

Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

February 25th, 2021

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

www.scag.ca.gov



HOUSEKEEPING



1. This meeting will be recorded and posted on the SCAG website
2. All participants will be muted
3. At the end of each presentation, there will be a Q&A session. Please type your question into the chatbox and we will answer it during the Q&A.
4. Think of something later? Email brookover@scag.ca.gov
5. All presentations will be emailed to those who registered to participate in today's meeting

AGENDA



1. Introductions

2. SoCal Greenprint Update

Elizabeth Hiroyasu, The Nature Conservancy

3. SCAG Updates

Regional Data Platform Update – *Caitlin Smith, Esri*

Sustainable Communities Program Call for Applications – *Marisa Laderach, SCAG*

SCAG Equity Early Action Plan – *Joseph Cryer, SCAG*

4. Regional Climate Adaptation Framework Update

Kimberly Clark – SCAG

AGENDA (continued)



5. SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities & Brainstorm

Amanda Caswell – SCAG

India Brookover – SCAG

4. SALC Update: San Bernardino Planning Grant & Ventura Easement Grant

Susie Kirschner – Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

Paolo Perrone – Trust for Public Land

5. Governor Newsom's Executive Order 30x30

Amanda Hansen – California Natural Resources Agency

6. Adjourn

Introductions



Please type your name and the agency you represent in the chatbox.

Voluntary Icebreaker: What is your favorite type of insect?



SoCal Greenprint Update

An Update to the SCAG Natural and Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

The Nature Conservancy and Southern California Association of Governments
The Nature Conservancy and Southern California Association of Governments

February 25, 2021

www.scag.ca.gov

in collaboration with



Goal of the SoCal Greenprint



To protect, restore, and enhance
natural lands, public greenspace, working lands,
and water resources
and the benefits they provide to
people and nature throughout the SCAG region

Key Users of the Greenprint



Infrastructure Agencies



Conservation Practitioners



**Community-Based
Organizations**



Developers



**Planners
(Town, City, County, Tribal)**

Themes approved at the joint advisors meeting

- Agriculture
- Conservation, biodiversity, and habitat
- Community and equity
- Infrastructure and the built environment
- Risks and resilience
- Water

*** Climate Change, urban greening, and equity are cross-cutting and represented across all themes*

| Data | Source | Description and layers used |
|---|---|---|
| Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program 2016 | California Department of Conservation | Agricultural land, prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, grazing land, historical farmland |
| Soil Agricultural Groundwater Banking Index (SAGBI) | California Soil Resource Lab at UC Davis and UC-ANR | Groundwater recharge for agricultural land: The Soil Agricultural Groundwater Banking Index (SAGBI) is a suitability index for groundwater recharge on agricultural land. The SAGBI is based on five major factors that are critical to successful agricultural groundwater banking: deep percolation, root zone residence time, topography, chemical limitations, and soil surface condition. |
| Crop production | USDA | Agricultural production in dollars by CWHR13 Agriculture types. CWHR13 Agriculture types are linked to each crop in the Agriculture commissioner crop report. The production value per harvested acre in each county is obtained for every crop and averaged within county and agriculture type. |
| Projected Change in Climate Water Deficit | USGS-BCM (Flint and Flint) | Additional irrigation needed to offset climate change: Used to calculate additional water (mm) for irrigation. Climatic water deficit (CWD) quantifies evaporative demand exceeding available soil moisture, where S = soil moisture, AET = actual evapotranspiration, D = climatic water deficit. |
| CA Storie Index | USDA - Soil Survey Geographic Database | Prime agricultural land (Storie index rating 80-100) Preserving prime agricultural lands and open space is a key statutory mandate of California's Local Agency Formation Commissions (Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act 2000, Gov. Code §56301). The Storie Index is a soil rating based on soil characteristics that govern the land's potential utilization and agricultural capacity. Lands with an index score of 80-100 or Grade 1 are statutorily defined as prime agricultural land. This land valuation is independent of other physical or economic factors that might determine the desirability of growing certain plants in a given location. The characteristics evaluated include suitable soil profiles, surface texture, slope, and dynamic properties. |
| Irrigation Capability Class | USDA - Soil Survey Geographic Database | Prime Agricultural Land (Irrigated Capability Class 1-2): Preserving prime agricultural lands and open space is a key statutory mandate of California's Local Agency Formation Commissions (Cortese-Knox Hertzberg Act 2000, Gov. Code §56301). Irrigation capability is a soil characteristic that classifies potential agricultural lands by the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. Class I and II lands are statutorily defined as prime agricultural land. |
| Agritourism locations | UC Cooperative Extension | Farms, orchards, apiaries, creameries, wineries in the SCAG region |
| Williamson Act properties | county by county data | |
| Farmland Under Threat | American Farmland Trust | Farms Under Threat is American Farmland Trust's multi-year effort to document the extent, diversity, location, and quality of agricultural land in the continental U.S.—as well as the threats to this land from expanding commercial, industrial, and residential development. |
| Urban Agriculture and community gardens | County by county data | urban agricultural sites in LA County |
| Policies protecting farmland | | For example, Ventura County SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Areas) Ordinance ensures that until December 31, 2050, property designated Agricultural, Open Space and Rural land use designations may not be changed to a more intense, urban designation except by vote of the people (put in CONSERVATION and AGRICULTURE) |

Rapid Assessments

Rapid Assessments are an early case-study exercise to help us better design the Greenprint to meet the needs of our targeted user groups and on-the-ground practitioners.

They are conducted early in the development/design process to gather concrete feedback from key users on:

- 1) The information proposed to be in the Greenprint for a real-world use-case, and
- 2) How that information is analyzed and communicated.

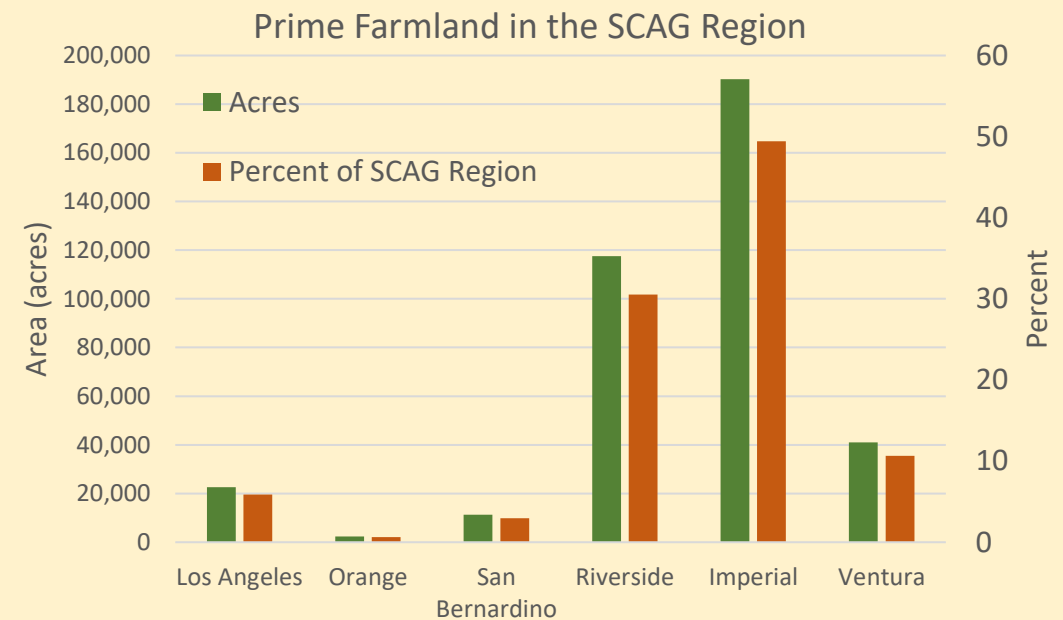


Amount of Agriculture in Project Area

DRAFT, NOT TO BE SHARED

| | Acres within project area | % of project area | % of Surrounding Area's Resource (half-mile) | % of County's Resource | Total acres in county | Total acres in SCAG Region |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Prime Farmland | 707 | 9% | 1% | 1% | 17,485 | 384,992 |
| Statewide Importance | 722 | 9% | 2% | 2% | 43,757 | 380,971 |
| Unique Farmland | 1,024 | 13% | 2% | 3% | 32,566 | 70,200 |
| Local Importance | 298 | 4% | 4% | 0% | 226,030 | 284,149 |
| Grazing Land | 0 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 110,202 | 1,482,846 |
| Prime Ag Land (Storie Index Rating 80-100) | 1,272 | 16% | 10% | 1% | 120,946 | 408,759 |
| Prime Ag Land (Irrigated Capability Class 1-2) | 4,816 | 59% | 48% | 1% | 358,166 | 1,543,895 |

- Crops in this area are worth as much as **\$10 million**
- Crops in the surrounding area are worth as much as **\$5 million**



Crop Types

| | Acres within project area | Acres in half-mile buffer | % of project area | % of half-mile buffer | % of county's resource |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Avocados | 26.37 | 12.95 | <1% | <1% | <1% |
| Citrus | 1,063.05 | 125.43 | 13% | 2% | 7% |
| Flowers, Nursery and Christmas Tree Farms | 581.92 | 28.91 | 7% | <1% | 34% |
| Greenhouse | 5.89 | 0 | <1% | <1% | 1% |
| Idle | 76.25 | 0.06 | <1% | <1% | <1% |
| Miscellaneous Truck Crops | 7.03 | 0 | <1% | <1% | <1% |
| Mixed Pasture | 7.49 | 0 | <1% | <1% | <1% |
| Young Perennials | 12.81 | 0 | <1% | <1% | <1% |

Protected & Threatened: Prime Farmland

Key Resource: Prime farmland: Farmland with the best combined physical and chemical features (soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply) to sustain long-term agricultural production.

PRIME FARMLAND

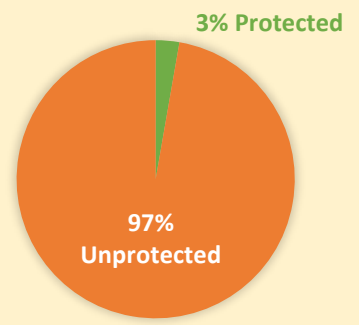
SCAG Region

- **97% (374,437 acres)** of the SCAG region's prime farmland is unprotected.
- Since 1984, **33% (191,216 acres)** of prime farmland in the SCAG region has been lost.

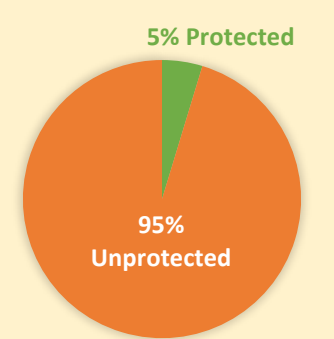
County

- **95% (111,969 acres)** of Riverside County's prime farmland is unprotected.
- Since 1984, **42% (84,435 acres)** of prime farmland in Riverside County has been lost.

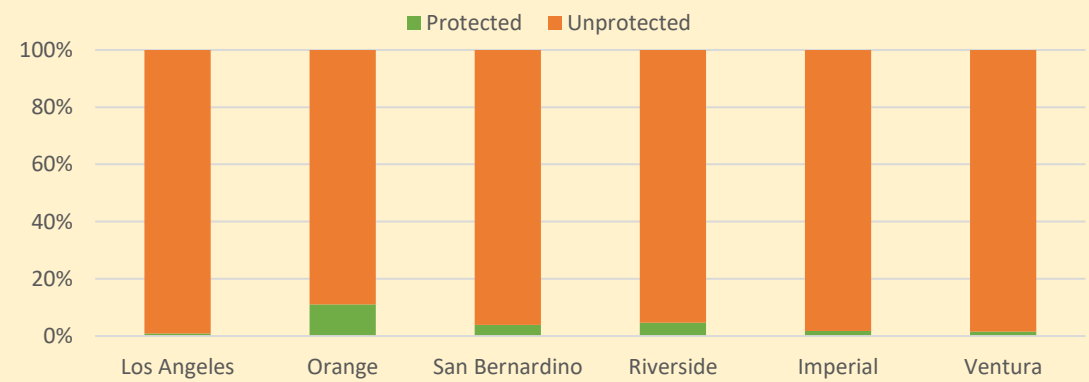
Prime Farmland Protected in the SCAG Region



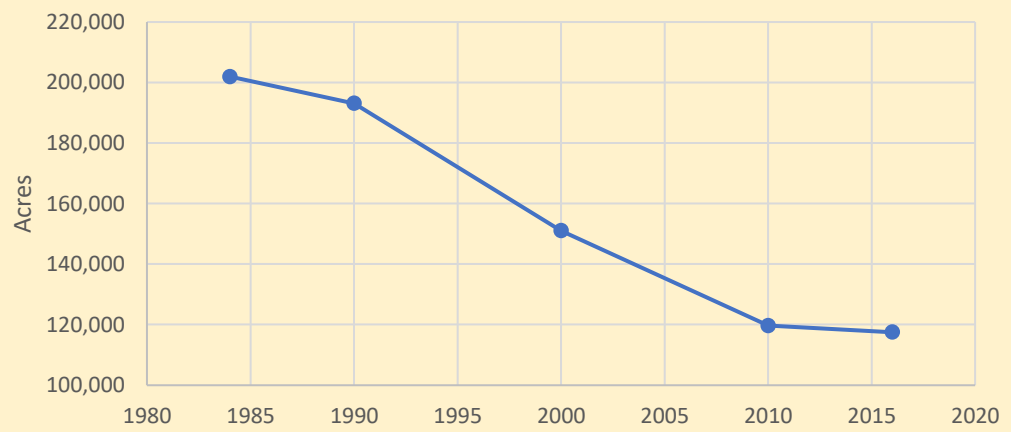
Prime Farmland Protected in Riverside County



Prime Farmland Protected in the SCAG Region



Loss of Prime Farmland Over Time (Riverside County)



Climate Change

- *Within and surrounding your project area, **484 acre-feet** of additional irrigation will be needed to offset rising temperatures due to climate change. This is the equivalent of average annual water use for **1,440 households**.*
- *Well-managed grazing can be an important tool in managing rangelands, reducing GHGs, and reducing wildfire risk.*
- *Requiring sustainable agricultural practices can aid in carbon sequestration.*

Urban Greening

- *If this project area is developed, including urban greenery can mitigate the change in ecosystem services.*

Equity

- *Creating urban food gardens can serve as an important community space and provide opportunities to access healthy foods.*
- **38% (145,054 acres)** of the SCAG region's prime farmland is in disadvantaged communities.
- **15% (18,067 acres)** of Riverside County's prime farmland is in disadvantaged communities.
- There are **9** supermarkets within your project area and 15 within a half mile of your project area.

