threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Funded activities include Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Wildfire Prevention Planning, and Wildfire Prevention Education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

3.9 CFSF State Fire Assistance (SFA) Grant Program

Most recently awarded in 2022, California Fire Safe Foundation (CFSF) SFA emphasizes fire risk reduction activities by landowners and residents in at-risk communities to restore and maintain resilient landscapes and create fire-adapted communities. Projects may focus on one or more of the following categories:

Fuel Hazard Mitigation vegetation treatments such as chipping, thinning, burning, grazing, and mastication.

Community Hazard Mitigation Planning such as CWPP's, Firewise assessments, hazard assessments, and similar types of plans.

Prevention and Mitigation Education such as outreach, mailings, workshops, events, PSAs, and other education programs.

3.10 CFSC State Fire Capacity (SFC) Grant Program

Through the SFC Grant Program, the California Safe Fire Council (CFSC) supports fire risk reduction activities by landowners in at-risk communities to restore and maintain resilient landscapes and create fire adapted communities. Funds are utilized for hazard mitigation competitive grants in the following categories:

- Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) and other community hazard mitigation and planning
- Prevention and mitigation education and outreach opportunities for landowners and residents in at-risk communities.

3.11 CFSC Defensible Space Assistance Grant Program

The Defensible Space Assistance Grant Program, administered in 2023 with funding from a 2022 CAL FIRE master grant, provides funding to organizations to assist vulnerable populations (i.e., low-income, disabled, senior/elderly, disadvantaged), in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, with defensible space treatment on their property. Projects will implement a coordinated approach to defensible space compliance with CAL FIRE and other stakeholders, with priority for vulnerable populations.

3.12 CFF Wildfire Safety Grant

The Wildfire Safety Grant, administered by California Fire Foundation (CFF) with funding from PG&E, is a competitive grant program that supports firefighting agencies and organizations in California, specifically groups serving communities identified by the CPUC as being extreme or elevated fire risk areas. The CFF awards grants to recipient fire departments, agencies and community groups in support of projects and programs focusing on wildfire/disaster prevention, preparedness and/or relief and recovery assistance.

4. Federal and National Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding

The federal and national grant programs presented in this section award funding to projects that are not limited to post-disaster communities and are therefore considered more competitive.

4.1 FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program

FEMA's (Department of Homeland Security) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC) supports state, local, tribal and territorial governments as they undertake hazard mitigation activities, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The BRIC program seeks to fund effective and innovative activities that will reduce risk, increase resilience, and serve as a catalyst to encourage the whole community to invest in and adopt hazard mitigation policies. BRIC is designed to encourage investments to protect communities and infrastructure and strengthen national hazard mitigation capabilities to foster resilience. Local governments and tribes are eligible to apply to states and territories for federal assistance under BRIC as subapplicants. Individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply for BRIC assistance; however, an eligible applicant or subapplicant may apply for funding on behalf of individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved state or tribal (standard or enhanced) mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award. FEMA has applied a 20% or \$150 million funding cap on the total available BRIC funding to any applicant. Funds are passed through Cal OES.

In 2024, funds could be used for management costs, capability and capacity building activities, hazard mitigation projects, and building code adoption and enforcement. One of the program's guiding principles is to promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health and communities. The program's general priorities are:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities, including those that address multi-hazards that mitigate current and future risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities.
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions.
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes

4.2 EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. These adverse economic impacts may result from a steep decline in manufacturing employment following a plant closure, changing trade patterns, catastrophic natural disaster, a military base closure, or environmental changes and regulations.

4.3 FTA Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program

The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities, including technological changes or innovations to modify low or no emission vehicles or facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants. Although this program's funding is primarily awarded to projects targeting facilities and equipment, there have been past awards for installing and improving bus shelters.

