

# **Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program**

Technical Advisory Council

April 22, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Video Conference

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

## **Item 1 | Welcome and Roll Call**

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

Absent: Andrea Ouse, Lauren Sanchez, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

## **Item 2 | New Member Introductions and Update from Members on COVID-19 Response**

Nuin-Tara Key: Welcome to new members:

Mark Starr: I was appointed by Governor Brown in 2012 as the Deputy Director for Environmental Health at CDPH, and I lead the Center for Environmental Health. I'm also Acting Deputy Director for the Office of Health Equity, which looks at impacts of climate on health. As state Environmental Health Director I coordinate with other states on environment and climate issues. I've served as a veterinarian and have a Masters in Epidemiology. I've worked at the state level and local level over the years including five years as Director of Public Health for Placer County, and I've been with the state in this role for eight years. I also currently serve as Volunteer Faculty at UC Davis with the Masters in Public Health Program.

Dan McDonald: I'm currently with a non-profit community lender called Community Vision Capital Consulting, formerly known as Northern California Community Loan Fund. We're a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI): we are a non-profit bank, we don't take deposits but take investments. CV is headquartered in SF. It operates throughout the northern two thirds of the state. I am Deputy Director of Lending in charge of finding new ways to deploy our capital. My interest in this area arose from trying to finance energy efficient small scale biomass electrical generation plants through the state biomass program. This led me to forest restoration and wood utilization and I'm working on projects to bring our capital into these sectors as well as

other areas of energy efficiency and climate resilience, which are key parts of climate resilience.

Grant Davis: I am General Manager of Sonoma Water (SCWA), have been for many years. I used to be in Sacramento as Director of Water Resources during the Brown administration. Sonoma Water leadership is the same as the Sonoma Board of Supervisors. We've spent lots of time working on the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Program through DWR and have been able to do many multi-benefit projects. We also have spent time with the North Coast Resource Partnership doing collaborative work with NGOs and other local jurisdictions. We are best known for becoming carbon free in 2015 even while we deliver water to 600,000 individuals. Excited to be part of this group working on resilience and Happy Earth Day.

Nuin-Tara Key: Dr. Wilma Wooten is not able to join us today but she is Public Health Officer for the County of San Diego she has a very distinguished career as a medical practitioner. She has served with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency since 2001. Just wanted to recognize that she wanted to be with us and sends regrets for not being here today.

Nuin-Tara Key opened up the floor for a general reflection space and COVID-19 updates about how priorities may be shifting, and how core work is continuing or changing.

David Loya: In Arcata we are a City and service organization: we faced a dramatic shift in the type of work we do. Forced to get creative and act quickly, declared emergency and pooled resources with the County. Providing services for homeless individuals, we went out and spoke to them to understand homeless needs. Police, city manager, health and human services and a local nonprofit pooled resources to establish campground services. Established emergency lending program for businesses until SBA gets more resources. Priorities have definitely shifted. In terms of morale, folks from all walks of life have come together to work together and support one another. Seeing businesses that shut down and shifted to making facemasks overnight, and donating to hospitals. Bummer to not meet in person, miss getting lunch but we are pulling together.

Jonathan Parfrey: This situation alters how we need to approach climate resilience. We're thinking of that Venn diagram of how pandemic resilience could overlap with climate resilience at Climate Resolve. Thinking also of the 4th assessment [report](#) done by Juliette Finzi Hart and others on cascading climate impacts. When thinking about climate planning we now need to think about this added complexity of other hazards happening concurrently with climate impacts. For example, last night there was a mini earthquake. It wasn't a big deal but if it had been, how does emergency services in this new pandemic environment deal with additional hazards happening at the same time? Articles have talked about wildfire season - what will it look like to have people physically close to one another because there's no other way to fight fires? There was

an article released this morning about how natural disasters intensify immigration which intensifies the spread of COVID-19. There are all these intersections with the pandemic and climate resilience. As we discuss the work plan I hope this is part of the conversation.