The project area is **1 mile** away from an agritourism site.

Actions

- *Protecting agricultural lands preserves important scenic corridors.*
- *Protecting agricultural lands can provide important habitat and connectivity corridors for wildlife.*
- *In urban areas, urban food forests and vertical farming are opportunities to provide local food to communities.*
- *The project area has **2,550 acres** of land identified as good or excellent potential for groundwater banking on agricultural land. Agricultural lands with good/excellent groundwater banking potential can help replenish aquifers.*

Questions



- Do members of this group have up to date Williamson Act property maps?
- Is there specific feedback on metrics or data?
- Are there other datasets that people would like to highlight or are missing?

Contact Information:

e.h.hiroyasu@tnc.org

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call for Applications

Marisa Laderach
Senior Regional Planner, Mobility Planning and Management

February 25, 2021



2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP)



- Supports implementation of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), *Connect SoCal*
- SCP provides **multiple opportunities** to seek funding and resources to meet the needs of communities, address recovery and resiliency strategies considering COVID-19, and support regional goals
 - **Active Transportation & Safety (AT&S)**
 - **Housing & Sustainable Development (HSD)**
 - **Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations (SCMI)**
- Successful applicants receive technical assistance from SCAG.

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP): Program-Wide Goals



- Provide needed **planning resources** to local jurisdictions for **active transportation** and **multimodal planning efforts, sustainability, land use, and planning for affordable housing**;
- **Promote, address and ensure health and equity** in regional land use and transportation planning and to **close the gap of racial injustice**;
- Encourage regional planning strategies to **reduce motorized Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, particularly in environmental justice communities where there is the highest need for air quality improvements;
- Develop local plans that **support the implementation of key strategies and goals** outlined in Connect SoCal's Sustainable Communities Strategy;

2020-2021 Sustainable Communities Program (SCP): Program-Wide Goals (continued)

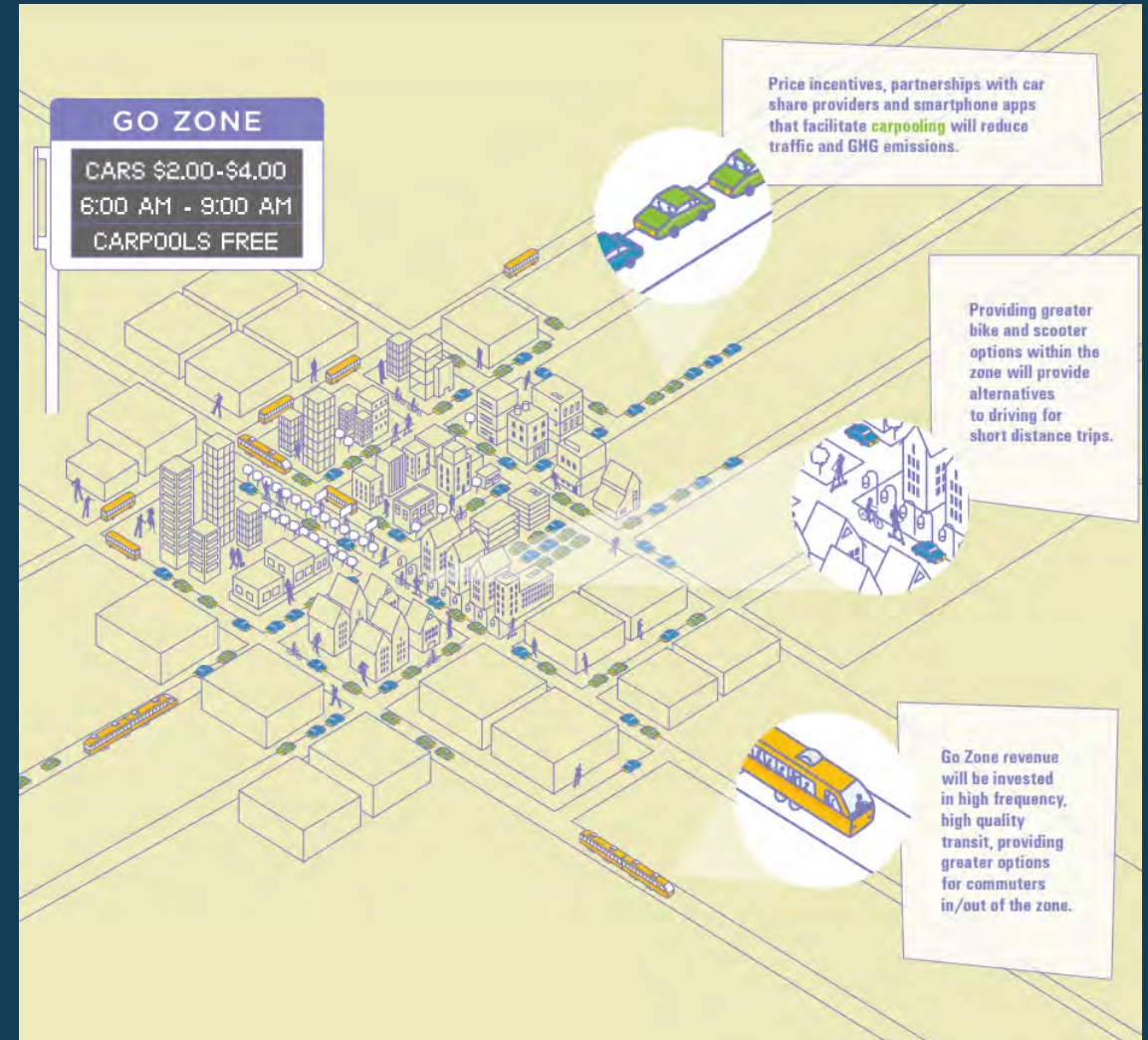


- Develop resources that **support the Key Connections** as outlined in Connect SoCal, including:
 - Shared Mobility and Mobility as a Service
 - Smart Cities and Job Centers
 - Accelerated Electrification
 - Go Zones
 - Housing Supportive Infrastructure;
- **Support a resilient region** that looks to climate adaptation and public health preparedness as key strategies;
- **Increase the region's competitiveness for federal and state funds.**

2020-2021 SCP: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations



- The Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations Call seeks to explore implementation of three **Connect SoCal Key Connections**:
 - Smart Cities & Job Centers
 - Go Zones
 - Shared Mobility & Mobility as a Service
- The funding will be directed towards local jurisdictions that seek to **use technology and innovation** by implementing curb space management measures.



2020-2021 SCP: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations



- Cities have been struggling with issues related to on-and off-street parking, congestion, first-last mile connections, etc. Data and **the reliable assessment of curb use** have become essential to finding solutions to these growing issues in the region.
- SCP Call for Projects seeks to **develop best practices** in curb space management that support sustainable mobility while simultaneously enhancing public space and supporting small businesses and the local economy.
- SCP Call for Projects considers **emerging equity considerations** such as the relationships between the use of transit and transportation network companies (as evidenced by curb space activity within disadvantaged communities), enhancements for transit and bike networks at the curb, and the potential for optimizing curb space management through asset valuation.



Curb Space Data Collection
& Inventory



Technology Assessment or
Adoption Plan



Parking Management Plan



Permitting Process Evaluation

Eligible Applicants



The following entities, within the SCAG region, are eligible to apply for SCP-SCMI resources:

- **Local or Regional Agency** – Examples include cities, counties, councils of government, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and County Public Health Departments.
- **Transit Agencies** – Any agency responsible for public transportation that is eligible for funds under the Federal Transit Administration.
- **Natural Resources or Public Land Agencies** – Federal, State, or local agency responsible for natural resources of public land administration.
- **Tribal Governments** – Federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

Schedule



| SCP-Smart Cities and Mobility Innovations Milestones | Date |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Call for Applications Opens | February 8, 2021 |
| Application Workshop | March 8, 2021 April 5, 2021 |
| Call for Applications Submission Deadline | April 23, 2021 (5:00 p.m.) |
| Regional Council Recommendation | July 1, 2021 |
| Final Work and Invoices Submitted | June 30, 2023 |

Questions?

Marisa Laderach

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(213) 236-1927



An aerial night view of a city skyline, likely Los Angeles, with numerous skyscrapers and buildings illuminated against a dark blue sky. The city lights create a dense pattern of yellow and white dots across the landscape.

Southern California Association of Governments Regional Data Platform

Supporting Regional Data Sharing, Planning & Collaboration

Climate Change

Population growth

The region faces big challenges

Economic growth

Housing

Transportation

Equity



Climate Change

Population growth

SCAG recognizes that these challenges
must be addressed collectively,
with local plans for the future
united under a **common vision**

Housing

Transportation

Equity

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a dense residential area with a multi-lane highway cutting through it. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a low sun, creating long shadows and a hazy atmosphere. The highway has several lanes of traffic. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

Connect SoCal is the big picture vision for a sustainable Southern California

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a multi-lane highway (Interstate 5) running diagonally through the center. The surrounding area is densely packed with residential buildings, trees, and some commercial structures. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with a slight lens flare effect in the upper left corner.

Local Jurisdiction General Plans
are the individual puzzle pieces that bring
Connect SoCal into focus

Planning Challenges

Local Jurisdictions

- Must complete and update a General Plan for their communities, but many struggle to do so with available resources and in-house tools
- Need data, tools, resources, and best practices to update their General Plans





Planning Challenges

SCAG

- Needs reliable local data for accurate regional forecasting and planning
- Need local General Plans to align with and realize the vision of Connect SoCal



A Platform for a Smarter Region

The SCAG Regional Data Platform

- A robust system of systems for regional data sharing and collaboration
- Facilitates better planning at all levels
- Provides a platform to support a variety of SCAG initiative and programs



Regional Data Platform Goals

The Regional Data Platform seeks to support **regionally aware local planning** and **locally informed regional planning** by

- Providing modern planning tools and best practices to member agencies to assist with General Plan Updates
- Streamlining the process of collecting and integrating data from member agencies so SCAG can do better regional planning

Regional Data Platform

Solution Overview



LEGEND

- Geospatial Infrastructure
- Planning & Engagement Tools
- Data Orchestration
- External Systems

Long Term Vision: A Platform and Portal for Collaboration Across Initiatives

Member Agencies



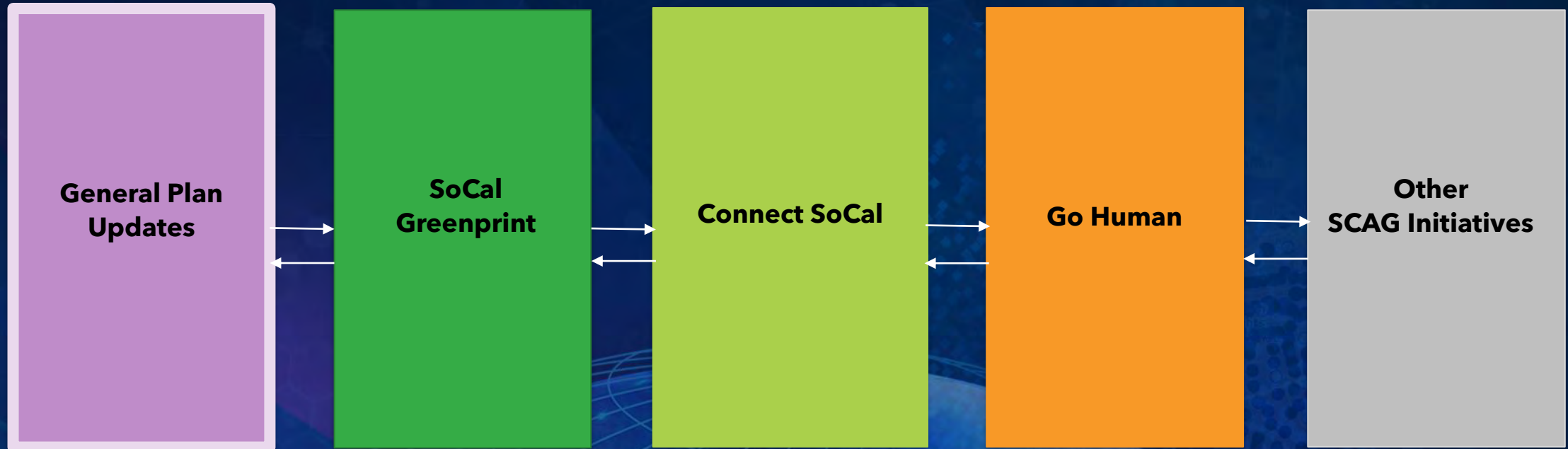
Partners & Stakeholders



Developers & Other Data Stakeholders



The Public



Regional Data Platform

Regional Data Platform Pilot Project Schedule



★
PROJECT
COMPLETION

Questions?