4.4 IAFC Ready Set Go! Fuels Reduction Grant

The Ready, Set, Go! International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Fuels Reduction Grant's goal is to facilitate on-the-ground fuels reduction projects in communities across the country. The funding opportunity is for fire and emergency response agencies to put toward implementing or expanding community fuels reduction projects in their jurisdiction. Funding can support staffing costs, contractual services, purchase of mitigation PPE, and purchase of small equipment. Fire departments that work closely with the Forest Service and other partners on cross-boundary fuels reduction projects will receive the highest priority for funding. The program provides funding to fire departments and emergency response agencies. There is a maximum award amount of \$10,000

4.5 USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG)

Through the CWDG program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides grants to at-risk communities to develop or revise a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and to carry out projects described in a CWPP that is less than 10 years old. CWDG is authorized through the IIJA and provides \$1 billion for this program over a five-year period (fiscal years 2022 through 2026). CWDG prioritizes at-risk communities that are in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster. CWDG helps communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

- **Resilient Landscapes** – Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries are resilient to fire, insect, disease, invasive species and climate change disturbances, in accordance with management objectives.
- **Fire Adapted Communities** – Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to, and recover from wildland fire.
- **Safe, Effective, Risk-based Wildfire Response** – All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

4.6 USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The EWP Program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed.

4.7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance

The National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance program assists communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires by providing assistance in the following areas:

- Implementation of community programs that develop and enhance local capability in the areas of risk assessment and planning, training, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action
- Planning and implementation of fuels management reduction activities aimed at mitigating the threat of catastrophic wildfire to communities and natural resources in high risk areas, including associated monitoring or maintenance, on federal land and/or on adjacent non-federal land
- Enhancement of local and small business employment opportunities for rural communities
- Providing education and training focused on increasing knowledge and fire protection capability of rural fire districts

4.8 BLM California Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s California Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance program assists with fuels management and community fire assistance program activities to reduce the risk and impact of catastrophic wildfires to local communities through coordination, reducing the amount of hazardous fuels, and furthering the education of landowners about wildfire prevention and mitigation. It provides an opportunity for BLM to support planning and implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects in wildland urban interface (WUI) areas and education and outreach programs that help create fire adapted communities and resilient landscapes.

4.9 Land Trust Alliance: Land and Climate Grant Program

The program aims to support and build the capacity of land trusts and other non-profit groups that conserve and steward land to integrate climate change into land protection and management decisions. The grants may be used to cover costs associated with the development of strategic conservation plans or land management plans, but cannot cover land acquisition and restoration capital costs. Projects should result in a land protection plan, management plan, communication plan, or renewable energy siting plan.

4.10 Council of Western State Foresters: Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is a competitive grant program for fuels treatment, education, and mitigation planning on non-federal lands using federal funds through the National Fire Plan through the State and Private Forestry Branch. The goal of the Western WUI Program is to assist with reducing hazardous fuels and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, by completing fire mitigation work, improving prevention education, and planning Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

5. Financing Options for Rebuilding

In addition to federal and state grant programs, financing options are available to the County, including tax increment financing, bonds, credit and loan programs, and special assessment districts (SADs) that can facilitate the expedited implementation of resilience projects.

In particular, SADs, also known as special taxing districts, are created to provide services or improvements to infrastructure within that district. Common examples of SADs include Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Community Facilities District (CFDs). The districts, which are approved by the taxpayers within the district, can collect tax assessments to cover agreed-upon services, including operating costs, utility improvements, and debt service. Existing properties or businesses subject to the assessment must be provided a direct and special benefit, typically amounting to an increase in land value. Direct and special benefits may include road infrastructure or resilience improvement projects. SADs are beneficial as they help communities receive targeted funding, gain local control, have flexibility in funding, and increase opportunities for public private partnerships; however, it may take a long time to form a special district.

In a similar vein, LA County developed a white paper in October 2023 that assessed the feasibility, as well as potential opportunities and challenges, of establishing a Climate Resilience District (CRD) to fund climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience measures. CRDs are a new type of financing district available to local governments and special districts in California that can only be used for projects that address climate resilience, adaptation, or mitigation issues.

