

Final 2025 Annual Planning Survey Questions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the 2025 Annual Planning Survey.

The Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) conducts the Annual Planning Survey each year to gain perspective on policies and planning at the local level and to evaluate trends over time. The survey highlights areas of progress as well as implementation challenges for specific policies. Responses to the survey allows LCI, our partners, and the public at large to identify areas of local leadership and develop tools and guidance for jurisdictions.

Since 1978, planners from across California have responded to this survey. We know many demands are made on your time, but we value and encourage your continued participation. A historically high response rate makes the Annual Planning Survey a unique tool for understanding planning in California.

Before taking the survey, consider taking the following steps to streamline your submission:

- Review the Submission Guide to preview the survey questions
- Gather information about your jurisdiction (Charter status, agency address, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Council of Governments (COG) affiliation, planning director contact, and the latest version of your general plan)
- Communicate across departments for information gathering to increase accuracy and ensure a single response for each jurisdiction

We estimate the survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The deadline for completing this year's survey is June 20. Results from this year's survey will be available by September 2025.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete the survey. We very much appreciate your help.

LCI Annual Planning Survey Team

0.1 Jurisdiction type [DROPDOWN – Branches Cities and Counties to different “Jurisdiction Information” pages]

0. Jurisdiction Information

This information will be used to validate your responses and update the [Directory of Planning Agencies database](#) publicly published by LCI.

0.2 Is your jurisdiction a charter city?* [YES/NO – Not shown in County survey]

0.3 City or Town name* [DROPDOWN – Branches for Coastal Jurisdiction questions; not shown in County survey]

0.4 County* [DROPDOWN]

0.5 Please select the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for your jurisdiction*

- None of the above
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
- Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)
- Fresno Council of Governments (FresnoCOG)
- Kern Council of Governments (KCOG)
- Kings County Association of Governments (KCOG)
- Madera County Transportation Commission (Madera CTC)
- Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
- San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOC)
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)
- Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency (SCRTPA)
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG)
- Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO)
- Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)

0.6 Please select the Council of Government (COG) for your jurisdiction*

- None of the above
- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
- Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)
- Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG)
- Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG)
- Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG)
- Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG)
- Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG)
- Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG)
- Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)
- Lake County/City Area Planning Council (Lake APC)
- Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG)
- Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)
- Orange County Council of Governments (OCCOG)

- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG)
- San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)
- San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)
- Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG)
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- Stanislaus Council of Governments (STANCOG)
- Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG)
- Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

0.7 Other regional organization(s) or collaborative network(s) [Short paragraph]

0.8 Planning department information*

- Website* [Short paragraph]
- Name of planning director or equivalent* [Short paragraph]
- Title of planning director or equivalent* [Short paragraph]
- Email of planning director or equivalent* [Short paragraph]
- Phone of planning director or equivalent* [Short paragraph]

0.9 Physical address*

- City
- State
- ZIP code

0.10 Agency mailing address (if different from physical address)

- City
- State
- ZIP Code

1. General Plan Updates

This information will be used to update the General Plan Guidelines and [California General Plan Database Mapping Tool](#) (a general plan tools database made by UC Davis in partnership with LCI).

1.1 Please provide a link to the most recent version of your jurisdiction's General Plan (either as a PDF or General Plan Website). [URL]

1.2 What is the status and timing of the following General Plan Elements (GPE) and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) updates?

RGPE = Required GPE, OGPE = Optional GPE, RGPE* = Required in certain jurisdictions

- Land Use - RGPE
- Circulation - RGPE
- Housing - RGPE
- Conservation - RGPE

- Open Space - RGPE
- Noise - RGPE
- Safety – RGPE
- Environmental Justice – RGPE*
- Air Quality – RGPE*
- Economic Development - OGPE
- Community (urban) Design - OGPE
- Agriculture or Natural and Working Lands - OGPE
- Water- OGPE
- Parks and Recreation - OGPE
- Culture and Arts (historic preservation) – OGPE
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)
- Other (please specify)

In Matrix [DROPDOWN]:

- Initial adoption year: [LIST OF YEARS]
- Update completed, year adopted: [LIST OF YEARS]
- Update in progress, expected adoption year: [LIST OF YEARS]
- Update intended, expected planning launch year: [LIST OF YEARS]
- Not applicable: N/A

1.3 What strategies has your jurisdiction used to implement your general plan? [MATRIX]

For the items below, please select from the following: Completed, In progress, Planned, Not planned, Not applicable.