Brian Strong: Good to see everyone, will miss lunch. Welcome new members and thank you. Been working on a lot; thinking about cascading climate impacts, we are trying to understand heat impacts and how we are going to deal with people being inside. In SF people don't have A/C units. Our office has been involved in response, but is now moving to recovery phase. We are receiving donations from people. Sports teams are donating t-shirts, which are being converted to masks and then donated to CBOs and first responders. Regional opportunities: seeing health offices making decisions together, hopeful that this sets the stage for taking a regional approach to climate actions. On the recovery side, doing work on economic recovery; mayor announced task force with first meeting this Friday. Will focus on how we think about addressing economy and impacts on vulnerable populations: there is overlap of those most impacted by COVID-19, climate and earthquakes. Hoping to come out of this with better programs and solutions.

Sona Mohnot: Appreciate the opportunity to share about shifting work and hear others thinking about addressing this crisis. At Greenlining, seeing heavily impacted communities, those living in polluted areas and communities of color are most impacted by COVID-19, who also lack access to health care, COVID-19 testing, safety nets and jobs. These will face even greater risks as wildfire season approaches. Frustrating to see EPA relaxing standards. We are trying to think of multipronged approaches to address climate crisis and strategies to address COVID-19 economic fallout. Important to show that COVID-19 and climate are interconnected and need solutions that address both.

Michelle Passero: As our economy starts to get hit hard on this, how do we work on both issues of climate and COVID-19 together as not only health but the economy is hit hard? Thinking about this full spectrum of climate change from mitigation to protecting communities and wildlife and not have them be seen as at odds with each other: be sensitive to economic issues that communities and state will face but at same time how do we also not see them as at odds? Not an either or. Make connections for people. Need to think about how we show that it helps us health-wise and economically.

Gloria Walton: This moment has been taxing on LA and South Central LA especially. I represent a CBO focused on power building. Staff/members do face to face meetings around census and data. Been disorienting for a grassroots institution and needing to transition to digital interfaces, get workers on phone banking and tablets for census outreach, getting ready for election year, get ready in case stay at home continues. As well as what Sona mentioned what our communities are facing. Challenges are compounded by the situation. Definitely increased unemployment and lack of access to food. Coordinating with city councilmembers and Congressional representatives for support. Figuring out WIFI for students and children, these children will continue to be left behind. Trying to think ahead. Reality is that someone who is already behind on one

month of rent, the six-month moratorium will compound this, and they will be six months behind on rent. Sona mentioned lack of access to healthcare: this is very pressing. Another piece is the effects among the black community: 21 other black leaders penned an open letter to the philanthropy and leadership community asking for investment in black communities. Trying to get COVID-19 response funds to CBOs most in need. Trying to be at the table for post COVID-19 recovery efforts. Organizers have a pulse on mental health: a lot of people have increased anxiety and depression especially those who have lost family members. Trying to coordinate mental health resources. False choice between choosing between systemic viruses and COVID-19 virus.

Mark Starr: CDPH has been heavily involved all hands-on deck. Redirected staff to response, trying to cover a lot of bases. In addition to epidemiology and surveillance and demographics, also working on getting lab testing to levels needed to relax restrictions. Governor Newsom has six indicators needed before relaxing measures: like a dimmer, we will gradually adjust; won't happen all at once. Our department oversees healthcare facilities, is helping upgrade capacity and establish alternate care sites. We have created guidance documents for all settings. Looked at vulnerable populations, internal workgroup. Project Room Key for homeless has a target of 15,000 residences for homeless, infected or vulnerable individuals. 4000-5000 are occupied already. Greater disparity between African Americans and the rest of the population and age groups. Governor formed a dozen task forces – among these is the future opportunities task force: the goal is figure out how to restructure better. Opportunity for transformation.

Nuin-Tara Key: Thanks all for sharing. Wanted to open this up since we are all experiencing it. From OPR perspective we want to stay connected and understand what's happening on the ground in communities so that we can be responsive. Figuring out how we have these check-ins is increasingly important. All our virtual doors are open so be in touch and share.

### **Item 3 | Approval of Draft Work Group Meeting Minutes ([02/06/20](#))**

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Nuin-Tara opened the floor to voice any changes that needed to be made to the February 6, 2020 workgroup meeting minutes or to motion for their approval. No changes were proposed.

#### **ACTION:**

Adoption of February 6, 2020 workgroup meeting minutes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment was received by OPR staff.