Establishing a CRD is administratively burdensome but offers local governments a sustainable funding source for climate-specific projects. To begin the process, all participating jurisdictions must adopt a resolution of intent with a public hearing that defines the needs, goals, and types of projects that the CRD will support. Then, a five-member governing board must be established. A CRD is also required to have defined boundaries, though it need not be contiguous. Once established, a CRD has expanded administrative powers when compared to other financing districts, including the ability to hire staff. CRDs offer several benefits, including the potential to leverage multiple funding sources. Climate resilience projects often require significant upfront capital investment as well as ongoing support for operations and maintenance, requiring multiple funding sources. For example, Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District bond proceeds and grant funds could be used to pay for capital projects such as levee construction, while a benefit assessment district or fees could support ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

CRDs are able raise funds through several sources, provided that the funds are used for adaptation, mitigation, and resilience projects. It is important to note that LA County already has the authority to raise revenue through each of these mechanisms without establishing a CRD. Table 5-1 lists the funding sources that are available to a CRD. In addition, a CRD can also levy a property-related or user fee; apply for and receive grants from federal and state agencies; solicit and accept gifts, fees, grants, and allocations from public and private entities; incur general obligation debt; and receive and manage a dedicated revenue source from another entity.

Table 5-1: Climate Resilience District Funding Sources

Funding Source	Description
Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)	An EIFD is a form of tax increment financing district that captures the incremental growth in property tax revenues above an established base revenue prior to improvements. The revenues associated with an EIFD are used to pay debt service for bonds issued to fund capital improvements within the district. In California, taxing entities must choose to participate in an EIFD. Property taxes that flow to school districts and community college districts are not eligible revenue sources. A public hearing and a finding of positive fiscal impact for the County is required to establish an EIFD.
Benefit Assessment	Assessment on a defined group of parcels that pays for public improvements or services that specially benefit the parcels. The assessment must be proportional to the special benefit that each parcel receives from the public improvement or service. Approval by a weighted majority of affected property owners is required for a benefit assessment.
Special Tax	A special tax is a tax imposed for a specific purpose, often imposed as a parcel tax at the local government level. The special tax does not need to be directly proportional to the benefit received. Taxes cannot be based on property value. Approval by two-thirds of registered voters in the district is required for establishment.
Community Facilities Districts (CFD)	A CFD is a type of special tax district formed within a limited geographic area. The district is often established for the purpose of using the revenues from the tax to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements. CFDs can also be levied for the provision of services. CFDs provide flexibility in establishing tax rates and methods of apportionment. Approval by two-thirds of registered voters in the district is usually required for establishment.
Revenue Bonds	Revenue bonds are backed by a specific revenue stream (such as toll or utilities revenues). These bonds are issued by a public enterprise for infrastructure improvements. Unlike general obligation bonds, revenue bonds are not guaranteed and are backed by funds generated by the project or issuing entity. This funding mechanism does not require voter approval.

6. Funding Options and Policy Framework for Powerline Undergrounding

This section identifies several federal and state grant programs that allow for undergrounding of powerlines/utilities as an eligible cost, which is a priority for the County and communities with high hazard risk. Following the subsection on grant programs is a subsection on California policy framework, rules, and process for funding and implementing utilities undergrounding.