- Climate Action Plan (i.e. Adaptation Plan, Sustainability Plan, Energy Action Plan, GHG Reduction Plan)
- GHG Emissions Inventory
- Disaster Recovery Framework/Plan
- Extreme Heat Plan
- Active Transportation Plan
- Complete Streets Plan
- Public Health Adaptation Plan
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Conservation/Biodiversity Plan
- County Drought Resilience Plan (SB 552)
- Strategic/Operations Plans
- Other (please specify)

1.4 What financing/funding mechanisms has your jurisdiction used to update and amend your general plan? [MATRIX]

For the items below, please select from the following: Used, In progress, Planned, Not planned.

- Local general funds

- Bonds
- Taxes
- Assessments
- Development Fees (Planning, Building, Inspection)
- Impact Fees
- Federal grants
- State grants
- Private sector partnerships or investments
- Non-profit grants and partnerships
- Other (please specify)

1.5 What technical issues have you encountered during a General Plan update process? (Please describe below) [Open ended answer]

2. Jurisdiction Needs

This information will be used to identify gaps in local capacity for a variety of planning topics and to understand how technical assistance (TA) from the state can better support jurisdictions needs.

2.1 What level of staffing capacity does your agency currently have to address the following planning topics? [MATRIX]

For each item, please select which item best describes your staff capacity for that topic.

- Applying for & managing grants
- Climate action plan preparation & implementation
- Climate adaptation & safety
- Community engagement
- Conservation & open space
- Reviving downtowns & economic development
- Drought & groundwater management
- General plan updates
- GIS data management
- Housing planning & affordability
- Land use & infrastructure
- Multimodal transportation planning
- Public health
- Racial equity & environmental justice
- Tribal consultation
- Urban design & historic preservation

Answer choices (in a matrix):

- Adequate staff capacity (with consultants)
- Adequate staff capacity (and no consultants)

- Some staff capacity (with consultants)
- Some staff capacity (and no consultants)
- Very limited staff capacity (with consultants)
- Very limited staff capacity (and no consultants)
- No staff capacity

2.2 For which of the following topics would your jurisdiction like to receive planning technical assistance from the state? Check all that apply. [MULTISELECT]

- Applying for & managing grants
- Climate action plan preparation & implementation
- Climate adaptation & safety
- Community engagement
- Conservation & open space
- Reviving downtowns & economic development
- Drought & groundwater management
- General plan updates
- GIS data management
- Housing planning & affordability
- Land use & infrastructure
- Multimodal transportation planning
- Public health
- Racial equity & environmental justice
- Tribal consultation
- Urban design & historic preservation
- Other (please specify)

2.3 What form of planning technical assistance would your jurisdiction like to receive? Check all that apply. [MULTISELECT]

- Interpretation of state laws
- Sharing examples and best practices
- Checklist tools and templates
- Webinars
- One-on-one trainings
- Document/Policy review
- Training for state data tools
- Descriptive topic-specific guidance documents
- Other (please specify)

3. Data and Tools

This information will be used to support the development of state data tools and guidance documents focused on climate adaptation and resiliency planning and implementation, and environmental justice.

3.1 What data and/or tools does your jurisdiction use in climate adaptation and resiliency planning and implementation? Check all that apply. [MULTISELECT]

- [Cal-Adapt](#)
- [California's Climate Change Assessments](#)
- [Adaptation Clearinghouse](#)
- [California Heat Assessment Tool](#)
- [Candidate Resilience Hub Mapping Tool](#)
- [California General Plan Database Mapping Tool](#)
- [California Healthy Places Index](#)
- [Cal MyHazards](#)
- [CalEEmod](#)
- [CDC Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#)
- [Federal Climate Mapping for Resilience & Adaptation \(CMRA\)](#)
- [CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Tool](#)
- [GAMA Groundwater Information System](#)
- Other (please specify)

3.2 Which state guidance documents does your jurisdiction use in climate adaptation and resiliency planning and implementation? Check all that apply. [MULTISELECT]

- [LCI General Plan Guidelines and Technical Advisories](#)
- [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#)
- [California Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit](#)
- [Climate Adaptation Finance and Investment in California](#)
- [California's 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan](#)
- [Expanding Nature-Based Solutions \(CNRA\)](#)
- [CalBRACE: Climate and Health Adaptation Planning Toolkit](#)
- [CalOES Access and Functional Needs Resources](#)
- [California's Climate Change Assessments](#)
- [Tribal Consultation Guidelines](#)
- [The Planner's Guide to Specific Plans](#)
- Other (please specify)