SCAG's Equity Efforts

Natural and Farm Lands Conservation Working Group
Thursday, February 25, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

www.scag.ca.gov



SCAG's Commitment to Racial & Social Justice

- July 2020 – SCAG Board adopted resolution
- Established **Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice**
- Focus on:
 - Definition of equity
 - Equity inventory
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work plan
 - Public Participation Plan review
 - Equity Framework

Staff report on board action available [here](#)

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice [website](#)

Update on Defining Equity

- Informed by research, best practices, peer agency review, and guided by input from the Special Committee, SCAG staff, and stakeholders.
- **Leading with *racial equity*** to address the pervasive and deep inequities faced by people of color across the region.

“As central to SCAG’s work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that **eliminate bias and barriers** that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, **to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life.**”

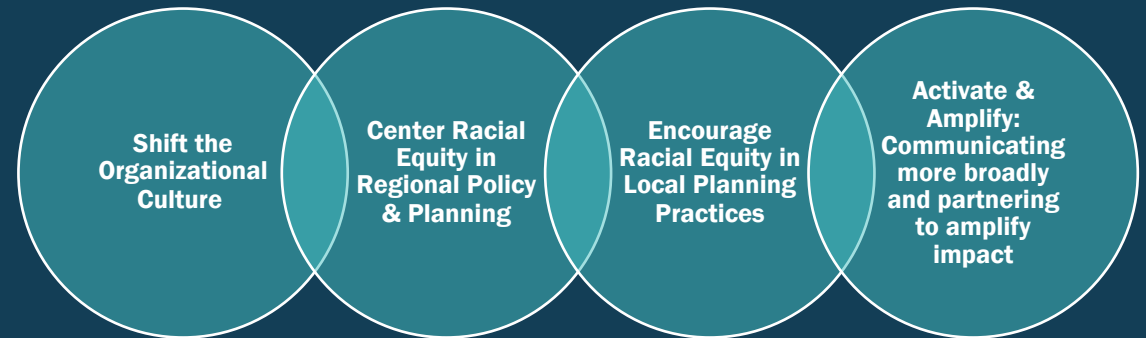
Equity Framework & Early Action Plan (EAP)

- Ensuring work advances beyond life of Special Committee
- Includes internal and external short, medium & long-term actions

Strategies



Strategies apply across SCAG's core equity goals



SoCal Greenprint

The SoCal Greenprint aims to protect, restore, and enhance natural lands, public greenspace, working lands, and water resources and the benefits they provide to people and nature.

Goals:

- Implement Connect SoCal
- Balance growth and conservation
- Provide consistent, regional data and tools
- Prioritize lands for mitigation investments
- Be a free and open resource

Center
Racial Equity
in Regional
Policy &
Planning

- Environmental Justice (EJ) incorporated into the Greenprint
- Extensive outreach and CBO involvement

INTEGRATE &
INSTITUTION-
ALIZE

Encourage and support the development of **local plans** that seek to **address inequities** in the region

Sustainable Communities Program

- \$15M in technical assistance to local jurisdictions to implement Connect SoCal
- Calls for Applications in multiple categories:
 - Past: Active Transportation, Housing
 - Feb 2021: Smart Cities & Mobility Innovations
 - June 2021: Under Development

ENGAGE
&
CO-
POWER



- Targeted outreach, coaching, listening sessions, evaluation criteria for underserved communities
- Community Based Organizations on Evaluation Panel

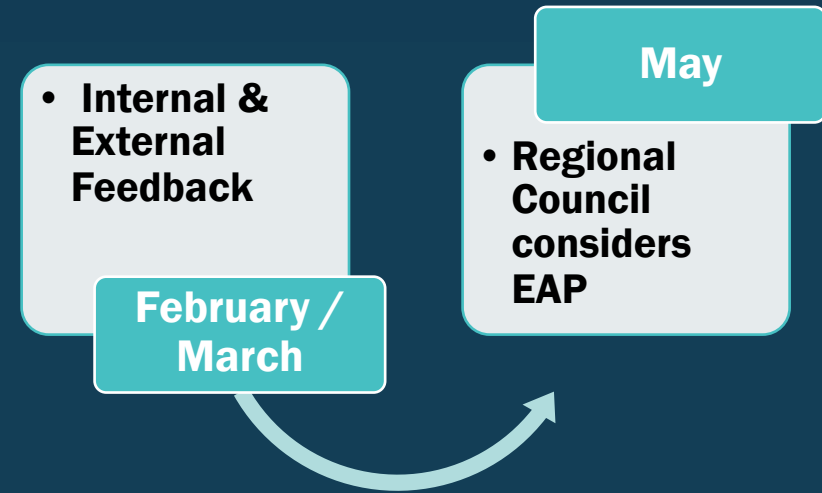
INTEGRATE
&
INSTITUTION-
ALIZE



- Support **local plans** that **address inequities** in the region



What early actions would you recommend SCAG consider in the draft EAP?



