

Technical Advisory Council

Aug. 7, 2026

Item 8: Adaptation Planning Guide Update

Introduction

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in partnership with the California Natural Resources Agency and Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, is updating the California Adaptation Planning Guide (APG). A draft will be available for public comment in summer 2026.

The APG is a resource for local governments engaged in adaptation and resiliency planning. It provides step-by-step guidance to support local governments and other users in:

- 1) initiating an adaptation planning process and developing a community engagement strategy;
- 2) conducting a climate vulnerability assessment;
- 3) developing goals, objectives, and actions to build resilience; and,
- 4) implementing adaptation actions as well as monitoring and adjusting actions over time.

This four-phase approach can be modified to suit the unique needs of each local jurisdiction. Users can walk through the APG phases with readily available data and minimal staff commitment or take a more in-depth approach. Each phase includes recommendations for outreach and engagement.

Senate Bill 379 requires cities and counties to include climate adaptation and resilience in the safety element of their general plan, local hazard mitigation plan, or climate adaptation plan. This APG supports local-level climate change adaptation planning in compliance with state requirements.

What's new in the update:

- Reflects updates to the State of California's Adaptation Strategy, in compliance with SB 246 (Wieckowski, 2015), which requires the APG to be updated when the State's Adaptation Strategy is updated.
- Integrates best available science and new state resources for climate adaptation planning, such as tools like the Vulnerable Communities Platform.

- How-to guidance to respond to request for direction on what tools should be used for what questions
- New case studies and examples of evolving practice
- Expanded guidance on implementation

Connection to Practice

The APG has been widely used by local governments, Tribal governments, and nongovernmental organizations throughout California to guide adaptation planning. The City of San Fernando, a grantee of the Adaptation Planning Grant Program, will present on the preparation of its first Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, completed in tandem with updates to the Mobility and Open Space Elements of the city's General Plan.

Discussion Questions

- Since the release of the APG 2.0 in 2020, how has the adaptation planning field evolved? How should that be reflected in the APG 3.0?
- What challenges have you encountered in the adaptation planning process? What guidance, resources, or tools could the APG include to help other jurisdictions navigate those challenges?

Background Materials

[CA Adaptation Planning Guide | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)

[Apg | ResilientCA](#)