3.3 What tools, metrics, and/or criteria does your jurisdiction use to define equity priority areas/environmental justice communities, and to address racial, economic, and environmental inequities in those communities? Check all that apply. [MULTISELECT]

- [HCD Income Limits](#)
- [Local Median Income](#)
- [Statewide Median income](#)
- [California Tax Credit Allocation Committee / HCD opportunity maps](#)
- [CalEnviroScreen – combined score](#)
- [CalEnviroScreen – individual data layers](#)
- [EPA EJ Screen](#)
- [California Healthy Places Index](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#)
- [CalOES Access and Functional Needs Web Map](#)
- [CDC Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#)
- [Climate Change and Health Profile Reports \(CDPH\)](#)
- [Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#)
- Other (please specify)

4. Coastal Jurisdiction Questions

This information will be used to understand which tools and resources are most supportive of adaptation work for sea level rise and inform technical assistance to support entities in overcoming barriers for sea level rise adaptation implementation

4.1 What tools and resources would be most useful to develop a sea level rise plan pursuant to [SB 272](#)?

- Answer choices (8; Check all that apply):
 - [Adaptation Roadmap](#)
 - [Coastal Storm Monitoring System \(CoSMoS\)](#)
 - [Adapting to Rising Tides Bay Shoreline Flood Explorer](#)
 - [State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance \(OPC\)](#)
 - [California Coastal Commission Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance](#)
 - [Critical Infrastructure at Risk: Sea Level Rise Planning Guidance for California's Coastal Zone](#)
 - [State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan for California](#)
 - [NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer](#)
 - Other (please specify)

4.2 What barriers are you facing to implementing proposed SLR (sea level rise) projects and/or planning initiatives?

- Answer choices (8; Check all that apply):
 - Lack of support from elected officials
 - Lack of support from city/county staff tasked with implementation
 - Lack of community support
 - Insufficient funding / fear of high costs
 - Insufficient staffing (numbers/hours)

- Insufficient technical expertise among staff
- Uncertain scientific projections/scenarios of future change
- Difficulty in changing public behavior
- Other (please specify)

5. Community Engagement, Equity, and Accessibility

This information will be used to evaluate techniques local governments use for community engagement, equity and accessibility. This will inform technical assistance efforts such as the General Plan Guidelines Update.

5.1 What is your jurisdiction doing to build relationships with, empower, and meaningfully engage residents in the planning process? Check all that apply.

- Hosting educational events and trainings
- Offering a planning academy for residents
- Making planning meetings and events more accessible (e.g., interpretation/translation, childcare, transportation support, etc.)
- Partnering with community-based organizations to support inclusive and sustained engagement
- Co-creating or implementing engagement plans with equity-priority and environmental justice communities
- Convening resident-led or citizen advisory committees or workgroups on planning topics
- Integrating community-based planning into formal planning processes
- Measuring the effectiveness of engagement using success metrics or indicators
- Compensating community members and/or organizations for contributing their time and expertise to planning processes
- Participating in existing community events
- Coordinating engagement efforts across jurisdictions, departments, or projects
- Other (please specify)

5.2 How does your jurisdiction address equity in the General Plan and other planning processes?

Check all that apply.

- Prioritizing meaningful engagement with historically excluded populations (including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color)
- Applying an equity lens throughout all phases of the planning process (eg. Health in All Policies, equity impact assessments, etc.)
- Providing equity trainings to staff
- Using data tools to identify and address racial and economic disparities (e.g., CJEST, EJScreen, CalEnviroScreen)
- Using community knowledge and lived experience to identify and address disparities
- Adopting a racial equity strategic plan
- Translating planning documents into languages other than English

- Adopting a racial equity resolution
- Using the term “equity” in the General Plan and associated policies
- Other (please specify)

5.3 How does your jurisdiction engage with Tribal governments? Check all that apply.

- Centering best practices in engagement, including ensuring Tribal governments have adequate time and information to participate meaningfully
- Engaging Tribal governments early in the planning process, prior to formal consultation, to foster transparency and build trust
- Meeting regularly with Tribal governments, outside of specific requirements for notice and consultation, to maintain ongoing communication and build lasting relationships
- Consulting with Tribal governments regarding a General Plan and/or Specific Plan amendment, in alignment with statutory requirements
- Developing written protocols or MOUs for consultation and engagement with Tribal governments that reflect principles or reciprocity, mutual respect, and Indigenous sovereignty
- Designating specific staff and/or representatives with cultural competency training to lead and coordinate Tribal engagement efforts
- Incorporating language in the General Plan that acknowledges Tribal sovereignty and commits to preserving and protecting Native American cultural resources
- Utilizing conservation easements, land use zoning and planning strategies, or co-management to help protect Native American cultural resources.
- Other (please specify)

5.4 How does your jurisdiction engage people with disabilities, older adults, children, limited English proficiency, and transportation disadvantaged (i.e. Communities with Access and Functional Needs (AFN)) in the development and implementation of your Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, General Plan, and other planning processes? Check all that apply.