surveymonkey.com/r/earlyactionplan

SCAG Climate Adaptation Framework

Resources and Tools

Kimberly Clark

SCAG Sustainability Department

February 25, 2021

www.scag.ca.gov



Climate Change Impacts in the SCAG Region



Extreme Heat



*Sea Level Rise/Coastal
Flooding and Erosion*



Severe Storms/Wind



Inland Flooding



Drought



Wildfire



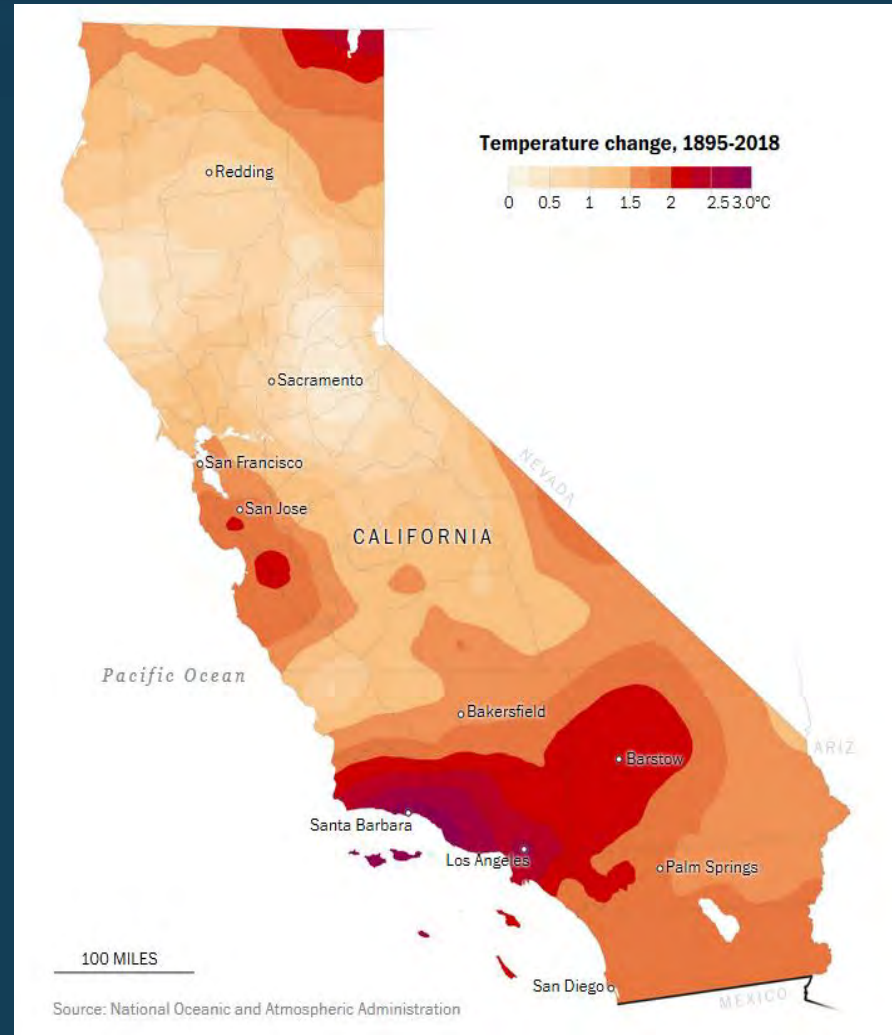
*Air Quality and Vector Borne
Diseases*



Landslides

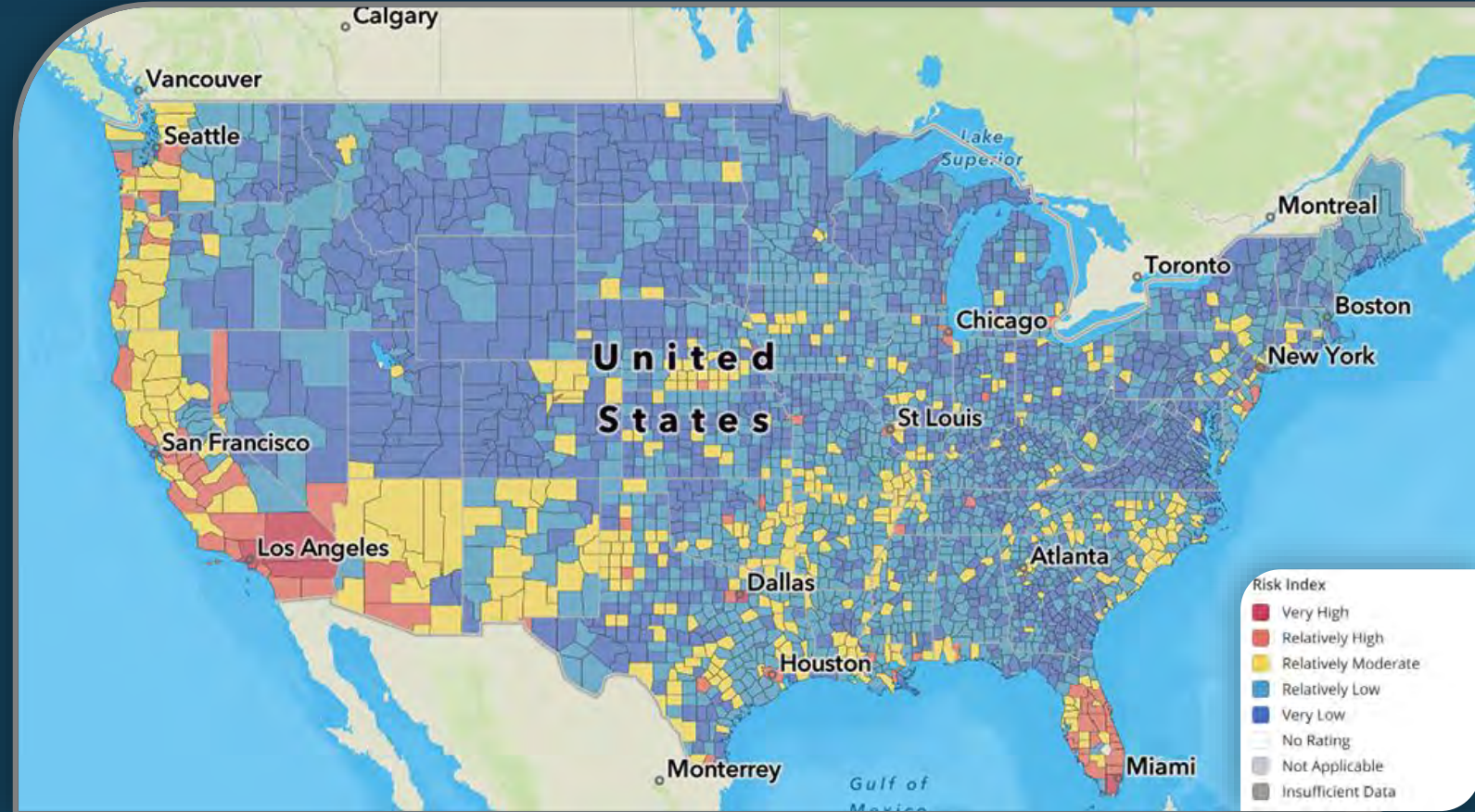


Pests and Ecological Hazards

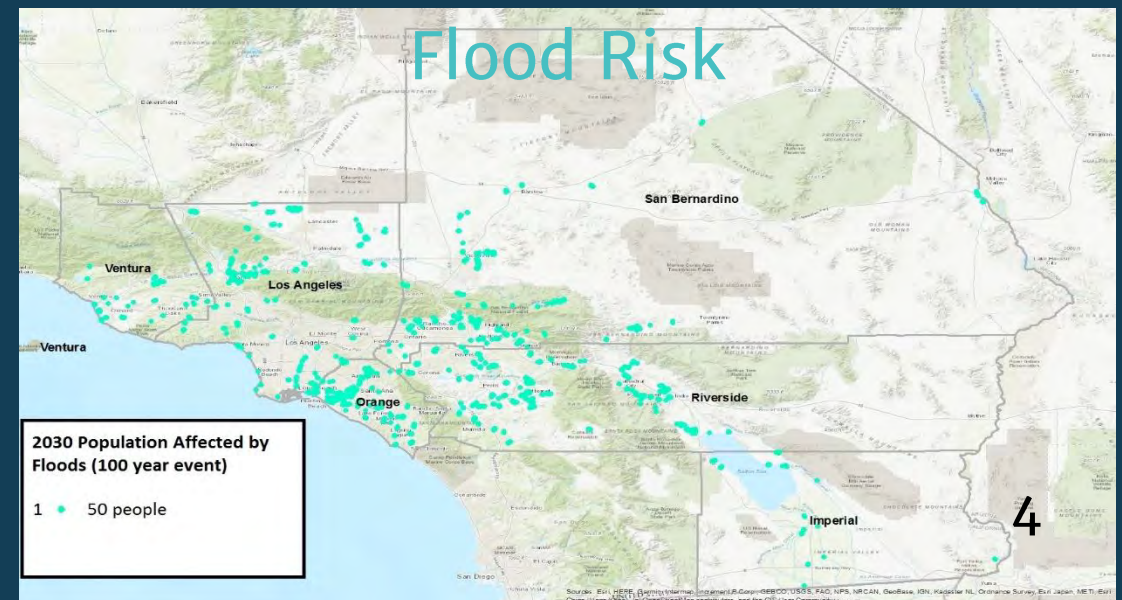
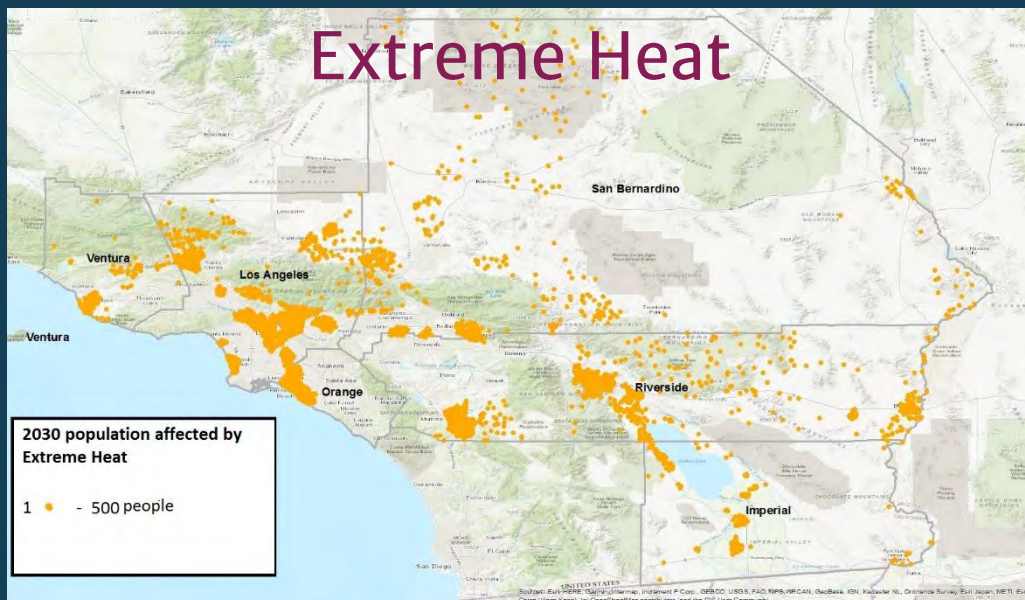
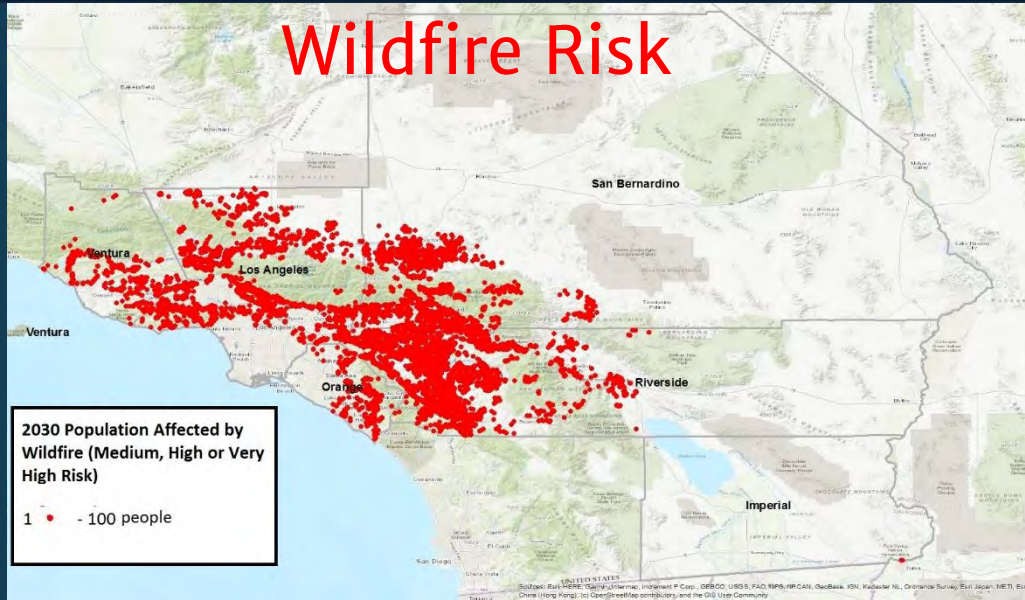


FEMA National Risk Index

- In October 2020, FEMA identified Southern California as one of the most vulnerable areas in the U.S. due to natural hazards
- Los Angeles County is the most at-risk nationwide
- Riverside County and San Bernardino County are amongst the 10 highest at-risk counties in the U.S.



Widespread Impacts



Largest Ten Wildfire Burn Areas: 2001-2010 vs. 2011-2020

San Francisco
30,000 acres



Biggest wildfires, 2001-10
1.6 million acres burned



Biggest wildfires, 2011-20
3.5 million acres burned

1.6 Million Acres

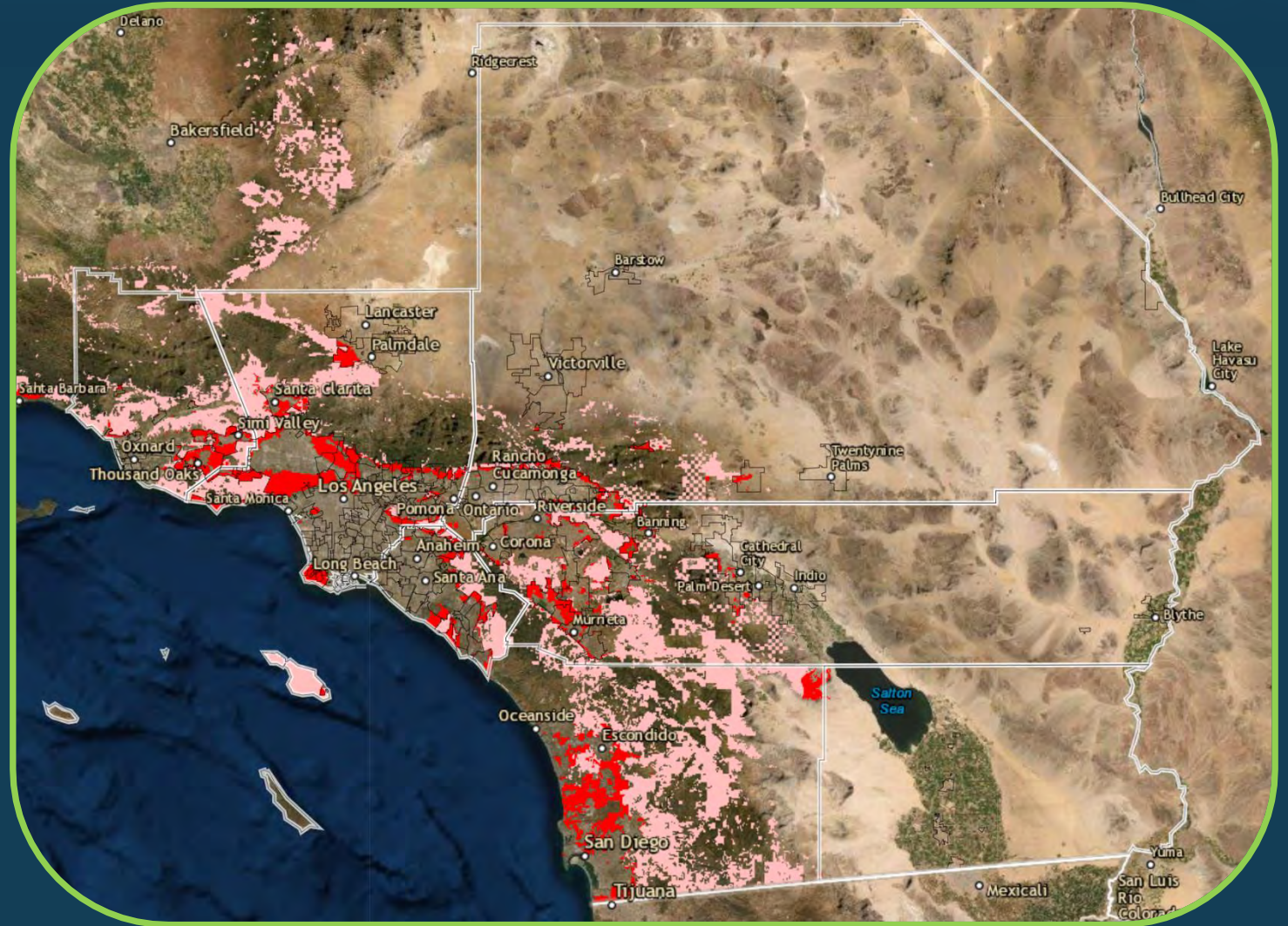
vs.