Motion: Michelle Passero

Second: David Loya

Aye: Karalee Browne, Jason Greenspan, David Loya, Amanda Hansen, Jonathan Parfrey, Michelle Passero, Heather Rock

Abstain: Jacob Alvarez, Tom Collishaw, Tina Curry, Grant Davis, Laura Engeman, Jana Ganion, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Mark Starr, Brian Strong, Gloria Walton

Not Present: Andrea Ouse, Lauren Sanchez, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

#### **Item 4 | 2020 Work Plan & Resilience Metrics**

Jenn Phillips presented an overview of program priorities and the [work plan](#) for 2020 for the ICARP TAC. The council was asked for feedback on the work plan and the proposed next steps to address priority five: resilience metrics and measurable outcomes, outlined in an [overview](#) document provided to council members.

Jenn Phillips: The proposed work plan tries to advance California's integrated approach to climate action through five areas this year as proposed at the December and February meetings. It aims to achieve flexibility as COVID-19 response evolves and other opportunities change while still preserving structure and continuity. Building on our previous work to assess progress, which started last year with the impact report, a major goal will be to consider resilience indicators to evaluate success of this program. Here are the priority areas:

- 1) Decision support tools and guidance
- 2) Local implementation
- 3) Funding and financing
- 4) Climate equity and vulnerable communities
- 5) Resilience metrics and measurable outcomes

We talked a lot at the last two meetings to bring resilience and adaptation on equal footing with mitigation by setting some measurable goals. Given our TAC and diversity of members we can make strong headway. When we talked about this before we heard that this area is key to what the TAC does and ICARP's focus. California as a state needs metrics to track progress, effectiveness and manage priorities. This is hard but worth starting and can improve over time. There will be opportunities to reshape and recalibrate. We can learn from climate mitigation for proxies to get started. There are experts we can partner with and resources we can review. We can outline how and when these metrics could be used to drive decisions.

Key questions ahead for potential workgroup:

- What have we learned from mitigation and what can be applied to adaptation?
- What resources do we have? What is the current state of practice?
- What major gaps do we see?
- How can we leverage existing discussions?

There are tons of resources to start off, this list is not comprehensive. We can also look at existing ICARP work and state actions like the Sustainability Roadmap, the need for adaptation metrics in climate assessments, local government actions, and tons of academic resources. There is plenty nationally and internationally as well.

Some challenges we foresee: how do we define what we mean by metrics? What is the purpose and how will we use them? There is no single universally acceptable metric, no one size fits all especially in California, where there's a need for regional and local flexibility when thinking through different types of metrics. Some opportunities are that we can use metrics to increase ambition and action, mobilize funds, prioritize and compare funds. We can use metrics to assess progress and projects and inform future planning and decision-making.

Our recommended next steps are:

1. To establish a workgroup, within which we can invite experts from around world to join.
2. Support and collaborate with existing state efforts
3. Share findings and engage with the public

We will need to consider what can we achieve before the next TAC meeting.

## DISCUSSION

Nuin-Tara Key: Let's try to have an open dialogue here both on the work plan and on the need for resilience metrics. Reminder for public: you can weigh in after the council discussion.

Michelle Passero: I like the work plan and how it's organized. It seems tangible and actionable. Looking at what's out there and considering local government Climate Action Plans and what they've been doing, some have been looking across the board and looking at climate more broadly – so I suggest we examine CAPs. With the SB379 survey, it may be too late, but the survey could be a valuable vehicle to ask whether local governments are looking to integrate this with other climate actions.

Nuin-Tara Key: We will dive into SB 379 work on Friday and the one-time survey. We do annually issue a planning survey of local governments which inform progress updates and we could add in additional strategic questions. Thank you for raising this opportunity. Other general reactions or thoughts?

Jacob Alvarez: Last time we met we said good luck getting this going! Now it looks very manageable, congratulations.

Jason Greenspan: Linking to mitigation – is there consensus on a need to define what we mean by resilience? For instance, on a local level looking at resilience both beyond climate and including climate?