- Partnering with leaders, advocates, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that are affiliated with and/or members of AFN communities
- Utilizing the Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) resources (i.e. maps, communication guidelines, trainings)
- Planning accessible meetings (i.e. interpretation services, accessible parking, wheelchair access, hybrid formats, childcare, transportation assistance, etc.)
- Developing standardized accessible engagement protocols
- Other (please specify)

6. Topic Specific Questions

These questions will be used to gather information on a variety of priority planning topics for the state.

6.1 Which of the following strategies has your jurisdiction adopted to promote sustainable transportation modes and reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT)? Check all that apply.

- Complete streets policies
- Active transportation infrastructure investment
- Public transit infrastructure investment
- Micromobility and shared mobility (e.g., bike share, e-scooters, car share),
- Parking reform and pricing strategies
- Transportation demand management (TDM) programs
- Road pricing (e.g., tolling, congestion pricing)
- Programmatic VMT mitigation programs (e.g., mitigation banks or exchanges)
- Encourage and/or incentivize increased development density near transit
- Amend zoning or development codes to enable compact infill development
- Other (please specify)

6.2 Which of the following strategies has your jurisdiction adopted to promote infill development and/or affordable housing? Check all that apply.

- Form-Based zoning codes
- Reduced parking requirements
- Expedited permit processing
- Improvements of infrastructure and/or utilities in infill areas
- Financial incentives for pre-development and/or development costs
- CEQA streamlining tools such as tiering or use of exemptions
- Partnerships with school districts
- Land conservation strategies (including urban growth boundaries)
- Accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance
- Transfer of development rights
- Public land donations for housing development
- Ministerial approval processes
- Adaptive reuse ordinances/incentives
- Programmatic VMT mitigation programs (e.g., mitigation banks or exchanges)
- Other (please specify)

6.3 Which of the following strategies has your jurisdiction adopted related to conservation and open space? Check all that apply.

- Policies that prioritize farmland or habitat conservation
- Policies that identify performance measures related to habitat or farmland retention or loss
- Policies that support the creation of green space buffers from potential environmental hazards

- Policies or strategies that promote carbon sequestration
- Policies that encourage urban greening in developed areas
- Policies that promote water quality
- Policies that support continuous evaluation of open space availability and needs
- Policies that support partnering with California Native American Tribes to increase ancestral land return, co-management, and Tribal access
- Policies that encourage reclaiming and/or rewilding land
- Other (please specify)

6.4 Which of the following strategies has your jurisdiction adopted that explicitly promote health equity and ensure equal opportunity to resources necessary for healthy living? Check all that apply.

- Conducting Health Impact Assessments for proposed projects or policies
- Embedding health equity into policies related to housing, transportation, green space, and social determinants of health
- Applying an intersectional lens to address overlapping inequities (e.g. race, income, age, ability, immigration status)
- Policies that promote active living (e.g. walkability, bike infrastructure)
- Policies to promote lifecycle housing or aging-in-place
- Policies that reduce risks from extreme heat
- Zoning that improves access to grocery stores or fresh food vendors
- Zoning that supports local food production (e.g. community gardens, home gardens, urban farms)
- Other (please specify)

6.5 Which of the following strategies has your jurisdiction adopted related to decarbonization? Check all that apply.

- Zero-emission construction reach codes for residential development
- Zero-emission construction building standards for commercial uses
- Policies to implement energy efficient retrofits for existing buildings
- Policies to replace energy-intensive appliances and equipment with more efficient systems
- Policies for zero-emission appliances for space heating
- Policies for zero-emission water heating
- Policies for zero-emission cooking appliances
- Policies for zero-emission clothes-drying appliances
- Deployment of renewable energy production and distribution and energy storage on privately owned land uses
- Deployment of renewable energy production and energy storage directly in new public projects and on existing public facilities

- Policies that support zero-emission transportation
- Other (please specify)

LCI has recently started the process of updating the General Plan Guidelines, and we welcome your input! If you would like to join the Guidelines mailing list to receive updates or find out about participation opportunities, please click [[here](#)] and add your contact information.