3.5 Million Acres

Population Growth in CalFire Wildfire Hazard Areas



- 1.8 Million People in Southern California reside in very high fire hazard areas in 2016
- By 2045, this could increase to 2.2 million based on local growth estimations



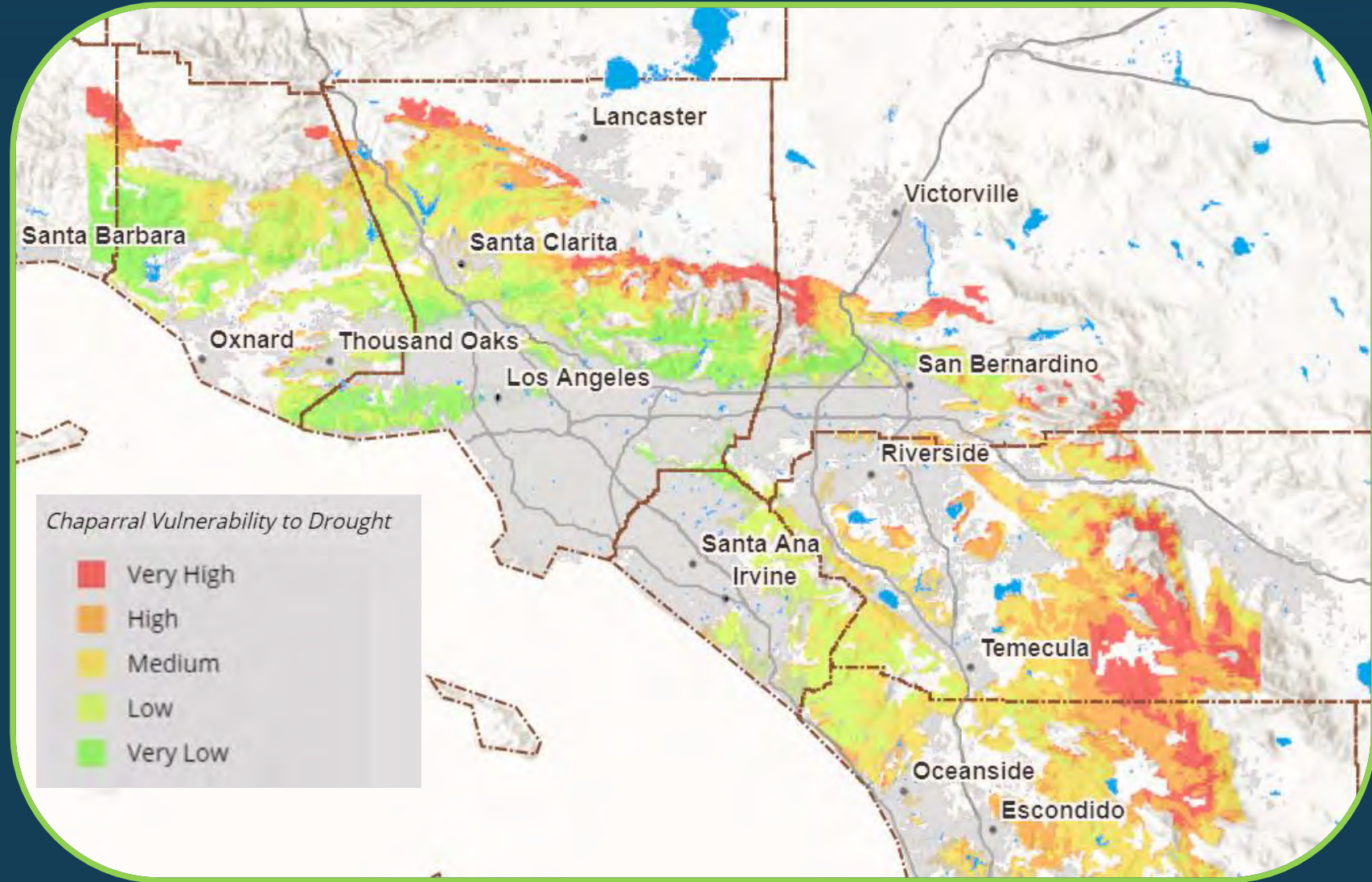
Southern California Climate Vulnerabilities - Drought



Chaparral



Chaparral in Drought Conditions



SoCal Climate Adaptation Framework:

- February 2019 Kickoff
- SB 1 Adaptation Planning Grant
- SCAG, Cambridge Systematics, with ESA, Here LA, and Urban Economics

Includes:

- Tools and Resources for Local Planning
- Outreach and Communications Strategies
- Planning Guidance and Model Policy Language
- Climate Adaptation Metrics & Tools for Local and Regional Agencies
- Adaptation Infrastructure Finance and Funding Guidance

Stakeholder Outreach

Local Jurisdiction Practitioners

- Two focus groups with 8 different jurisdictions
- Online survey tool to seek input from all jurisdictions
- Interviews with jurisdictions for case study analysis



Broader Group of Stakeholders

- Interviews with 8 CBOs
- Quarterly Climate Adaptation Working Group Meetings
- Two Public “Toolbox Tuesday” Trainings on SCAG’s Climate Adaptation Framework & Tools
- Five Public Pop-Up Climate Talks Events



Elected Officials

- Subregional COG Presentations
- Presentation to SCAG’s Energy & Environment Policy Committee
- Presentation to SCAG’s Regional Council



Climate Talks Public Outreach

What is the Climate Talks Box?

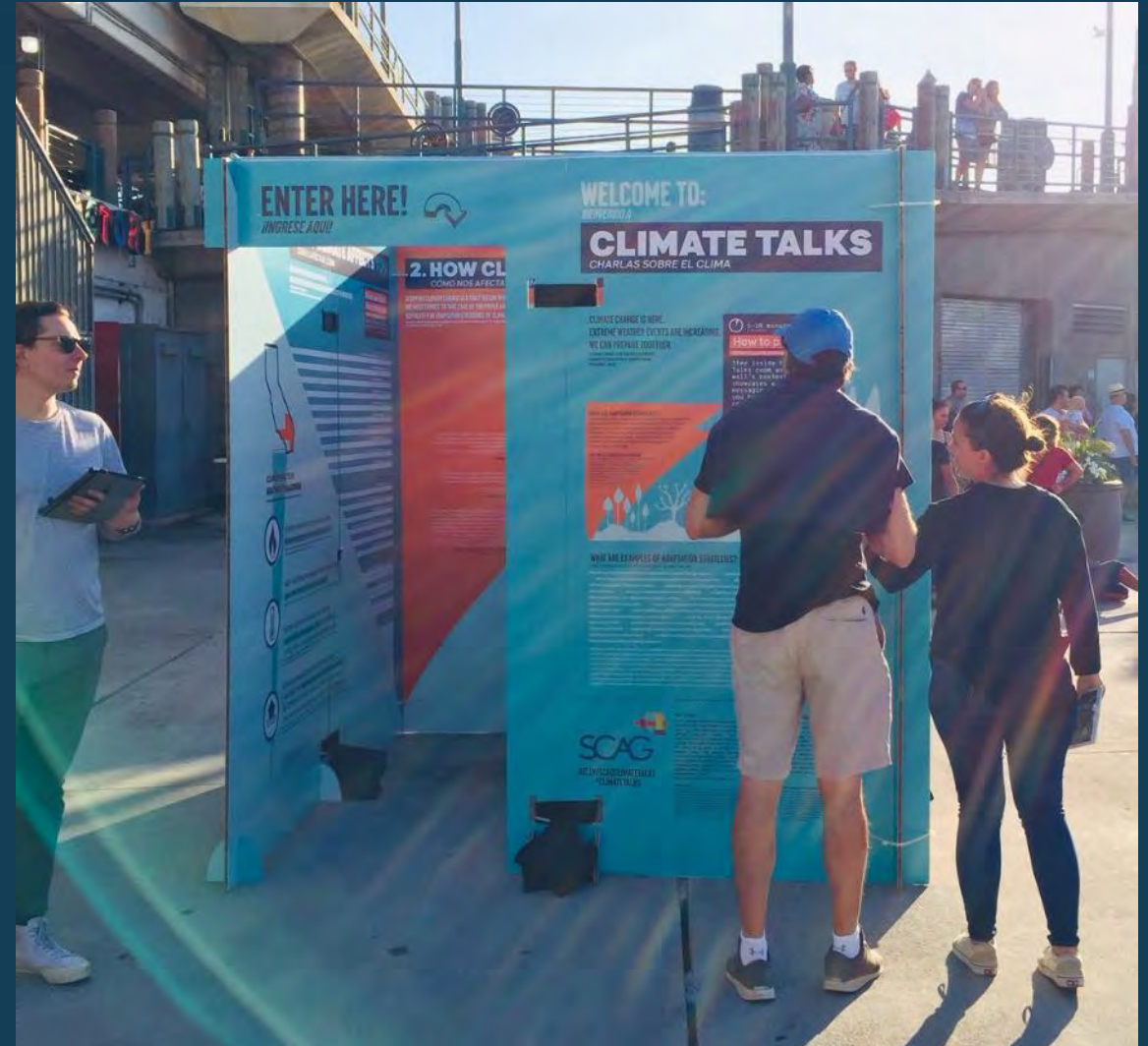
- Immersive pop-up experience
- Educate public about climate change & adaptation

Goal

Four different messaging strategies about climate change to understand what resonates

Messaging Strategies

1. Personal, monetary & health-related harm
2. Trusted leaders
3. California's natural resources
4. Regional impacts



Climate Talks Events



Redondo Beach Pier Summer Concert Series, 08/24/19



Taste of Baldwin Park, 08/29/19



Climate Resolve Keep LA Cool Day @ Hansen Dam, 09/07/19



Open Arts & Music Festival, 09/15/19



Urban Hive Market Long Beach, 09/28/19

Outreach Findings Highlights



Local Jurisdiction Practitioners

- Lack of dedicated staffing resources for climate planning
- Activities should cross departments
- High turnover and lack of champions or oversight is challenging
- Jurisdictions need more tools and datasets to track performance and would like to coordinate with counterparts

Broader Group of Stakeholders

- There is a general knowledge gap on climate change solutions
- Linkages of community impacts from climate change can be challenging to convey
- Maps of climate impacts are not the best means for conveying impacts; images and statistics on local quality of life are
- The language of climate change and adaptation may not be familiar to several audiences

Elected Officials

- Health, socioeconomic, and racial equity considerations should be included in regional policymaking addressing climate hazards
- SCAG shall develop a regional resilience framework, a regional climate planning network, and partnerships to support jurisdictions' climate planning initiatives

1) Make it personal

Use a personal "risk-based" messaging strategy that identifies the monetary costs and health impacts of climate change for your constituency.

- This strategy ranked as the most effective during SCAG's community outreach.
- Use facts that can apply to an individual's or family's life and phrase the risk so that the effects are tangible. A utility bill increasing by hundreds of dollars is an experience that is easy to grasp; it is much more difficult to grasp a change in millions of dollars to a government's budget.
- *As an example, we have included four such facts in the "How the Climate Affects You" section of the slide deck.*

2) Localize and concretize

Use a before and after visualization of a familiar and beloved resource.

- In this strategy, you can direct your audience's feelings of attachment towards a place, into collective support. Use a visual (photographs, videos, renderings) to show the before and after effects of our changing climate. This allows attendees to see the effects for themselves.
- A good subject is nearby nature that has been affected by extreme weather events.
- As an additional note, the literature shows that conservative audiences respond more favorably to changes that are framed as the "past & present," whereas liberal audiences preferred a "present & future" framing.
- *See the examples in the "How the Climate Affects California" section of the slide deck.*

3) Map the risk

Use a chronological map to show the proximity of risk and change over time.

- This strategy uses mapping visualization to help participants understand the future effects of climate change.
- It is important to keep in mind that map-reading is a special skill. Aid participant understanding by ensuring your visualizations are focused on your immediate locality, and that familiar landmarks are called out.
- Connecting the familiar (local places) to the hard-to-grasp (future climate effects) builds a kind of support grounded in personal affection.
- *See the examples in the "How Climate Changes at Home" section of the slide deck.*

4) Bring in a trusted advisor:

Use the words and stature of someone your community already trusts.

- This strategy requires the identification of a leader or authority figure with whom your community has a rapport and finding a values-based message that will resonate with them.
- This can occur as quotes, a video message, or an in-person appearance. The literature says this strategy can work especially well with older, and more conservative constituencies.
- However, appropriate advisor selection can align this strategy with a wide range of ideologies. Notably, this strategy was reported as slightly less impactful than the other strategies explained here.
- *See the examples in the "How the Climate Affects Us" section of the slide deck.*



Jurisdictional Ranking - Integration of Climate Adaptation Policies



- Based on the research results, 84 cities and 4 counties in the SCAG region have adopted climate adaptation policies or are in the process of updating their policy documents. This corresponds to 44 percent of the total number of SCAG cities, counties and tribal governments. These cities and counties were ranked as platinum, gold, or silver based on the degree to which their policies addressed various climate change risks. Most were ranked silver (the lowest ranking) because climate change impacts were acknowledged in their planning documents as a risk but adaptation strategies or policies to address the risk were not identified.
- Only 14 cities and counties in the SCAG region have adopted or drafted an updated safety element that addresses climate change. This corresponds to 7 percent of the total number of SCAG cities, counties and tribal governments.

The policy gap analysis describes the criteria used to rank each city and county, and provides a summary of results by county. The results are summarized in a report titled Gap Analysis of Climate Adaptation Policies in the SCAG Region (available on the SCAG website) and in an interactive web map located [Here](#).

Existing Resources for Adaptation Planning

There are a multitude of existing frameworks and guidance documents that are useful for climate change adaptation planning. Appendix A describes those that provide the most value to SCAG member agencies, selected based on their currency and their relevance to the region's geography, natural resources, and demographics. Many are resources developed by the State of California, which has made a concerted effort in recent years to provide planning assistance to state agencies and to local and regional governments that are faced with the challenge of adapting their communities to climate change impacts.

