

# Strategies and Actions from the CA Climate Adaptation Strategy (DRAFT) of Potential Interest to DRIP Collaborative Members

This document highlights select Priorities, Goals, Actions, and associated Success Metrics from the [California Climate Adaptation Strategy \(DRAFT\)](#) that may interest the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners (DRIP) Collaborative members. The purpose of this document is to demonstrate the vast array of ongoing efforts in California related to climate change adaptation and spark ideation of future collaborations between the DRIP Collaborative and State agencies.

## PRIORITY: Strengthen Protections for Climate Vulnerable Communities

### GOAL A: Engage with and build capacity in climate vulnerable communities

**Action 6:** Support Technical Assistance, through providers such as the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, to make climate smart agricultural knowledge and incentives available to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and disadvantaged communities.

**Action 10:** Support public awareness campaigns that build upon current efforts to bolster extreme heat event preparedness, drought preparedness, water conservation, and other actions to support climate adaptation.

### GOAL B: Improve understanding of climate impacts on California's communities, including what drives vulnerability

**Action 1:** Identify the most climate vulnerable communities in California to direct and inform actions across sectors and regions that reduce risk and build resilience.

**Success Metric:** Launch a statewide and all-risk, web-based platform that identifies climate vulnerable communities. Ongoing revisions and updates, along with community engagement to review Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP) data and solicit community input.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office of Planning and Research – Planning and Policy, Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications

- For More Details: [Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications](#)

## GOAL C: Build resilience in climate vulnerable communities through state programs

**Action 3:** Review local government plans to meet housing needs (Housing Elements) with a lens toward climate resilience, adaptation, and protection of vulnerable communities to relevant climate impacts.

## PRIORITY: Bolster Public Health and Safety to Protect Against Increasing Climate Risks

### GOAL A: Reduce urgent public health and safety risks posed by climate change

**Action 2:** Conserve water

**Success Metric:** Support land use authorities to improve adoption and reporting of the Model Water Efficiency Landscape Ordinance by updating the regulation to allow for a streamlined implementation

- Timeframe: Ongoing (monthly)
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resource

**Action 3:** Help regions improve preparation for drought.

**Success Metric:** Support for urban water suppliers to develop urban water management plans in examining reliability under a five-consecutive-year drought and planning for a standard set of water shortage levels as part of its water shortage contingency plan.

- Timeframe: 2026. Plans are due every five years.
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Support for agricultural water suppliers in developing agricultural water management drought plans and examining drought resilience and response planning.

- Timeframe: 2026. Plans are due every five years.
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Maintain and update the Drought and Water Shortage Risk Explorer Tool and scoring indicators for small water systems and rural communities.

- Timeframe: Ongoing.
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Small suppliers serving 1,000 to 2,999 service connections develop and maintain a water shortage contingency plan that includes specified drought-planning elements and implement, subject to funding availability, specified drought resiliency measures, including having at least one backup source of water supply and metering each service connection.

- Timeframe: 2027
- Agency/Agencies: Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board | Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Small water suppliers, including water systems that serve schools, implement, subject to funding availability, specified drought resiliency measures, including having at least one backup source of water supply and metering each service connection.

- Timeframe: 2027
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources | Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board

**Success Metric:** Development of guidance and assistance for counties to establish a standing county drought and water shortage task force and contingency plan to facilitate drought and water shortage preparedness for state small water systems, tribal water systems, and domestic wells within the county’s jurisdiction.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Convene a standing interagency drought and water shortage task force to facilitate proactive state planning and coordination, both for pre-drought planning and drought emergency response, to enhance collaboration and consider all water user types.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources | Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board

**Action 4:** Protect groundwater as an important water source for future generations.

**Success Metric:** Support repurposing agricultural lands to reduce reliance on groundwater or increase recharge of groundwater while minimizing impacts to communities and the environment.

- Timeframe: 2028
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Conservation
- For More Details: [Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program](#)

## GOAL B: Consider future climate impacts in governmental planning and investment decisions

**Action 2:** Incorporate climate considerations into state, Tribal, and local emergency planning efforts.

**Success Metric:** Update the State Hazard Mitigation Plan’s (SHMP) every 5 years to meet the state’s goal of risk reduction, continuing to build upon climate adaptation strategies and best practices in the SHMP 2023 update.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

**Success Metric:** Require climate adaptation strategies to be integrated into mitigation actions in Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

**Action 9:** Identify opportunities to implement climate smart land management on state lands that build climate resilience while also delivering other benefits, such as increasing carbon sinks, reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing biodiversity.

## GOAL C: Improve infrastructure’s climate resilience to protect public health and safety

**Action 4:** Help Tribal nations and communities diversify their water supply sources.

**Success Metric:** Reduction in number of drinking water systems with only one well, or only one type of water source.

- Timeframe: 2027
- Agency/Agencies: Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board | Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Increased number of physical connections among local and regional water systems to improve access to multiple sources of water.