According to an analysis from the California Public Utilities Commission, the state's three major electric utility providers, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E, estimated that the costs for undergrounding existing overhead distribution infrastructure can range anywhere from \$350 per foot to \$1,150 per foot, or \$1.85 million to \$6 million per mile (in 2019 US dollars).³ These costs represent all costs associated with the undergrounding effort: trenching, conduit, substructures, cabling and connections, meter panel modifications, cutover work, and finally removal from service of poles and wires. The range in costs for undergrounding conversion depend on several factors, such as population and building density, labor costs, terrain, and geology

6.1 Federal and State Grant Programs for Undergrounding

This subsection provides an overview of grant programs at both the federal and state level that will provide funding for undergrounding powerlines and utilities. **Please note for-profit utility companies such as Southern California Edison are typically not eligible for Federal funds.**

DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program

The Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program provides funding through three separate grant opportunities to enhance grid flexibility and improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change. The grants applicable to local government entities include Smart Grid Grants and Grid Innovation Grants. Grid, transmission, and storage operators, as well as distribution providers, are eligible to apply to the Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants. This program is funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and a third round of funding is expected to be announced this year.

HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

The CDBG-DR program mitigation set-aside funds assists local jurisdictions with mitigation-related infrastructure needs to support risk reduction from the three primary hazards (wildfire, flooding, and earthquake) as established within the Mitigation Needs Assessment (MNA). Projects should be consistent with applicable planning documents (e.g., Local Hazard Mitigation Plan).

³ California Public Utilities Commission. "CPUC Undergrounding Programs Description." Accessed February 7, 2025. [https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/infrastructure/electric-reliability/undergrounding-program-description#:~:text=How%20Much%20Does%20it%20Cost,to%20\\$6.072%20million%20per%20mile.](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/infrastructure/electric-reliability/undergrounding-program-description#:~:text=How%20Much%20Does%20it%20Cost,to%20$6.072%20million%20per%20mile.)

EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

The Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. These adverse economic impacts may result from a steep decline in manufacturing employment following a plant closure, changing trade patterns, catastrophic natural disaster, a military base closure, or environmental changes and regulations.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC) supports state, local, tribal and territorial governments as they undertake hazard mitigation activities, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The BRIC program seeks to fund effective and innovative activities that will reduce risk, increase resilience, and serve as a catalyst to encourage the whole community to invest in and adopt hazard mitigation policies. BRIC is designed to encourage investments to protect communities and infrastructure and strengthen national hazard mitigation capabilities to foster resilience. Local governments and tribes are eligible to apply to states and territories for federal assistance under BRIC as subapplicants. Individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply for BRIC assistance; however, an eligible applicant or subapplicant may apply for funding on behalf of individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved state or tribal (standard or enhanced) mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award. FEMA has applied a 20% or \$150 million funding cap on the total available BRIC funding to any applicant.

In 2024, funds could be used for management costs, capability and capacity building activities, hazard mitigation projects, and building code adoption and enforcement. One of the program's guiding principles is to promote partnerships and enable high-impact investments to reduce risk from natural hazards with a focus on critical services and facilities, public infrastructure, public safety, public health and communities. The program's general priorities are:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities, including those that address multi-hazards that mitigate current and future risk to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities.
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including those designed to reduce carbon emissions.
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation
- Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the latest published editions of building codes

Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants

The Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants program, funded through the IIJA, is split between \$2.5 billion in matching grants for industry, also known as the Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants, and \$2.3 billion in formula grants for States and Tribes, also known as the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program. These grants are intended to support investments to reduce the impact of disruptive events on the electric grid due to extreme weather, wildfire, and natural disasters. This program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and a third round of funding is expected to be announced this year. The California Energy Commission administers these funds statewide through the Community Energy Reliability and Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds plans and projects that reduce the effects of future natural disasters. This program can also fund undergrounding projects if they meet certain planning requirements and comply with other FEMA guidelines. For example, the City of Independence, MO secured HMGP funds when an ice storm damaged transmission and distribution lines. More information on the HMGP program is found in Section 2.1.

6.2 Undergrounding Policy Framework

In 1967, the California Public Utilities Commission established Rule 20, which is a set of policies and procedures that regulate the conversion of overhead electric equipment to underground facilities. There are three subsets of Rule 20 – Rule 20A, 20B, and 20C – that determine the level of ratepayer funding for different undergrounding arrangements. Undergrounding projects are financed by utility rate money, combined rate funds and local tax proceeds, or private funds, depending on which Rule 20 subset provisions apply. **Projects governed by Rule 20 are initiated by a government agency, developer, or individual customer.**

Table 6-1. Rule 20 Structure

Program	Project Requestor	Funding
Rule 20A	Local Governments	100% ratepayer-funded, project is in general public interest
Rule 20B	Applicant	20-40% rate payer funded, project serves property owners where overhead facilities are undergrounded
Rule 20C	Applicant	Majority funded by municipality/individual property owner/developer, serves specific group/properties requesting undergrounding

Several planning resources are intended to help ensure that undergrounding is conducted in an organized, efficient, and fair way. Cities and counties can plan for undergrounding through a Conversion Master Plan, Conversion Planning Committee, and a Utilities Conversion Plan. While these resources are strongly recommended components of an undergrounding strategy, which should be established before undergrounding work is performed, they are not eligibility requirements for undergrounding through Rule 20. However, when a developer fee program is used to fund underground conversion programs, a Conversion Master Plan is generally required before adoption of the program.

According to Southern California Edison’s 2023 Electric Rule 20 Guidebook, **“A Conversion Master Plan is used as means of laying out a long-term vision and building consensus among city or county leaders, business owners and citizens.** Many cities and counties use a developer fee program to support underground conversion activities. In such cases a Conversion Master Plan would normally be considered a prerequisite to the adoption of such a program.” A Conversion Planning Committee “is comprised of representatives from the city or county and the utility companies. Its primary function is to identify and

prioritize projects in the Utilities Conversion Plan...The Committee also plays an important role in identifying projects that qualify for funding under the utility companies' tariffs...To begin a Rule 20 conversion process, every city or county is encouraged to develop a "Utilities Conversion Plan" covering at least a five-year period. This is a short-range plan for use in assigning conversion priorities, cost estimates, and project schedules based on a city's or county's current planning assumptions."

Rule 20A

To qualify for Rule 20A, conversion projects must be in the general public interest and there must be an adopted ordinance or resolution that creates an underground district in the area where the undergrounding will occur.

According to Southern California Edison's 2023 Electric Rule 20 Guidebook, "Rule 20A underground conversion projects are funded by all of SCE's ratepayers, not just those in the affected area, and are intended to underground existing distribution and sub-transmission voltage lines and poles under CPUC jurisdiction in areas that benefit the "public interest" as defined in criteria set by the CPUC...The utility allocates work credits to the various cities and counties in its service area in which it provides electric service. SCE does so utilizing an allocation formula...which generally tracks the ratio of electric meters (customers) in that jurisdiction to the total number of meters in its entire system. Therefore, larger cities and counties with more customers receive a greater annual allocation of work credits than smaller cities with fewer customers...Some cities and counties use Rule 20A work credits in conjunction with non- utility funding and various combinations of Rules 20B and 20C.

"Cities and counties can generate local, non-utility funding for the Rule 20B or Rule 20C portion of the conversion projects with many of the same tools used to fund other local improvements. These include:

- Assessment Districts
- Developer Contributions
- Development Fees
- Other city or county funds

"In addition, individual property owners can be required, by ordinance, to pay certain costs of converting utility lines on private property.

"Some cities and counties wait several years in order to accumulate enough work credits for a specific undergrounding project. Other cities and counties elect to borrow or "mortgage" future Rule 20A allocations to fund projects more quickly. Rule 20A allows communities to mortgage up to a maximum of five years of future allocated work credits with SCE's approval.

"Since the CPUC ordered SCE to discontinue authorization of new Rule 20A work credits beyond December 31, 2022, all projects completed in 2023 and beyond must be completed within available work credit balances. SCE does not have the discretion to allow communities to borrow work credits from future allocations beyond any 2022 allocation."