Nuin-Tara Key: This is a great idea. If we decide to form a workgroup we can include that to make sure we are getting the right information and being clear about what we mean by adaptation and resilience and what that means. It needs to be diverse and flexible but still focused. It would be tremendous for the workgroup to explore and articulate.

Laura Engeman: I was thinking this too, resilience and adaptation definitions can be challenging. This is a challenging topic, but this is a great framework. One other piece to think about in terms of framework is the timeline. On what timeline do we adapt? Are we talking about immediate hazards? How do we incorporate the fact that climate stressors can exacerbate existing challenges? We need to respond to this immediate need. Then there is the various tipping points of climate models whether it's extreme heat and the need to plan and invest around that. And then there's the longer-term planning and strategizing of pathways to resilience over time with multiple approaches for 30-50 years. Because where we are now with COVID-19 and because at the local government level, short term needs are the budgetary and socially responsible things to focus on now, we might be behooved to focus on the short-term schedule. Climate change has a lot of short term timelines as well. We often think about the models going out to 2100 but there are a lot of things we can look at right now more around 2050 and 2060 might be easier to tackle with metrics.

Brian Strong: Working with the insurance commissioner office is worth doing. I'm wondering, how can we make sure climate issues are considered when COVID-19 response investments are getting teed up? I'm concerned that climate issues won't be addressed as strategically as they could be. These conversations are happening now, and will really get going six or more months from now. Maybe we should focus on this, and think about a cost-benefit analysis resource for local agencies as they try to stimulate the economy.

Mark Starr: I can see a lot of work and logic went into the work plan and resilience indicators plan. On the metrics side from the Office of Health Equity, these are all good ideas. We have a list of indicators from our program that could be used to support this. We have reports and indices, and one is coming out soon on communities and climate change. On the definition side, OPR has a definition of resilience but CDPH also has its own definition that includes community assets and how to emphasize those and how to bounce forward better than before. I'm willing to participate if we get to that point. We have also staff that are working on this that could help with this.

Jonathan Parfrey: I have questions for OPR staff: given the current economic situation and Governor's budget which previously suggested a climate resilience bond structure, and given that it's premature to say, I believe Californians won't have great appetite for going into debt for a bond. Has OPR staff changed their perspective on the work plan as previously envisioned, given the possibility of a new non-bond reality?

Nuin-Tara Key: Yes, given COVID-19 economic impacts these have shifted the reality of what was proposed in January and where we are now. We need to think about what the needs are now for the state budget but also what do we have revenue-wise to cover those needs as part of a larger budget-wide conversation. Amanda could also weigh in on this. We have not totally recalibrated because we know some of those needs are still there. How we are able to meet them is the question and the path forward is evolving even if the path forward is evolving. We won't have clarity on available revenue until later. Even after the May revise we may not know until the fall. OPR staff mentioned at the February meeting that we had put forth a funding proposal supportive of and related to bond work within the GGRF proposal. Some of the TBD's in the work plan are based on this proposal because we don't know what our capacity will be to build out this platform for bringing together actionable information on vulnerability; until we have some clarity on what the budget available is we can't say with certainty what we can do. Our priorities as a program and at OPR in terms of how we support and build community resilience broadly and to other climate impacts is still high priority, though we will need flexibility in approach.

Amanda Hansen: Jonathan great question. Nuin-Tara is correct on the vision to still see work move forward; it comes down to financials, and also feasibility with voters. We are looking into these and the new landscape in which we package the bond proposal. We'd like to see it move and meet the current needs of today.

Jonathan Parfrey: I hope today or Friday we could get an update on GGRF update of funding for ICARP program so that we who are advocating can use that information to take action.

