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Natural Resources Agency Seeks Public Comment on Update to the State's Climate Adaptation Plan

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today the California Natural Resources Agency released a draft of the *Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update* and seeks public comment on the State's strategy for adapting to a changing climate.

The draft *Safeguarding* update released today builds on eight years of action by various state departments and shows progress since the release of the first California Climate Adaptation Strategy in 2009. This 2017 update provides recommendations and next steps to advance adaptation in 10 sectors that include water, agriculture, public health and biodiversity. As California continues to experience rising average temperatures, shrinking mountain snowpack, warmer storms, and higher sea levels, the State must consider climate change in its planning, investment, and public outreach. The Natural Resources Agency leads California's climate change adaptation effort under several statutes and executive orders intended to foster change throughout state and local government.

The hundreds of actions and recommendations found in this draft represent a comprehensive effort by experts across 27 state agencies to describe ongoing efforts and needed actions to ensure public safety and environmental protection as average temperatures warm, precipitation patterns change and sea levels rise. The document provides a succinct "to do" list for state departments that will help the public measure progress. Some examples: Develop a map of climate change refugia (places where local conditions persist over time) for certain wildlife species, address environmental justice issues around supporting community solar projects for low-income customers, and advance programs for "living shorelines" that may include wetland plants, aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs or sand fill.

The Natural Resources Agency seeks public comment on the draft plan through May and will hold four public meetings this month to gather input from interested citizens, scientists, government officials, and other stakeholders. The *Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update* document will be revised based on public comments, with a final version scheduled for release in July. Upcoming meetings to gather input on the plan:

May 16: Merced Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Location: UC Merced, 5200 Lake Rd, Merced, CA 95340

May 22: Bay Area Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 9:30am to 12:30pm
Location: 455 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102
***A Sea-Level Rise Guidance Document Workshop will take place here in the afternoon from 1:30pm to 5:00pm.*

May 30: Coachella Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Location: Coachella Public Works Department, 1515 6th St, Coachella, CA 92236

May 31: Los Angeles Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Location: Location TBD, check for details at <http://www.resources.ca.gov/>.

June 12: San Diego Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Location: University of San Diego, Mother Rosalie Hall, Warren Auditorium, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110

June 14: Sierra Nevada Safeguarding California Workshop
Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm
Location: TBD, Auburn, CA

NOTE: To attend any of these workshops, please register by emailing safeguardingCA@climateresolve.org.

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. More information about the state’s climate change adaptation efforts is available at <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>.

The *Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update* is available [here](#).

This public comment draft represents the continued evolution of California’s comprehensive strategy for state government to address the impacts of climate change. Each plan has had different objectives and focuses, as seen below.

[2009 California Adaptation Strategy](#)

- Overview of climate science and statewide hazard-based climate assessment
- Four comprehensive statewide adaptation strategies
- Vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies for seven sectors

[2014 Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk plan](#)

- Update information on climate science
- New information on vulnerabilities and activities for nine sectors
- Update general policy recommendations

[2016 Safeguarding California Implementation Action Plans](#)

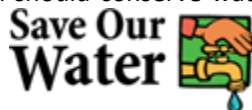
- High-level vulnerability assessments and overview of recommendations from 2014 plan
- Explanation of ongoing actions and next steps implementing 2014 recommendations
- Addition of “Land Use and Community Development” sector

[Safeguarding California Plan: 2017 Update](#)

- Update of comprehensive statewide adaptation strategies and relevant implementation actions
- New framework to better integrate sectors and link ongoing research to state adaptation action
- Update high-level recommendations for all 10 sectors
- Outline annual reporting structure for next steps and adaptation actions
- Increase focus on vulnerable populations, environmental justice concerns, and equity
- Propose conceptual metrics to track and measure climate impacts and the adaptation responses of state government over time

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