Many of these resources are referenced in the following section on The Adaptation Planning Process, which as a whole aligns closely with the phases and steps used by the California APG.

Policy gap analysis:

- 44% of SCAG jurisdictions have adopted climate adaptation policies
- 14 cities and counties (7%) updated safety element for climate change



Model Policies for Local Coastal Programs & General Plans

Model policies organized by general plan element and climate hazard type

- Elements:
 - Environmental Justice
 - Circulation
 - Land Use
 - Safety
- Hazards:
 - Multiple hazards
 - Extreme heat
 - Air quality and human health
 - Other climate-related hazards

Climate Adaptation Model Policies for General Plans
November 2020

Safety Element

Multiple Hazards

- **Identify Local Transit Agency's Role in Providing Evacuation Assistance.** Incorporate in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and any local emergency response plans, the role of the local transit agency(s) in providing evacuation assistance based upon the duration and severity of events related to climate change impacts.
- **Consider Vulnerability of Agricultural Operations as part of Climate Change Planning Process.** If the community includes agricultural uses, include vulnerability of agricultural operations as part of the climate change and/or adaptation planning process including assessments of climate, physical environment, farm-level factors and socio-economic forces.
- **Engage Stakeholders from the Agriculture Sector in Climate Change Planning Process.** If the community includes agricultural uses, ensure that all stakeholders, including industry specialists, farm operators, and other community groups are identified and engaged in all planning and policy development related to climate change and/or adaptation.
- **Encourage the Use of Williamson Act in the Zoning Ordinance.** Adopt provisions within the Community's zoning ordinance to encourage the use of the Williamson Act for preservation of agricultural lands and/or open space. The Williamson Act encourages the preservation of land for open space, forestry and agricultural operations through an easement and reassessment of the property. This can aid in carbon sequestration, protection of food supply, inland floodplain protection, or sensitive habitats to offset costs and provide additional land to mitigate climate change impacts.
- **Implement a Policy of Retreat.** Implement a policy of retreat for areas at-risk for repeated damage due to climate change hazards, such as areas of high subsidence, extreme wildfire risk, and floodplains to allow for natural modification of the landscape and reduction in risk to property and life.
- **Develop an Inclusive Public Outreach and Engagement Strategy.** As climate change and its associated







Adaptation Strategies and Actions

- Over 275 actions
- Filter by climate change hazard type (e.g., extreme heat, air quality)
- Filter by asset type (e.g., vulnerable populations, public health)
- Strategies and actions can be incorporated into Climate Adaptation Plans or as implementation programs for the General Plan

| Climate Change Hazard | Asset | Strategy | Action |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Inland Flood | Buildings and Facilities | Account for climate change impacts when designing and approving future projects and retrofitting existing projects | Require accounting of flood risk in all applications for new development flood prone areas. Ensure that all applications for new development account for projected precipitation changes and provide adequate protection or design accommodations. |
| Inland Flood | Multiple Assets | Adapt river and reservoir management to accommodate changing precipitation patterns | Dredge river channels to increase flood capacity |
| Inland Flood | Multiple Assets | Adapt river and reservoir management to accommodate changing precipitation | Coordinate with water districts to explore reservoir management and operations options for improving river flood management in anticipation of changing precipitation patterns |
| Inland Flood | Biodiversity and Habitat | Build or expand flood defenses | Construct "living levees" by creating gently-sloping upland, transition, and wetland habitats between the levee and river |
| Inland Flood | Multiple Assets | Build or expand flood defenses | Upgrade or rebuild existing levees, flood walls, or other flood defenses along creeks and rivers to increase flood capacity of the channel |
| Inland Flood | Wastewater Treatment | Build or expand flood defenses | Increase the resiliency of wastewater plants and systems to flooding and severe weather. |
| Inland Flood | Stormwater | Design and utilize green infrastructure to provide adaptation benefits | Prioritize low-impact development (IID) stormwater practices in areas where storm sewers may be impaired by high water due to flood waters. |
| Inland Flood | Stormwater | Design and utilize green infrastructure to provide adaptation benefits | Where possible, use pervious pavement (e.g., for bicycle and pedestrian pathways) to increase water infiltration. |
| Inland Flood | Buildings and Facilities | Design buildings and facilities to minimize vulnerability to flood hazards | Elevate the first floor up to elevations above target flood levels accounting for projected precipitation changes. |
| Inland Flood | Buildings and Facilities | Design buildings and facilities to minimize vulnerability to flood hazards | Modify building design standards so that the second floor is above the target flood level and contains flood-sensitive features, while the first floor is used for parking and/or storage and is designed to be durable and resilient to flood damage. Target flood level |
| Inland Flood | Multiple Assets | Design buildings and facilities to minimize vulnerability to flood hazards | Raise buildings and roads by placing fill to rebuild the grades at higher elevations. Rebuild all connecting roads, trails, and utilities to slope up to the new grade. Elevation should account for projected precipitation changes. |
| Inland Flood | Biodiversity and Habitat | Design restoration of riparian corridors and wetlands in floodplains to be resilient to climate change | Choose plant species for restoration sites that are less vulnerable to flooding |
| Inland Flood | Biodiversity and Habitat | Design restoration of riparian corridors and wetlands in floodplains to be resilient to climate change | Establish transitional and upland habitat in restoration sites where feasible |
| Inland Flood | Biodiversity and Habitat | Design restoration of riparian corridors and wetlands in floodplains to be resilient to climate change | Require adaptive management plans for restoration/mitigation sites within floodplains to consider increased flooding potential |
| | | Design restoration of riparian corridors and | Restore riparian corridors, soft-bottomed streambeds, and seasonal flood basins that |

Project Checklists

**TABLE 1
PROJECT SCREENING THRESHOLDS FOR CLIMATE HAZARDS (FOR PROJECT PROPONENT TO COMPLETE)**

| Climate Hazard | Screening Threshold Questions <i>(If the answer to any of the following questions is "Yes", then the checklist for that hazard must be completed)</i> | Links or Sources of Information |
|--|--|--|
|  Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would project consume water resources in its construction or operation and if so, are the water sources supplying the project at risk from drought? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Water Management Plan applicable to the project's location |
|  Extreme Heat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the area where your project is located expected to experience more than 30 heat health days per year over the project lifetime? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Maps based on California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT): https://www.cal-heat.org/ |
|  Inland Flooding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project located in the 100-year or larger FEMA floodplain, otherwise known as the 1% annual chance flood? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Using Cal-Adapt, will the project watershed be subject to an increase of extreme precipitation events? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | FEMA Flood Maps: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home |
|  Landslides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project located in area of moderate or high susceptibility to landslide hazards? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | USGS landslide susceptibility map: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/lsi/ |
|  Sea Level Rise/ Coastal Flooding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project in a SLR vulnerability zone, or will any infrastructure or resources that the project relies upon be affected by SLR (e.g., beaches, groundwater)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | Use detailed local SLR maps, if available. Alternatively, use Our Coast Our Future tool: http://data.pointblue.org/apps/ocof/cms/index.php?page=flood-map |
|  Wildfire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project located in a high or very high fire hazard zone? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | CalFIRE Maps - https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/ |

Template for incorporating climate change adaptation elements into local project approval process:

- Residential and commercial development
- Infrastructure projects

Two-step process:

1. Suggested screening thresholds for 6 hazards
2. Detailed checklist for each hazard

Project Checklists

Extreme Heat Checklist

Over the coming decades the SCAG region can expect longer and hotter heat waves. Average maximum temperatures are projected to increase around 4-5 degrees F by the mid-century, and 5-8 degrees F by the late-century. Extreme temperatures are also expected to increase in duration and intensity.

Exposure

1. **Historical exposure:** Has the site historically experienced extreme heat events? (Provide supporting evidence. If yes, please describe past events or conditions: e.g., long heat spells, hot nights, etc.)

Yes No Basis for conclusion: _____

2. **Future Conditions over Project Lifetime:**

- Extreme heat events are expected to increase in duration and/or intensity.
- Extreme heat events are not expected to increase in duration and/or intensity.
- Extreme heat events are expected to remain about the same.
- Unknown.

3. **Identify data source(s) or map(s)/modeling used for assessing past and future exposure of the asset** (check all that apply):

- California Heat Assessment Tool (CHAT) found at <https://www.cal-heat.org>.
- Cal-Adapt
- Site Specific Modeling (please provide date and source of information): _____

Sensitivity

1. **Human Health:** Using the CHAT (www.cal-heat.org), determine the Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI) for the census tract where the project is located: _____

Areas with HVI values over 50 are considered highly vulnerable to heat-related health impacts.

2. **Physical Asset:** Assess sensitivity to the climate hazard based on the following criteria:

- Low Sensitivity:** Climate hazard would have little or no impact on the asset's physical components or how the project functions.
- Moderate Sensitivity:** Climate hazard would have an impact on the project's physical components and/or its functionality, but the project would recover quickly once hazard subsides. The project would retain some ability to function while exposed.
- High Sensitivity:** Climate hazard would have a significant impact on the project/asset(s) physical components and/or its functionality, and the project would not recover quickly once the hazard subsides. The project would lose major functionality while exposed.

- For each hazard of potential concern:
- Assess project's vulnerability based on exposure and sensitivity
 - Assess potential consequences based on:
 - Estimated level of asset damage
 - Level of disruption of asset service or function
 - Cost to replace and/or repair and cost of losing the service/function of the asset

Project Checklists

Adaptation Assessment

Project Adaptation Measures:

From the following list of adaptation measures, identify those that the project will incorporate to increase adaptive capacity to extreme heat. For all “no” answers provide additional explanatory information, including whether the measure is not applicable to the project.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Robustness | <p>1. Would project expand and maintain the urban tree canopy? (e.g., by increasing tree cover for large parking lots) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2. Would the project expand the use of cool roofs and reflective building materials? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Would the project use alternative vegetative solutions to alleviate urban heat island: for example, green walls and green roofs where trees are not possible? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4. Would the project expand the use of cool, porous, high-reflectivity pavement or sustainable materials in pavements? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| Resilience | <p>5. Would the project use alternatives to grid-powered air conditioners for cooling, such as propane air conditioners, fans and cold water systems? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| Adaptability | <p>6. Would the project limit or remove impervious surfaces to help combat urban heat island effects? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>7. Does the project expand access to cooling centers for vulnerable populations to use during heat health events? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| Redundancy | <p>8. Would the project have at least 2 routes for emergency vehicle access to allow for emergency services/first responders to access people at project site in the event of an emergency? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |

- c. Assess project’s adaptive capacity, based on the adaptation measures incorporated into its design
- i. Suggested measures: customize to local needs
 - ii. Utilize the Strategy Matrix

Decision Tree Tool

| AGENCY INFO | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Select the County you represent | Riverside | | | |
| Select City you represent | Hemet | | | |
| Total | Population | Employment | Households | Housing Units |
| County | 2,429,222 | 896,201 | 811,649 | 2,906,153 |
| City | 125,684 | 37,793 | 49,159 | 129,274 |
| DAC* Total | DAC Population | DAC Employment | DAC Households | DAC Housing Units |
| County | 493,455 | 306,399 | 142,808 | 590,336 |
| City | 21,694 | 10,451 | 8,024 | 22,314 |
| Wildfire | Population | Employment | Households | Housing Units |
| County | 615,144 | 215,618 | 207,610 | 743,358 |
| City | 26,256 | 7,895 | 10,269 | 27,006 |
| DAC Wildfire Affected | DAC Population | DAC Employment | DAC Households | DAC Housing Units |
| County | 13,941 | 12,840 | 11,228 | 16,847 |
| City | 561 | 649 | 107 | 577 |
| Sea Level Rise | Population | Employment | Households | Housing Units |
| County | - | - | - | - |
| City | - | - | - | - |
| DAC Sea Level Rise Affected | DAC Population | DAC Employment | DAC Households | DAC Housing Units |
| County | - | - | - | - |
| City | - | - | - | - |
| Flood | Population | Employment | Households | Housing Units |
| County | 99,430 | 32,875 | 36,976 | 132,394 |
| City | 22,796 | 6,855 | 8,916 | 23,447 |
| DAC Flood Affected | DAC Population | DAC Employment | DAC Households | DAC Housing Units |
| County | 5,017 | 1,417 | 1,685 | 6,680 |
| City | 210 | 18 | 89 | 216 |

| PROJECT INFO | |
|--|--|
| Questions | Project |
| Which hazard category do you want to look for projects in? | Extreme_Heat |
| If selected "Other", please mention hazard name | |
| Asset protected in said project | Vulnerable_Populations |
| If selected "Other", please mention protected asset name you are interested in | |
| Desired strategy | Improve access to air conditioning and cooling centers by vulnerable populations |
| If selected "Other", please mention your desired strategem | |
| Action item interested in | Encourage partnerships between local emergency responders and local health departments to identify and reach vulnerable populations in need of access to cooling centers or personal cooling resources |
| If selected "Other", please mention your desired action item | |

