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## **Natural Resources Agency Seeks Public Comment on Preparing for Extreme Effects of Climate Change**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – In response to a directive from California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Natural Resources Agency is seeking public comment on a draft plan for how California will prepare for and adapt to the catastrophic effects of climate change, including extended droughts and wildfires, rising sea levels and increasingly extreme weather.

“With climate change, we cannot use the past to help us predict future conditions,” said John Laird, the California Secretary for Natural Resources. “While we work to reduce the carbon emissions that worsen climate change, we must prepare for higher sea levels, flashier winter storms, warmer temperatures, reduced snowpack, and other changes with big ramifications for how we live in California. This draft report gathers in one place all of the actions unfolding across state government to help build our resiliency in the face of climate change. As a comprehensive document, it will help us track our progress and help the public hold us accountable.”

The Natural Resources Agency seeks public comment on the draft plan through the end of November, and will hold two public meetings this month to gather input from interested citizens, scientists, government officials, and other stakeholders. The *Safeguarding California: Implementing Actions Plan* document will be revised based on public comments, with a final version scheduled for release in December. Upcoming meetings to gather input on the plan:

### **October 26: Sacramento Public Workshop on Safeguarding California Implementation Plans**

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Rosenfeld Hearing Room, California Energy Commission, 1516 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

### **October 27: Los Angeles Public Workshop on Safeguarding California Implementation Plans**

Time: 1:30 p.m. -- 3:30 p.m.

Location: To be determined; check for details at <http://www.resources.ca.gov/>.

In Executive Order B-30-15, Governor Brown set aggressive targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and called for the *Safeguarding California* report released today. The purpose of the report is to identify the state's vulnerabilities to climate change by sector; outline primary risks to residents, property, communities and natural systems; identify an agency or group of agencies to lead adaptation efforts in each sector; and to prepare an implementation plan of necessary state actions.

The report sets forth how the state will help residents, communities, and natural systems adapt to the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change. The report also analyzes what actions have already been taken to prepare for climate change and details steps that still need to be taken across ten sectors including water, transportation, agriculture, biodiversity and habitat, emergency management, and energy. It provides a blueprint for execution of the actions recommended in the Natural Resources Agency's 2014 report *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk*.

Since California released its first adaptation plan in 2009, a series of extreme natural events – drought, record-breaking higher average temperatures and a practically non-existent Sierra Nevada snowpack last winter – have heightened the urgency to act. The state has committed to facing the risks of climate change proactively and preparing accordingly. Just this week, the Governor signed legislation, including AB 1482, AB 1496 and SB 246 to strengthen local planning and coordination to cope with increased flooding, temperatures and other climate change effects. More information about the state's climate change adaptation efforts is available at <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>.

That draft report, *Safeguarding California: Implementing Action Plans*, is available [here](#). State agencies must report back by June 2016 on actions they are taking to make the plan a reality.