Rule 20B

Rule 20B conversion projects are generally along public streets and roads, or other locations, that the applicant and utility provider have agreed upon. To qualify for Rule 20B, conversion projects must meet several requirements:

- All property owners served agree to wiring changes on their premises or legislation requiring these wiring changes and authorizing disconnection of overhead service is in effect
- The applicant has installed specified infrastructure and performed specified work preparing for undergrounding, transferred ownership of specific facilities to the electric utility provider, and paid excess (if any) costs
- The proposed undergrounding area is at least 600 feet or one block and includes both sides of the street
- All overhead lines will be removed

According to Southern California Edison's 2023 Electric Rule 20 Guidebook, "This program enables limited ratepayer subsidies for undergrounding utility lines for projects that do not qualify under Rule 20A and are a minimum of 600 feet or one city block in length. Underground conversion projects carried out under the provision of Rule 20B are funded by both SCE's ratepayers and the applicant requesting the undergrounding. Rule 20B applicants are most frequently developers, but can also be cities and counties, groups of property owners, or individual property owners or customers...The schedule for a typical Rule 20B project is generally shorter than a Rule 20A project due primarily to a smaller scope of work.

"Rule 20B projects are partly subsidized by SCE's ratepayers. SCE ratepayers pay for the cost of removing the existing overhead electrical system and constructing an "equivalent" overhead system, which results in a credit against the cost of undergrounding. The equivalent overhead credit is calculated as the estimated cost of designing and constructing a new overhead electrical system. The maximum credit available is not to exceed the cost of the new underground system.

"Applicants typically pay SCE an Engineering advance to design the project and estimate the cost to underground. Should the applicant decide to move forward with construction, the applicant pays SCE's invoice for the cost to underground in advance. The advances paid to SCE are non-refundable, and if applicable, may include a tax component called the Federal Income Tax Component of Contribution (ITCC). The ITCC may be waived in cases where the project is paid for by a local government and will require the local government to sign SCE's letter of indemnification.

"Local governments typically collect Rule 20B funding from the municipality's general fund or through the formation of a local assessment district. Additionally, certain cities or counties may have programs to collect Rule 20B funding from developers that construct improvements adjacent to the conversion project or within the jurisdiction."

Rule 20C

Rule 20C conversion projects are generally in specific areas and are funded by specific people or entities requesting undergrounding. They are generally along public streets and roads, or other locations, that the applicant and utility provider have agreed upon. To qualify for Rule 20C, the applicant for a conversion project must:

- Install specified infrastructure and perform specified work preparing for undergrounding
- Transfer ownership of specific facilities to the electric utility provider
- Pay estimates costs

According to Southern California Edison's 2023 Electric Rule 20 Guidebook, "This underground conversion program includes any conversion of existing overhead facilities with underground facilities requested by an applicant, that does not fulfill the requirements of either a 20A or 20B. The cost for a rule 20C

conversion is borne solely by the applicant. Under Rule 20C, SCE will replace its existing overhead lines with underground lines along public streets and roads or other locations mutually agreed upon when requested. SCE is responsible for providing the design which includes all engineering and design work necessary to construct a new underground system and remove existing overhead facilities...The schedule for a typical Rule 20C project is generally shorter than a Rule 20B project due to a smaller scope of work. Most Rule 20C projects can be completed in less than 12 months."

Rule 20D (San Diego specific)

Rule 20D is specific to the San Diego region and its electric utility provider. While not applicable to the LA area, this subset of Rule 20 illustrates an example of undergrounding to specifically mitigate future wildfire risk.

According to the CPUC Rule 20 Undergrounding Programs – FAQs webpage, "In the San Diego Region, under SDG&E's Rule 20D, communities receive 100% of utility funding for projects located within SDG&E's High Fire Hazard Zone and mitigate fire risk and enhance reliability."

Senate Bill 884

Senate Bill No. 884 (SB 884), which became law on Jan. 1, 2023, establishes a program, operated by the California Public Utilities Commission, to expedite undergrounding. Southern California Edison is subject to this program. Electrical corporations participating in the program are required to submit a 10-year distribution infrastructure undergrounding plan, which must substantially reduce wildfire risk and increase powerline system reliability. This program requires electrical corporations to first use available federal, state, and other infrastructure funds to pay for the projects before using ratepayer funds. The program expedites the undergrounding process by reducing permitting and review times and including mandated performance metrics for participating electrical corporations.

Appendix A: Funding Programs for Post-Fire Resilience Activities

Funding Agency	Program Name	Eligible Projects	Eligible Project Types							Federal / State Cost Share	Anticipated Due Date / Application Cycle	Notes
			Undergrounding ¹	Public Water Infra.	Trees	Sidewalks	Bus Shelters	Broadband	Homes / Businesses			
Non-Competitive Post-Disaster Assistance (Non-Competitive)												
FEMA	Public Assistance	Reconstruction of publicly owned (and certain private nonprofit) facilities.								75%+	Beginning six months from disaster declaration. Reimbursement as soon as 3 months after documentation is submitted and approved.	PA is the primary post-disaster federal program for rebuilding after a declared disaster.
FEMA	Community Assistance Recovery Support Function	Pre-disaster recovery planning; Training and technical assistance; Community engagement; Management capacity building; Recovery planning technical assistance	Disaster Planning and Capacity Building							N/A	Flexible depending on recovery activity.	This funding does not support capital project construction but can provide generous post-disaster planning and technical assistance funding.
State of California	Emergency Funding Assistance	Emergency response, local government building inspection and approval assistance								N/A	Ongoing until expended	
Post-Disaster, Eligibility-Restricted Funding Programs												
FEMA	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Specific post-fire activities including wildfire mitigation, infrastructure retrofits, soil and slope stabilization, and post-wildfire flood prevention and sediment reduction								75%	Summer 2025.	HMGP can also fund other resilience improvements that protect against any type of hazard – not just wildfire. Eligibility is only open to projects in counties affected by the disaster.
HUD	Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Infrastructure (DR-INF)	Range of recovery activities, including housing, infrastructure, economic development, administration, and planning. Mitigation activities may be covered under the CDBG-DR Mitigation set-aside funds.								75%	Funds become available after Presidentially declared disasters.	Projects should be consistent with applicable planning documents (e.g., Local Hazard Mitigation Plan).
EDA	Disaster Supplemental Funding	Public Works construction projects are eligible.								80%+	Ongoing until all funds are expended.	

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			Undergrounding ¹	Public Water Infra.	Trees	Sidewalks	Bus Shelters	Broadband	Homes / Businesses			
FTA	Emergency Relief program	Protecting, repairing, and/or replacing transit equipment and facilities that may suffer or have suffered serious damage as a result of an emergency					●			80%	Unknown. Last funding announcement was February 2024.	The last funding announcement for this program was February 2024.
State of California Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding												
California Public Utilities Commission	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account	Middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure						●		90%	Annual. Anticipated April 2025.	
Caltrans	State of Good Repair	Maintenance and rehabilitation of existing vehicles, transit facilities, and the purchase of new, energy efficient transit vehicles					●			NA	Annual. Anticipated September 2025.	
California Transportation Commission	Active Transportation Program (ATP)	Active transportation infrastructure.				●				NA	Solicited in even years, awarded odd years. Anticipated January 2026	
CAL FIRE	Urban and Community Forestry Program (UCF)	Tree planting and urban forestry management.			●					75%	Anticipated May 2025.	UCF was allocated \$30 million through IRA, unclear if funding will be available in 2025.
California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)	Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC)	Land-use, housing, transportation, and land preservation projects to support infill and compact development that reduce GHG emissions.			●	●	●		●	NA	Anticipated March 2025.	Urban Greening is a threshold requirement for all AHSC funded projects.
California Natural Resources Agency	Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP)	Transportation facility improvement or construction projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state and community entities.			●				●	NA	Anticipated June 2025.	
CAL FIRE	Wildfire Prevention Grants	Hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education	Various Wildfire Prevention and Planning Activities							75%	TBD 2025.	