Project Tracking Tool



| AGENCY INFO | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Select the County you represent | San_Bernardino | | | Population | Employment | Households |
| Do you represent a County Agency, a City Agency or Other Agency? | City | | County | 2,258,662 | 828,692 | 700,095 |
| If selected Other Agency, please select Agency Name from the list | | | City | 7,828 | 3,264 | 3,151 |
| If selected "Other", please mention the name of the agency you represent | | | | | | |
| Select City you represent | Needles | | | | | |
| PROJECT INFO | | | | | | |
| Metrics | Project 1 | Project 2 | Project 3 | Project 4 | Project 5 | Project 6 |
| Climate Change Hazard combating through existing, planned or proposed projects (can mention as many as you know) | Extreme_Heat | Inland_Flood | Wildfire | Extreme_Heat | Severe_Storms Or_Wind | |
| <i>Affected Population</i> | 7,828 | 708 | 1 | 7,828 | Unknown | Unknown |
| <i>Affected Employment</i> | 3,264 | 295 | 0 | 3,264 | Unknown | Unknown |
| <i>Affected Households</i> | 3,151 | 285 | 0 | 3,151 | Unknown | Unknown |
| If selected "Other", please mention hazard name | | | | | | |
| Asset protected in said project | Public Transit | Multiple Assets | Public Health | Vulnerable Pop | Buildings and Facilities | |
| If selected "Other", please mention protected asset name | | | | | | |
| Scale of project (SED protected) by this effort (in % ??) | 0.05 | 0.35 | 0.9 | 0.2 | | |
| <i>Protected Population</i> | 391 | 248 | 1 | 1,566 | Unknown | Unknown |
| <i>Protected Employment</i> | 163 | 103 | 0 | 653 | Unknown | Unknown |
| <i>Protected Households</i> | 158 | 100 | 0 | 630 | Unknown | Unknown |
| Additional Description | | | | | | |
| Stage of the project | Construction | Proposed | Planning | Engineering/De | No Action | |
| Timeline | | | | | | |
| Cost | | | | | | |
| Funding | Partially funded | Unfunded | Partially funded | Fully funded | Unfunded | |
| Contact Info for PM | | | | | | |

Project Website




<https://scag.ca.gov/climate-change-regional-adaptation-framework>

The screenshot shows the SCAG website's navigation and content for the Regional Climate Adaptation Framework project. The top navigation bar includes 'ABOUT US', 'MEETINGS', 'OUR WORK', 'DATA & TOOLS', 'GET INVOLVED', and 'NEWS & EVENTS'. A sidebar on the left lists various work categories with expand/collapse icons. The main content area features a large image of a city skyline at sunset, followed by a detailed description of the framework's purpose and goals. On the right, there are three prominent call-to-action boxes for related resources.

OUR WORK

- Connect SoCal +
- Programs & Projects -
 - Housing +
 - Economy & Finance +
 - Federal & State Compliance +
 - Sustainability -
 - Public Health +
 - Sustainability Program -
 - Climate Change -
 - Regional Climate Adaptation Framework**
 - Climate & Economic Development Project
 - Adaptation
 - Mitigation
 - Climate Change & The Future of Southern California
 - Climate Change Resources

REGIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK



The Southern California Association of Governments is pleased to be developing a **Regional Climate Adaptation Framework**, which assists local and regional jurisdictions in managing the negative impacts of climate change. The study looks at how the Southern California region can work together to plan and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, extreme heat, increasingly frequent and damaging wildfires, and other climate-related issues. We are already dealing with these severe climate issues and adaptation planning is necessary to help individuals, communities, and natural systems cope with the unavoidable consequences of a changing climate.

For this effort, SCAG has been working with local municipalities, advocacy groups, universities, and other stakeholders to assess the unique issues affecting the SCAG region, available planning tools and resources, scientific data, and messaging strategies. Many local jurisdictions do not have the resources to adequately assess their local hazards, develop effective adaptation plans, and participate in regional planning efforts – our framework provides jurisdictions with a roadmap to adaptation in an effort to help build a more resilient Southern California.

As part of the overall Framework, SCAG is sharing new tools for local jurisdictions – first, the [Communication & Outreach Strategies and Templates](#) that can help jurisdictions and community based organizations engage

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING GUIDE

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH STRATEGIES AND TEMPLATES

EXPANDED LIBRARY OF MODEL POLICIES FOR GENERAL PLANS

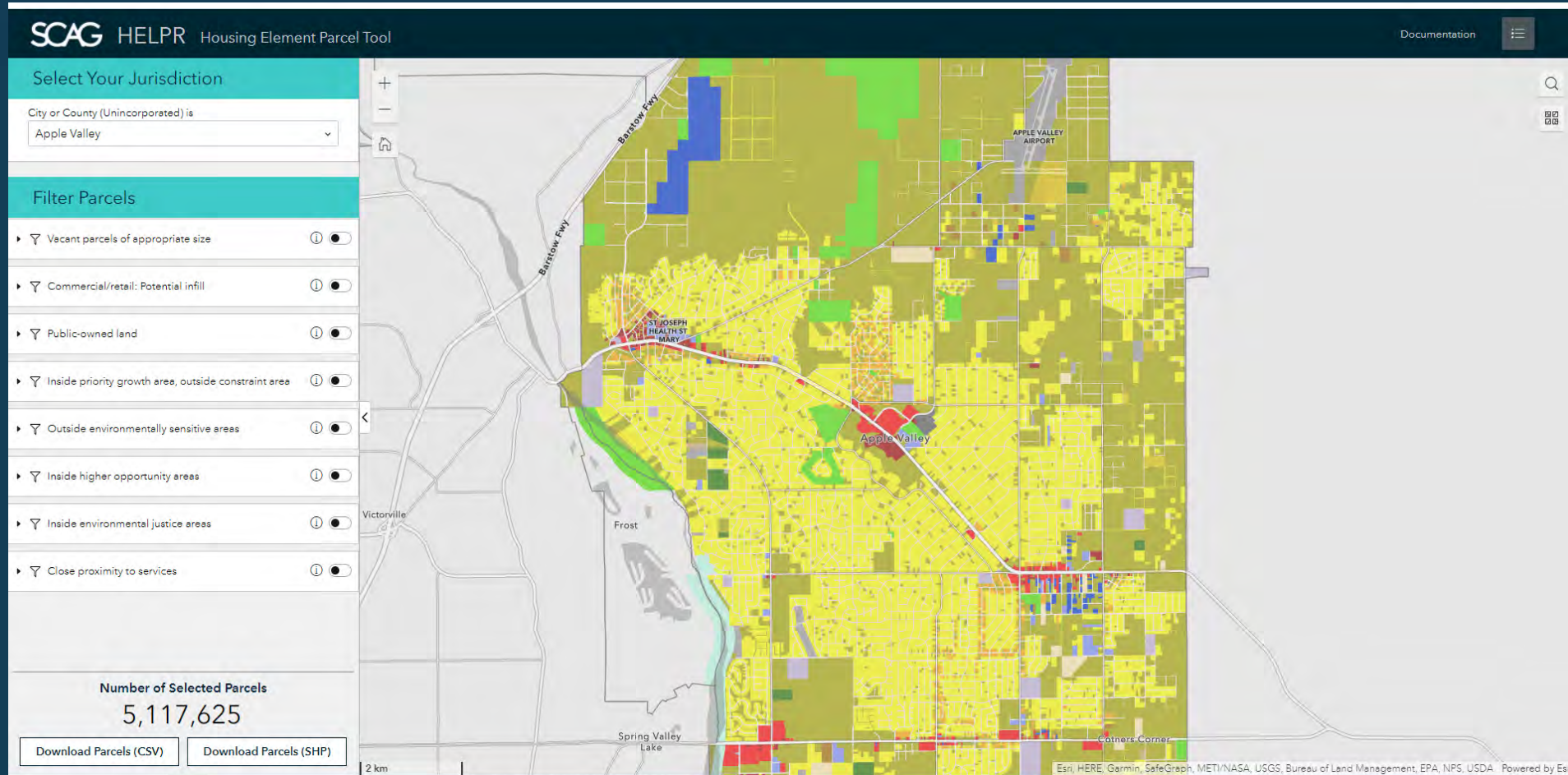
Key State Bills – Safety & Climate

Senate Bill 379 – Safety Element of a General Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to address climate adaptation

Senate Bill 1035 – Safety Element regular updates to address climate change as part of Housing Element and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan updates

Senate Bill 1000 – Environmental Justice Element to be prepared when two or more elements are updated and the city or county has a disadvantaged community

NEW RESOURCE: Housing Element Parcel Tool (HELPR)



SCAG HELPR Housing Element Parcel Tool

Documentation

Select Your Jurisdiction

City or County (Unincorporated) is
Apple Valley

Filter Parcels

- ▾ Vacant parcels of appropriate size
- ▾ Commercial/retail: Potential infill
- ▾ Public-owned land
- ▾ Inside priority growth area, outside constraint area
- ▾ Outside environmentally sensitive areas
- ▾ Inside higher opportunity areas
- ▾ Inside environmental justice areas
- ▾ Close proximity to services

Number of Selected Parcels
5,117,625

Download Parcels (CSV) Download Parcels (SHP)

2 km

Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA. Powered by Esri

<http://maps.scag.ca.gov/helpr>

How to explore parcel data using HELPR

1. Basic filtering

- 8 pre-made site screening filters

2. Refined filtering

- Refine filter options across several additional attributes

3. Advanced analysis

- Using Excel, desktop GIS, or other platform
- Additional attributes available
- Rudimentary ADU capacity calculation



Word cloud of HELPR's data dictionary

Selected Parcel Attributes in HELPR

Existing Land Use

Zoning Designation

General Plan Designation

Specific Plan Designation

Assessor:
Improvement-to-land
value ratio

Parcel size (acres)

Slope

Building footprint area

Brownfield/superfund
designation

Priority
growth/constraint area

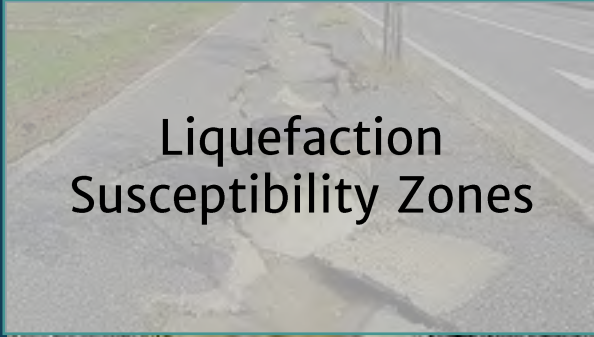
Environmental
justice/opportunity
areas

Proximity to
grocery/healthcare/open
space

Selected Environmentally Sensitive Areas



High and Very High
Hazard Fire Risk Zones



Liquefaction
Susceptibility Zones



Alquist-Priolo
Earthquake Fault Zones



100 Year Floodplains



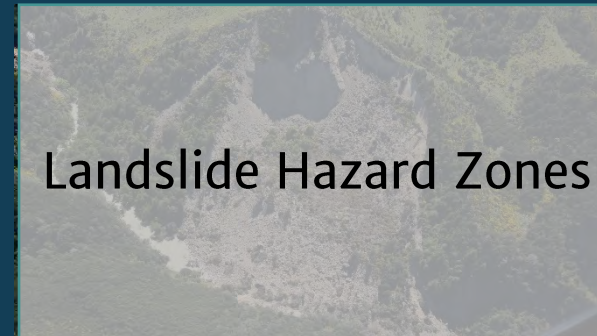
Active River Areas




Wetland Areas



Sea Level Rise Areas




Landslide Hazard Zones



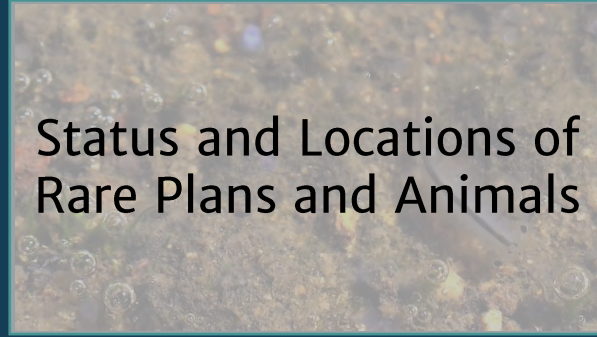
Protected Areas



Wildlife Habitat,
Connectivity Areas, and
Missing Linkages



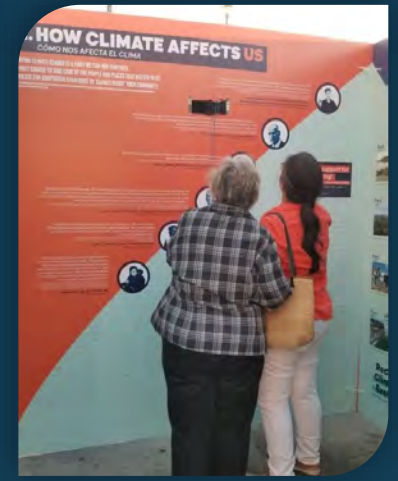
Natural Community &
Habitat Conservation
Plans Reserve Designs



Status and Locations of
Rare Plants and Animals

Climate Change Action Resolution – adopted January 7, 2020

- Regional Resilience Framework
- Climate Planning Network
- Regional Advanced Mitigation Program (RAMP)
- Accelerated Electrification
- Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy
- Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Analysis and Strategies in the 2024 RTP/SCS
- Partnership Potential
 - *Climate Action Plans*
 - *Urban Greening*
 - *Safety elements*
 - *Hazard mitigation infrastructure financing*
 - *Urban heat mitigation*
 - *Wildlife corridor restoration & greenway connectivity*
 - *EV permitting*



Thank You!

Questions?

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SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

India Brookover, SCAG

Amanda Caswell, SCAG

February 25, 2021

www.scag.ca.gov



Estimated Crop Value in the SCAG region

- Imperial – \$1.9 Billion
- Los Angeles – \$189 Million
- Orange – \$136 Million
- Riverside – \$1.2 Billion
- San Bernardino – \$466 Million
- Ventura – \$1.9 Billion
- Total – \$5.9 Billion



Source: California Farm Bureau Federation

Farmland Loss by County in Acres: 1984-2016

| County | 1984 | 2016 | Percent Change |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Imperial County | 562,132 | 528,471 | -6% |
| Los Angeles County | 60,877 | 27,390 | -55% |
| Orange County | 26,535 | 5,715 | -78% |
| Riverside County | 561,542 | 419,835 | -25% |
| San Bernardino County | 69,575 | 20,293 | -71% |
| Ventura County | 132,388 | 118,508 | -10% |
| SCAG Region | 1,413,049 | 1,120,212 | -21% |

Source: California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program

Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.*
- Encourage regional economic prosperity and global competitiveness.*
- Support healthy and equitable communities.*
- Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network.*

Importance of Agriculture Conservation

- Economic Driver
- Protects habitats and connectivity
- Protects watershed and riparian areas
- Encourages ground water recharge
- Ensures clean drinking water for the region
- Part of Southern California culture
- Climate benefits:
 - Emissions avoidance
 - Increase regional resilience
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Supports compact development patterns
 - Reduces Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT)

SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

Initial Research

www.scag.ca.gov



Agricultural Conservation Initiatives in California

- RTPs from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Sacramento
- San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP)
- Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan
- San Diego County Purchase Conservation Easement (PACE) Program
- MTC's Priority Conservation Area (PCA) Grant program
- SACOG's Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS) program

Resilient California Report by California Climate & Agriculture Network – December 2020



- Report Recommendations:
 - Develop **agricultural land mitigation programs**
 - Use **MTC's PDA and PCA** as a model for other regions in the state
 - Develop pro-housing policies that include farmland conservation policies such as **urban limit lines**
 - Support **urban-edge farmland conservation**



SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

Brainstorm

www.scag.ca.gov



SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities



What could this look like?

- Providing resources to supplement existing initiatives?
(e.g. MSHCPs, SALC grant recipients)
- What other types of existing initiatives? Is there opportunity for ag conservation in NCCPs/MSHCPS?
- How might SCAG include agricultural conservation into the future advance mitigation program?
- How could we support co-benefits of Ag with habitat conservation?

Questions
Thank you!

India Brookover, brookover@scag.ca.gov

Amanda Caswell, caswell@scag.ca.gov

www.scag.ca.gov



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP)

- Application pre-proposals due May 2021
- Applications due September 2021
- Contact: CFCP@conservation.ca.gov

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

- Application pre-proposals due early summer/
- Applications due late summer/early fall
- Contact: CFCP@conservation.ca.gov

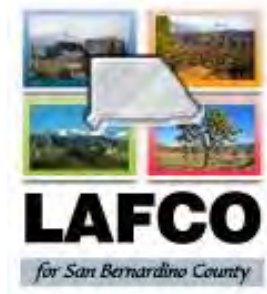
Prop 68 Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program

- Application pre-proposals due early summer/
- Applications due late summer/early fall
- Contact: <https://bit.ly/3bHOEMa>



San Bernardino Valley SALC Planning Program

LAFCO FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AND INLAND EMPIRE RCD



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program at a Glance



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

1. SALC is a two part program addressing agricultural preservation in California through both planning and acquisition grants
2. Funded through California Climate Investments (CCI)
3. Desired Outcomes of SALC Program:
 - Promote smart growth by protecting critical agricultural lands
 - Support a healthy and resilient agricultural community
 - Avoid future GHG emissions through protection of agricultural lands



California
Department of Conservation

San Bernardino Valley SALC Program

- 1. Focus Area:** San Bernardino Valley Agricultural Lands.
- 2. Partners:** cities, SB County, SCAG, Farm Bureau, UCANR, land conservancies, non-profit ag groups, and other regional partners to address ag land priorities and opportunities
- 3. Timeline:** 2-year planning process led by LAFCO and IERCD with partner support



San Bernardino Program Goals and Projected Outcomes

1. Mapping and Identification of priority conservation/development lands to identify a connected corridor of ag land in the SB Valley
2. Analysis of agricultural policies for local cities and county jurisdictions to determine if policies include mitigation requirements or otherwise address agricultural preservation
3. Perform feasibility study and develop agricultural easement/mitigation program
4. Inform, educate, and gain interest among municipal organizations and agricultural organizations around agricultural conservation.



Contact

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** DOC recently announced draft guidelines for round 7 of the SALC Program, tentative Sept 2021 application due date

Sexton Canyon Ranch

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
SCAG Natural and Working Lands Group

February 25, 2021



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Partners

CRT: 4 Closed SALC Projects, and 6 Funded SALC Projects

Total Closed Projects: 89; Acres Conserved: 342,939.

TPL: 1 Closed SALC Project, 1 Funded SALC Project

Total Closed Projects: 723; Acres Conserved: 476,007.



Ventura County Agriculture

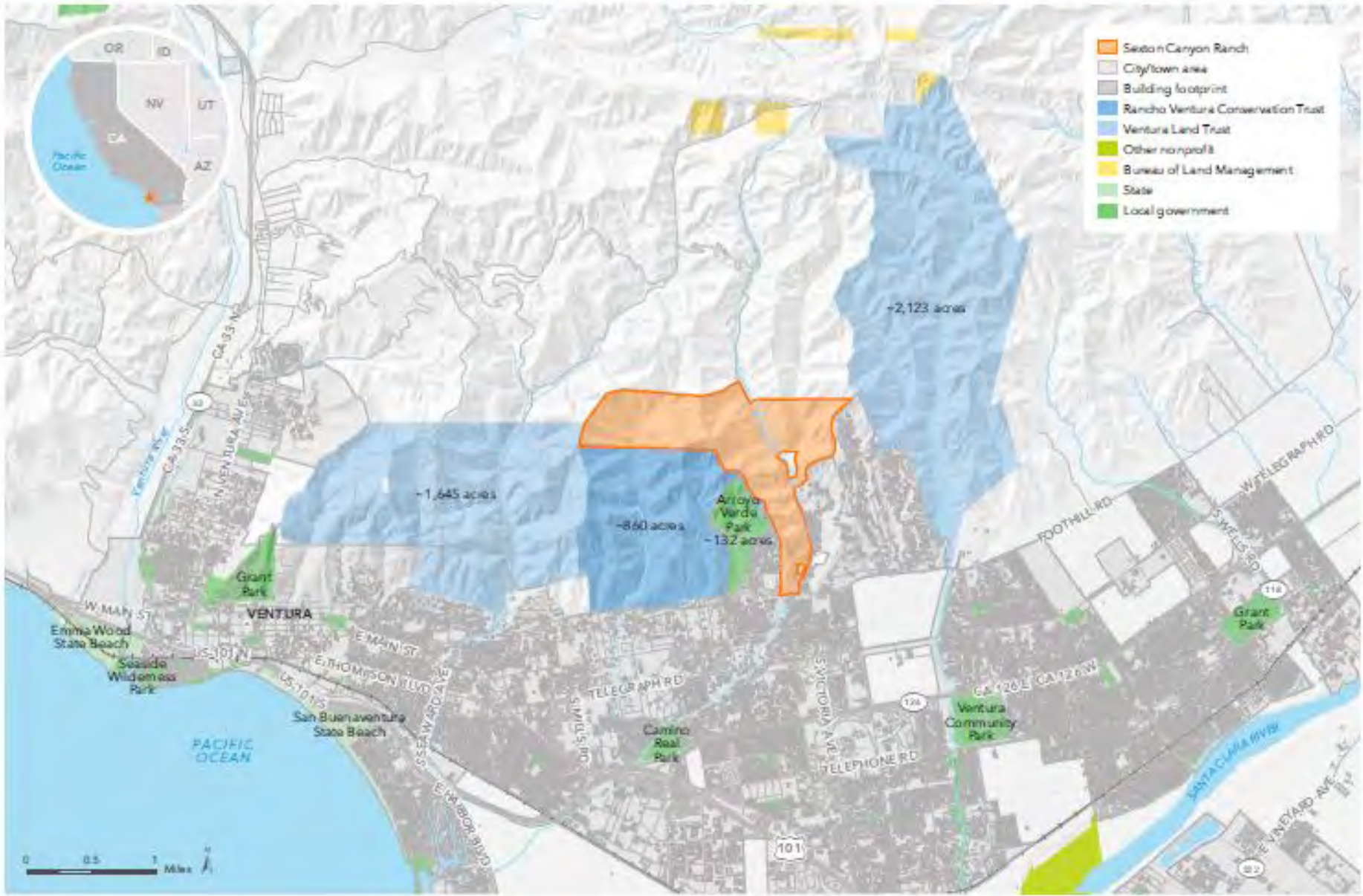
- Agriculture represents \$2.1B of the Ventura County Economy
- Defining characteristic with urban Los Angeles County less than an hour away
- Rangeland preserves the hillsides that ring City of Ventura



Ventura County Agriculture

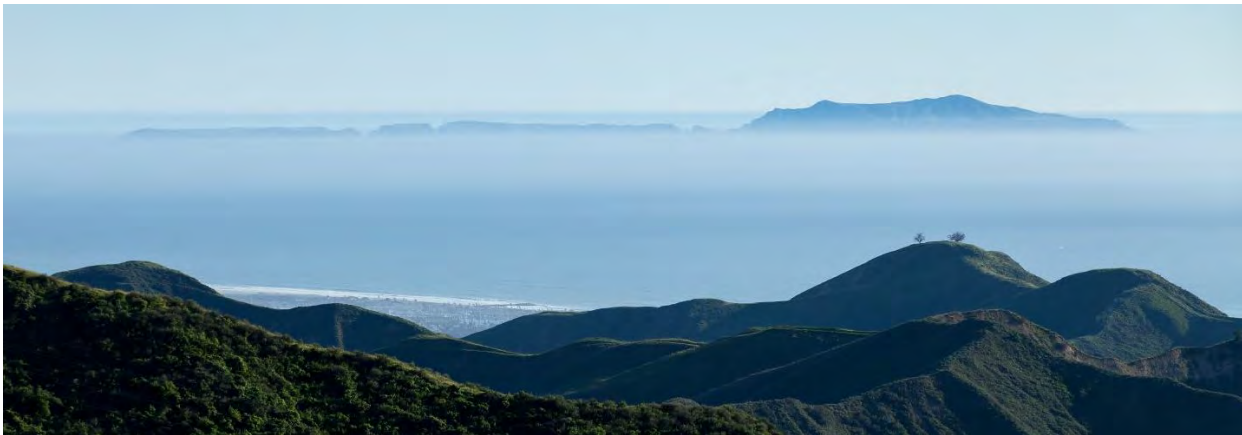
- Strong role in high diversity of habitat types – coastal to interior valleys
- Tied to Ventura County conservation efforts
 - SOAR
 - Land Trusts
 - Wildlife Corridors
 - Climate Change





Protected Lands

Sexton Canyon Ranch



By the numbers...

1 proposed Ag easement

752.24 acres

3 Proposed Worker Housing Building Envelopes

1 Office Area, 1 Petting Zoo Area, 1 Proposed Reservoir, 1
Firewood Area.

Regular Offers to purchase portions of the ranch for Ranchette
Subdivisions

Crops: Avocados, cattle, small amounts of various vegetables

Shares border with city SOI; 100% within 2 miles of SOI





QUESTIONS + COMMENTS?



Thank You!!!

Paolo Perrone, Project Manager
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Executive Order N-82-20

Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

Amanda Hansen

California Natural Resources Agency

2/25/2021

www.scag.ca.gov