Nuin-Tara Key: Yes, we can definitely add that to the conversation on Friday. On this point, I want to highlight something Jenn mentioned: while there is uncertainty in terms of future budget and near term priorities, ICARP is well positioned to maintain foundational things to make sure current budget and future stimulus funding is aligned with long term policy funding, such as resilience metrics and progress tracking critical for aligning short and longer term while we can. Metrics work may not sound urgent, but I think there's a window here which could be foundational to how we think about resilience as a whole, very thoughtfully recognizing where we are near and far. That's my pitch for supporting this. A couple other points: there's an opportunity to focus in on areas where we know there are gaps. There will be topics and sectors where it will be

easier and there is more information. There will be other areas, for example adaptive capacity and how to articulate the value of investing in adaptive capacity, that is squishier and on the social side and therefore harder to measure and connect to investments. We need to be mindful about how and where we invest in communities. Our work can identify where we have solid information and where we don't. Regarding the fifth climate assessment, we don't know what will happen, but our work could inform future research efforts to fill gaps. Another value is near term vs long term investments and thinking about how we link them so that they are not at odds, recognizing there will be tradeoffs. How do we be mindful and how do we track this? I'd like to propose an action that the council forms a work group. For logistics and timing, I'd suggest we meet in the coming weeks to put on paper the scope of what we want to accomplish in terms of topics and issues and definitions. We can then flesh this out to bring back to the second quarterly meeting. For process, let's take council comments, then public comment, and then vote.

Jason Greenspan: Is there a difference between a subgroup and workgroup, and what is the time commitment short term or longer term? I'm on the climate and insurance subgroup.

Jenn Phillips: By using the terminology "subgroup" to refer to the climate and insurance working group we just wanted to recognize that the group is part of the California Department of Insurance efforts, as opposed to just a regular TAC working group, and we haven't yet fleshed out the time commitment for this proposed TAC working group dedicated to metrics.

Nuin-Tara Key: We would need and want the working group to think through time commitment for scope and capacity. Jenn said end of year could be the milestone or final deliverable, we can talk at the first meeting about what the timing could be.

Jenn Phillips: I have no other thoughts on capacity but great point. First meeting, we can have an honest conversation on how much time people have and how that might change.

Michelle Passero: I support it and am willing to help. Happy to share work we've done in this area.

Jana Ganion: I echo previous comments and support it, and am happy to help as needed. I want to point out as we're talking through this that COVID-19 is exacerbating issues and budgets; we found in the last economic downturn in 2007-2011 that solutions for climate were also health solutions and economic solutions. That's a basic statement but it's important to repeat in conversations we have; this metrics effort will help solidify it, and we will be able to look at how past investments from that time created jobs and stimulus, and find this was significant. It's great to be having this conversation.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Cedric Dwight: We should consider metrics that demonstrate growth in California's bioeconomy.

## ACTION:

Adoption of the 2020 work plan and establishment of a resilience metrics and measurable outcomes work group.

Motion: Jason Greenspan

Second: Jonathan Parfrey

Aye: Jacob Alvarez, Karalee Brown, Jose Lara (Alternate for Tina Curry), Grant Davis, Laura Engeman, Jana Ganion, Jason Greenspan, Amanda Hansen, Nuin-Tara Key, David Loya, Dan McDonald, Sona Mohnot, Darwin Moosavi, Jonathan Parfrey, Michelle Passero, Heather Rock, Mark Starr, Brian Strong, Gloria Walton,

Absent: Tom Collishaw, Andrea Ouse, Lauren Sanchez, John Wentworth, Wilma Wooten

David Loya: I have a question - how are those appointments going to be made?

Nuin-Tara Key: The structure is come one, come all. There will be internal work to figure out the initial structure and schedule. At that first meeting we can talk about roles and capacity.

## **Item 5 | General Public Comment**

No public comment was received by OPR staff.

## **Item 6 | Closing, Future Agenda Items, Meeting Adjourned**

Nuin-Tara Key: We will reconvene on Friday at 2pm. Please register in advance. Jenn sent out an email and it is on the website.

Jenn Phillips: We will hear about the SB 30 partnership and the SB379 survey and report. Also, you all worked on the ICARP impact report last year and approved it in December; we added on a letter from OPR Director Kate Gordon, will complete final touches and approvals and it will hopefully be ready by Friday for you to share. Thank you for contributions.

Nuin-Tara Key: Thank you Jenn Phillips, Senior Scientist at OPR, for pulling together this work plan and resilience metrics scoping discussion, and logistics for this web based meeting. Thanks to James Crowder, Executive Fellow at OPR, for your technical support. Welcome and thank you Nikki Caravelli, new Assistant Planner at OPR, who took meeting minutes today and who is leading the Adaptation Clearinghouse. Thank you all.