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California Fire Safe Foundation	State Fire Assistance (SFA) Grant Program	Fuel hazard mitigation vegetation treatments, community hazard mitigation planning, prevention and mitigation education	Various Wildfire Prevention and Planning Activities							50%	Unknown. Last cycle closed March 2024.	Most recently awarded in 2022. Emphasizes fire risk reduction activities by landowners and residents in at-risk communities.
California Fire Safe Foundation	State Fire Capacity (SFC) Grant Program	Hazardous fuels reduction and maintenance projects on non-federal land, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and other community hazard mitigation and planning, prevention and mitigation education and outreach								50%	Anticipated June 2025.	Supports fire risk reduction activities by landowners in at-risk communities to restore and maintain resilient landscapes and create fire adapted communities. Federal funding administered through CFSF.
California Fire Safe Foundation	Defensible Space Assistance Grant Program	Defensible space treatment on property of vulnerable populations in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones								50%	Unknown. Last cycle was 2022.	Administered in 2023 with funding from a 2022 CAL FIRE master grant.
California Fire Safe Foundation, PG&E	Wildfire Safety Grant	Wildfire/disaster prevention, preparedness and/or relief and recovery assistance								50%	Annual. Anticipated September 2025.	Recipients are fire departments, agencies, and community groups.
Federal and National Funding Programs for Resilient Rebuilding												
FEMA	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	Range of hazard mitigation activities	●	●	●				●	75%-90%	Anticipated October 2026.	Broad pre-disaster program meant to reduce risk from disasters and natural hazards.
EDA	Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program	Range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance	●	●	●	●			●	80%	Ongoing until all funds are expended.	
FTA	Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program	Replacement, rehabilitation, purchase of buses and related equipment, construction of bus-related facilities					●			80%-90%	Anticipated February 2025.	
DOE	Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program	Transmission and distribution modernization to reduce impacts due to extreme weather and natural disasters	●							50%	Anticipated April 2025.	

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			Undergrounding ¹	Public Water Infra.	Trees	Sidewalks	Bus Shelters	Broadband	Homes / Businesses			
DOE	Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid Grants	Grid resiliency and reliability projects including undergrounding	●								Ongoing until all funds are expended.	Split into two programs: Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants (matching grants for industry) and Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program (formula grants for states and tribes). In California, administered by the CEC.
International Association of Fire Chiefs	Ready, Set, Go! IAFC Fuels Reduction Grant	Fuels reduction projects	Various Wildfire and Disaster Prevention and Planning Activities							75%	Unknown/no anticipated new cycle. Last cycle was 2022.	Recipients are fire and emergency response agencies.
USDA	Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG)	Preparing Community Wildfire Protection Plan and implementing projects identified in it								90%	February 28 th , 2025.	
USDA	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	Technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed								75%	Ongoing.	City, county, state governments, flood and water control districts, and soil and water conservation districts can contact their local NRCS office and request assistance after a natural disaster. NRCS EWPP Fact Sheet-2021.pdf
Fish and Wildlife Service	National Fire Plan-Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance	Range of activities to assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires								90%	Unknown. Last cycle was August 2023.	
Bureau of Land Management	California Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance	Coordination, reducing the amount of hazardous fuels, and furthering the education of landowners about wildfire prevention and mitigation								NA	March 11 th , 2025.	Funds fuels management and community fire assistance program activities.
Land Trust Alliance	Land and Climate Grant Program	Climate-informed land conservation, stewardship, policy or communications plans								NA	Unknown. Last round was March-May 2024.	Must address habitat resilience, carbon mitigation, renewable energy siting or community adaptation to climate impacts such as drought, fire or extreme heat.
Council of Western State Foresters	Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program	Fuels treatment, education, and mitigation planning on non-federal lands								50%	Anticipated September 2025.	