



CALIFORNIA'S FIFTH
CLIMATE CHANGE
ASSESSMENT

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment



Background

Worse and more frequent extreme weather events and trends are impacting the state every year, making up-to-date information on climate change critical to driving sound policy and investment decisions. In the last decade, Californians have endured severe droughts, floods, historic wildfires, rising seas, and record temperatures—all driven by climate change. Building resilience to these impacts requires sustained investment in climate change research and science.

[**Senate Bill 1320 \(Stern, 2020\)**](#) calls on the State to advance action-based science by developing California Climate Change Assessments at least every five years. Previous Assessments (2006, 2009, 2012, 2018) contributed to a growing understanding about the impacts of climate change in California and offer communities and decision makers the tools to take action. Building on the strong foundation set by previous Assessments, the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation is leading implementation of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment (Fifth Assessment), in partnership with the California Energy Commission, California Natural Resources Agency, and California Strategic Growth Council. Thanks to partnerships with diverse research teams, including academics, Tribal communities, community representatives, practitioners, and other subject matter experts, the Fifth Assessment is on track to deliver findings to the public in 2026.

The Fifth Assessment uses research to help California communities and the State develop responses to the mounting impacts of climate change. The portfolio includes:



New data and scenarios projecting future impacts of climate change in California



Original Climate Research that addresses California-specific research needs and questions related to climate change



A Tribal Research Grant Program to collaborate on Indigenous knowledges and Tribal expertise, and uplift input from California Native American Tribes throughout the Fifth Assessment process



Regional, Topical, and Statewide Synthesis Reports that connect this cutting-edge research to the needs and context of regions across the state



A dedicated, sustained, and equity-centered engagement process to ensure this information drives climate action on the ground



Definitions

Adaptation

Adaptation is an action or set of actions that reduce climate risk.

Resilience

Resilience describes a state of readiness to face climate risks.



Outcomes

Leveraging diverse expertise throughout the state, the Fifth Assessment will contribute to the scientific foundation for understanding climate-related vulnerability throughout California. Building on a broad range of research to address current gaps in the State's understanding of climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities, the Fifth Assessment will support on-the-ground implementation and decision-making at local, regional, Tribal, and state levels, focusing on the needs of communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Through a community-driven research process, communities, Tribes, academia, and other partners are helping drive science to action and inform decision-making at the regional and local levels.



More Information

Current California Climate Change Assessment information: climateassessment.ca.gov

Updates on California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment: ici.ca.gov/climate/icarp/climate-assessment

Email: climateassessment@ici.ca.gov