- Timeframe: 2027
- Agency/Agencies: Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board | Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources

**Success Metric:** Support Tribal drought relief programs.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources  
Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board

## PRIORITY: Build a Climate Resilient Economy

### GOAL B: Deepen understanding of climate change effects on California's economy

**Action 2:** Fund applied climate research through the California Climate Change Assessments to quantify economic impacts of climate change in various sectors, with a focus on economic loss and opportunity.

**Success Metric:** Research results that lend quantifiable economic outcomes for future climate risks, including extreme heat, wildfire, sea-level rise and flooding, spread of invasive species, and extreme precipitation (including drought).

- Timeframe: Rolling five-year cycle (2021-2026 for Fifth Assessment)
- Agency/Agencies: Governor's Office of Planning and Research – Strategic Growth Council | Department of Food and Agriculture

## PRIORITY: Accelerate Nature-Based Climate Solutions and Strengthen Climate Resilience of Natural Systems

### GOAL A: Increase pace and scale of nature-based climate solutions

**Action 5:** Increase green space and infrastructure across California's communities and prioritize tribal nations and climate vulnerable communities.

**Success Metric:** Identify opportunities through the current Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy

- Timeframe: 2024
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – multiple

**Action 6:** Support planning and building capacity to implement climate smart agricultural practices by helping growers seeking to develop Agriculture Conservation Plans.

**Action 13:** Improve groundwater conditions to support and expand groundwater dependent ecosystems associated with discharges to streams, springs, and wetlands.

**Success Metric:** Complete or permit restoration projects on 5,000 acres of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.

- Timeframe: Under Review
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Fish and Wildlife

## GOAL B: Increase landscape connectivity and establish climate refugia

**Action 5:** Reconnect aquatic and terrestrial habitats to help fish and wildlife endure drought and adapt to climate change.

**Success Metric:** Adequate flow in California's waterways during normal and drought years to maintain native fisheries in good condition.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board | Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board

## GOAL C: Integrate nature-based climate solutions into relevant infrastructure and investments

**Action 4:** Encourage investment in upper watersheds to protect water quality and supply.

## GOAL D: Accelerate state processes to support implementation of nature-based climate solutions

**Action 3:** Accelerate permitting for groundwater recharge projects to capture peak flows for groundwater recharge.

**Action 4:** Align and improve permitting to help launch and incentivize more multi-benefit, multi-partner restoration projects that build water resilience.

## PRIORITY: Make Decisions Based on the Best Available Climate Science

### Goal B: Operationalize climate science into decision making

**Action 3:** Understand climate impacts on agricultural land viability and use that information to inform conservation decisions and strategies.

**Success Metric:** Coordinate information sharing with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources' agriculture adaptation research team.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Conservation | Department of Food and Agriculture

**Action 4:** Improve the ability of regions to anticipate water-related weather and climate changes.

**Success Metric:** Number of sub-watershed scale high resolution models developed and available to assess and forecast climate water deficit and inform state land managers of drought risk.

- Timeframe: 2025
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency – Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources

## **PRIORITY: Partner and Collaborate to Leverage Resources**

### **GOAL A: Collaborate to build climate resilience across sectors and region**

**Action 1:** Accelerate state, tribal, and local adaptation efforts through sharing of best practices, facilitating collaborative partnerships, and direct investments through the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program.

**Action 15:** Explore, setup, and/or leverage existing cooperative agreements among state agencies and departments for developing working lands conservation strategies that aid in establishing river corridor conservation zones and providing benefits to native species.

### **GOAL B: Increase awareness of climate adaptation and resilience issues**

**Action 1:** Facilitate collaboration on adapting to climate change amongst grant applicants, grantees, and sub-grantees through convenings, trainings, and peer-to-peer learning in the agricultural sector.

**Success Metric:** Use of peer-to-peer learning, farmers' voices, and grower organizations to disseminate drought updates and drought management approaches.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Department of Food and Agriculture

**Action 3:** Working with partners, maintain and build up Climate Smart Agriculture outreach videos on the Department of Food and Agriculture website.

**Success Metric:** Use of videos to demonstrate a wide variety of adaptation approaches, increasing adoption and visibility.

- Timeframe: 2024 and annually thereafter
- Agency/Agencies: Department of Food and Agriculture

**Action 4:** Increase meaningful government-to-government consultations with tribal nations, public awareness of, and encourage participation in, planning to address climate change in coastal communities and statewide.

**Success Metric:** Tell local and regional stories about people and places adapting to climate change.

- Timeframe: Ongoing
- Agency/Agencies: Natural Resources Agency - San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission