



2021 California Climate Adaptation Strategy Los Angeles Regional Workshop Summary June 16, 2021

Welcome and Overview

Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Nuin-Tara Key, Deputy Director for Climate Resilience, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), opened the meeting and provided an overview of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy (Strategy). The Strategy is updated every three years.

Goals of the 2021 Strategy are to:

- Set strategic direction and identify needed outcomes.
- Identify clear and co-equal priorities to guide state climate adaptation and resilience policy, programs, and investments.
- Unify efforts across all sectors and regions, outlining how key state agency efforts fit together and support collective action.
- Help all Californians understand and contribute to California's climate resilience.

This document is intended to provide a summary of all stakeholder input received during the Los Angeles Workshop on June 16, 2021. Responses to the questions discussed below are organized into themes; the four most common themes identified in the workshop and illustrative individual responses are included to provide a snapshot of the range of responses received. When there were fewer than ten responses, all responses are included in the summary. A full list of all input received is provided in the appendix. For more information on the Strategy update process, please visit <https://resources.ca.gov/Initiatives/Building-Climate-Resilience/2021-State-Adaptation-Strategy-Update>.

Opening Questions

1. What climate impacts are you most concerned about in your region?

Common themes:

- Drought/water scarcity
- Extreme heat and urban heat island effect
- Wildfire
- Habitat and biodiversity loss

2. What are some of your region's unique challenges in adapting to climate change?

Common themes:

- Land use
- Lack of resources and capacity
- Lack of clear leadership, political will, and consensus among decision-makers
- Inequity

Illustrative responses:

- Property values/interests preventing retreat and allowing rebuilding in high fire hazard areas
- Funding for retrofits to existing buildings
- Obsolete governance structures
- Historic and structural inequities

3. *What gives you hope about your region's ability to adapt to climate change?*

Common themes:

- Public interest, awareness, education, and urgency
- Strong adaptation leadership and informed decision-makers
- Current climate adaptation action, policy, and programming
- Coordination, partnerships, and collaboration

Illustrative responses:

- Educating the youth and gaining social awareness
- Innovative thinkers and passionate individuals
- Community Organizations solarizing
- Possibilities for public/private partnerships

Summary of Alignment Between Draft Statewide Priorities and Regional Priorities

Draft Statewide Priority – Strengthen protections for climate vulnerable communities

1. *How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, or not sure)?*

- High: 65% of respondents
- Medium: 23% of respondents
- Low: 4% of respondents
- Not sure: 8% of respondents

2. *What actions are needed to achieve this priority?*

Common themes:

- Meaningful community engagement and decision-making
- Funding
- Resilience planning

- Climate impact adaptation

Illustrative responses:

- Creating community-based/driven solutions and strategies
- Funding of legislative mandates regarding climate change resilience, adaptation and sustainability
- Local storm water capture and groundwater recharge to increase local water supply and attenuate storm water surges during heavy storms
- Excessive heat mitigation

3. How are you working to ensure equitable climate adaptation outcomes for this priority?

Common themes:

- Education, public awareness, and communication
- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Resilience planning
- Funding

Illustrative responses:

- Planning to provide affordable expertise and knowledge to help such communities become more resilient, adaptable and sustainable
- Stakeholder outreach
- Requiring materials used on our site to be compostable or reusable
- Identifying appropriate funding sources

Draft Statewide Priority – Advance public health and safety under a changing climate

1. How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, or not sure)?

- High: 88% of respondents
- Medium: 12% of respondents
- Low: 0% of respondents
- Not sure: 0% of respondents

2. What actions are needed to achieve this priority?

Common themes:

- Resilience planning
- Pollution reduction
- Water resilience
- Service provision and resilience hubs

Illustrative responses:

- Land use changes to address heat and wildfire risks
- Incentivize or mandate use of electric powered trucks at LA and Long Beach Harbor
- Incentivize water catchment systems
- Providing cooling centers that are powered by microgrids

3. *How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority?*

Common themes:

- Service provision and resilience hubs
- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Research and knowledge sharing
- Education, public awareness, and communication

Illustrative responses:

- Monitoring service levels in different communities and shooting for high performance across all communities
- Working with leaders representing affected communities, having robust stakeholder input opportunities.
- Research and data focused on at risk communities, including those in rural areas, the wildland urban interface, and tribal partners
- Educate people in vulnerable communities on the why and the how and then provide resources for electric cars, charging stations, solar

Draft Statewide Priority – Build a Climate Resilient Economy

1. *How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, not sure)?*

- High: 64% of respondents
- Medium: 23% of respondents
- Low: 5% of respondents
- Not sure: 9% of respondents

2. *What actions are needed to achieve this priority?*

Common themes:

- Workforce/economic development and high-road economic opportunities
- Funding
- Regulatory actions
- Prioritize public health

Illustrative responses:

- Green jobs/careers and training
- Green bonds
- Regulate industry to reduce air emissions, which have a large effect on the economy
- Environmental, climate, health costs need to be captured into products

3. *How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority?*

Common themes:

- Workforce/economic development and high-road economic opportunities
- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Funding
- Housing security

Illustrative responses:

- Building "green" into every budget for every project type
- Supporting community-based food orgs and mutual aid groups
- Create education centers where people can get on board with decent paying green jobs
- Local preference/priority for housing/transportation

Draft Statewide Priority – Accelerate nature-based climate solutions

1. *How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, not sure)?*

- High: 75% of respondents
- Medium: 13% of respondents
- Low: 8% of respondents
- Not sure: 4% of respondents

2. *What actions are needed to achieve this priority?*

Common themes:

- Water resilience
- Community greening
- Resilience planning
- Forest management

Illustrative responses:

- Reducing dependence on imported water by reducing use
- No more road widening/freeway expansion. Instead invest in greenways, bikeways, permeable sidewalks, wetlands, etc.
- Remove non-porous materials in streets, parking lots, etc.

- Stop the habitat type conversion by ensuring a natural fire frequency

3. *How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority?*

Common themes:

- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Community greening
- Workforce/economic development and high-road economic opportunities
- Water resilience

Illustrative responses:

- Identifying high need areas in disadvantaged neighborhoods and prioritizing them
- Measure W implementation for multi-benefit, green infrastructure projects. Combine with Measure A funds for community-generated green space projects
- Targeted/local hiring
- Recycled water (purple pipe) to low-income communities

Draft Statewide Priority – Make decisions based on the best available climate science

1. *How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, not sure)?*

- High: 85% of respondents
- Medium: 10% of respondents
- Low: 0% of respondents
- Not sure: 5% of respondents

2. *What actions are needed to achieve this priority?*

Common themes:

- Climate science accessibility and utilization
- Research and knowledge sharing
- Education and public awareness
- Technical assistance, guidance, and capacity building

Illustrative responses:

- Improved General Plans that tie into climate science
- Provide access to experts who can help inform our region, in a means we can understand, to be able to make the decisions
- Keep communicating the climate science to the public. Make sure they know that it's urgent and there are solutions available.
- Better wildfire models

3. *How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority?*

Common themes:

- Education, public awareness, and communication
- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Research and knowledge-sharing
- Climate science accessibility and utilization

Illustrative responses:

- Educating decision makers, their staff, and the press
- Partnership with equity-oriented Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and their work engaging community members
- Important to have data applicable to scale of communities - otherwise, focus on overall goal of equitable outcomes
- Completing fire studies to understand where the issue areas are and offering solutions to address them.

Draft Statewide Priority – Leverage resources to build climate resilience through partnerships and collaboration

1. *How important is this priority for your region (high, medium, low, not sure)?*

- High: 83% of respondents
- Medium: 11% of respondents
- Low: 6% of respondents
- Not sure: 0% of respondents

2. *What actions are needed to achieve this priority?*

Common themes:

- Coordination, partnerships, and collaboration
- Funding
- More effective governance and leadership
- Research and knowledge sharing

Illustrative responses:

- Increase use of small to medium size businesses in developing collaborative solutions -- not just universities and cities/towns Increase staff capacity
- CBOs receive financial support to engage in the process
- Plan across natural boundaries (e.g., watersheds) rather than political boundaries
- SoCal Greenprint

3. *How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority?*

Common themes:

- Meaningful community engagement in decision-making
- Funding
- Prioritize climate vulnerable communities
- Oversight, enforcement, and accountability

Illustrative responses:

- Being intentional about who is included in the conversations - inclusive, diverse, representative
- Disadvantaged communities must be part of the partnerships from the beginning
- Organizing religious and community groups, creating new partnerships
- Fund SB 1072 climate justice collaboratives

Are there any critical regional priorities not covered by one of the six we've outlined?

Responses:

- Aligning agency priorities to not contradict efforts
- Expand knowledge base & partnerships beyond the region. Collaborate with federal agencies for resources/ solutions
- Encourage collaboration on climate change concerns across ethnic/"racial" divisions so that not everything appears to focus only on "vulnerable" communities.
- Any new Project Proposal or Expansion Project must have No-Net Increase in air pollution emissions and greenhouse gases
- Better toxic substances control - help people be healthier and support wellness to avoid reliance on pharmaceuticals
- The regional carrying capacity has been exceeded. Unless population and "development" can be scaled back, there is NO HOPE for LA. Water, etc.
- Social cohesion is crucial for LA
- Sustainable water - being realistic about permissible land uses and programs given the level of drought projected

Summary of Input on Cross-Cutting Questions

Following the discussion on the draft statewide priorities, attendees were asked to provide input on cross-cutting questions. Common themes and illustrative examples are included below.

1. *What actions are needed to mitigate the impacts of increasing temperature and extreme heat in your region?*

Common themes:

- Cool surfaces and built infrastructure
- Nature-based solutions: Greening
- Community services and support
- Nature-based solutions: Water management

Illustrative responses:

- Micro grids to prevent rolling black outs so people will be able to use their solar powered heat pumps to cool their homes.
 - All community members should have access to a public cooling center within a quarter mile walk and/or 10-minute transit commute; all new parks should have green space; all public funds spent on the urban tree canopy should be allocated to areas with the highest need
 - Funding for multi- benefit projects for stormwater, transportation, and urban greening
 - Build healthy soils that store carbon and infiltrate water, recharging aquifers
2. *As you consider all of the priorities, are there knowledge gaps or information needs that you need answered in order for you to accelerate your work across these priorities? Examples include research needs or data and tools you think would be helpful to advance your work.*

Common themes:

- Improved data, mapping, and technology
- Carbon neutrality and greenhouse gas mitigation
- Economic and financial information/data
- Sector-specific research and data

Illustrative examples:

- Prioritized list of important conservation areas needing protection
 - Benefits of carbon sequestration by plants and soil for SoCal habitats
 - Knowing what provides the best return-on-investment for addressing co-benefits of climate action, reducing pollution, and improving equitable outcomes
 - We need to require Health Impact Assessments for all public policies and programs
3. *How can the state support a regional approach to adaptation and resilience through the Strategy?*

Common themes:

- Coordination, partnerships, and collaboration
- Data and resource tools
- Funding and financing
- State mandates, regulation, guidance, and incentives

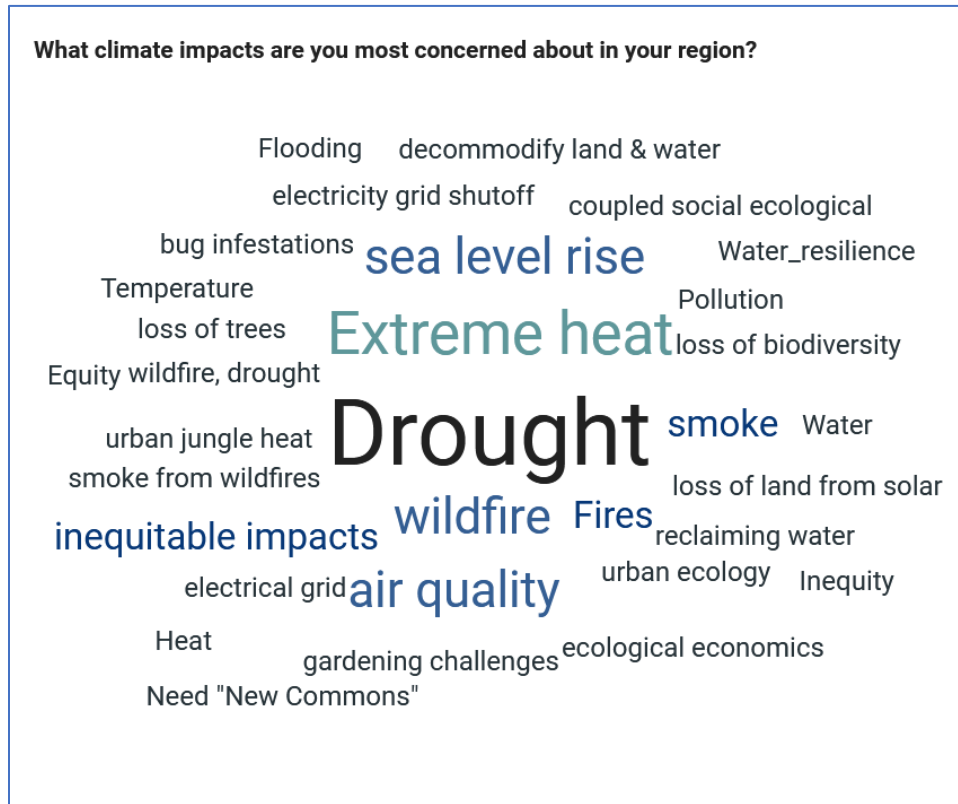
Illustrative responses:

- Encourage cross-county partnerships (habitats/species don't follow geopolitical boundaries)
- Map invasive weed infestations, and coordinate replacement of infestation with locally native vegetation and seed banks that would be climate adapted to multiple possibilities (RCP 4.5 or 8.5, near future and far future). Provide local plant lists to Caltrans to vegetate along roadways accordingly
- Fund staff positions in major regional players so that a regional approach can be developed and then carried out
- Mandate Emissions Capture & Treatment Technologies

Next Steps and Closing

Deputy Director Key provided an overview of the Strategy timeline. Deputy Secretary Hansen thanked participants for attending, provided a link to an online survey if participants wished to share additional information, and shared agency contact information for any additional stakeholder questions.

**Question #1: What climate impacts are you most concerned about in your region?
(Word cloud)**



Impact	Number of Responses
Drought	12
Extreme heat	7
Wildfire	5
Sea level rise	4
Water scarcity	4
Air quality	4
Ecosystem disruption	3
Fires	3
Inequitable impacts	2
Integrated systems	2
Declining air quality	2
Smoke	2
Manage for local water	1
Electricity grid shutoff	1
Reclaiming water	1
Capitalism	1
Relocalize by watershed	1
Coastal erosion	1

Impact	Number of Responses
Urban ecology	1
Heat island impacts	1
Increased air pollution	1
Gardening challenges	1
Loss of land from solar	1
Smoke from wildfires	1
Vegetation shifts	1
Terrestrial ecosystems	1
Need "new commons"	1
Electrical grid	1
Impacts to agriculture	1
Inequity	1
Ecological economics	1
Pollution	1
Urban jungle heat	1
Health outcomes	1
Coupled social ecological	1
Decommodify land & water	1
Equitable economy	1
Wildfire, drought	1
Water resilience	1
Flooding	1
Temperature	1
Bug infestations	1
Equity	1
Loss of trees	1
Heat	1
Water	1
Loss of biodiversity	1

Question #2: What are some of your region's unique challenges in adapting to climate change? (Open answer)

Response
The complexity and interconnections between climate risks and how they can cascade (ex. Fires, conversion of veg cover, reduced water retention in mountains, drought, flood, etc.) Layered with jurisdictional complexities
Environmental equity / justice
Groundwater pollution from wildfires and other causes
Communicating importance of adaptation measures to community members
Funding for retrofits to existing buildings

Response
Political will
Urgency and focus. Need to move to 100% clean energy as soon as possible, then work on storing carbon into the soil - in rural and urban areas. Teach careful stewardship to everyone.
Population increase coupled with decreased water supply
Historic and structural inequities
Lack of collaboration between agencies
Property values/interests preventing retreat and allowing rebuilding in high fire hazard areas
Lack of multiplicity of water resources -- dependence on imported water
Restoring watercourses
The Need for Wildlife Corridors (retrofitted over roads/highways and planned connections)
Air quality: excess CO2 acidifies the ocean, temperature increases heat the ocean, fisheries collapse.
Homelessness/urban deserts/food deserts
Outreach to disadvantaged communities
Government agencies approving new projects and expansion projects without restrictions
Political division
Knowledge of small and medium size communities about responses
Difficulty of not allowing rebuilding in risky areas
Technical assistance in meeting requirements
Vested interests in status quo
Development
Obsolete governance structures
Vegetation management destroys our biodiversity/parks
Wildfire and building interfaces
Regionally relevant data to guide actions
Biodiversity extinction
Shift our language from "building" (whatever!) to "cultivating" because we need to deeply transform our culture, our relationship with each other and with the land. We need to STOP building. (Please.)
Funding
Money and community buy in.
Infrastructure interdependencies
Environmental equity
Funding to small and regional communities to develop responses
Retreat from the shoreline
Equity
Interagency coordination
Sprawl

Response
Building in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Question #3: What gives you hope about your region's ability to adapt to climate change? (Open answer)

Response
Legislature providing funds
More recognition of structural inequities, so we can address them
Legislating solutions to root causes of poverty and homelessness
Growing interest in systems thinking
Recent laws eliminating gas in new development
In Los Angeles -- I have lost hope. The so-called "leadership" here is far too fragmented. We lack deep strategic thinking. Too many egos and self-interest . . . sadly. Most everyone I know is seeking a place to move "to" to get out of Southern California. It's over . . .
Political will to address
Alignment of federal, state, regional, and local priorities around climate and justice
Video meetings like this connecting more people
Understanding of the issues, believing in the science, while also the need to take action
Better political environment locally
Not much unfortunately
Solutions are available
30x30
Lawsuits against government agencies for their failure to comply with laws
Anti-corruption efforts (transparency/accountability)
Possibilities for public/private partnerships
Understanding opportunities in adaptation
Legitimate focus and recognition
Struggling to find hope.
Community organizations solarizing
Innovative thinkers and passionate individuals
Growing awareness and education
Educating the youth and gaining social awareness
Recent legislation
Partnerships
Recognition of need to adapt.
Science
Private sector taking initiative
Acknowledgement that climate change is a "thing" and support for "something" to happen

Response
Growing awareness of the issues
Master gardeners
Strong partnerships and motivation to work together
Community support for climate action
Regional collaboration
Community compost programs
Young people

**Question #4: What actions are most needed in this region to achieve each priority?
(Open answer)**

Priority 1: Protect climate vulnerable communities
Switch to nontoxic products and materials
Evaluation of which responses are successful and why
Creating community-based/driven solutions and strategies
Engage local people
Feed in tariffs for solar and extended tax incentives for electric vehicles and infrastructure
Access to clean water
Restoring surface waterways/habitat
Provide community green job opportunities with job training/career development
Anti-displacement strategies, with plans for community stability in the face of disasters
Urban greenways/biodiversity/habitat corridors
Funding of legislative mandates regarding climate change resilience, adaptation and sustainability
Regular transportation intervals of 20 min or less on Collector corridors (San Fernando Valley)
Protection against extreme heat
Trees!
Local storm water capture and groundwater recharge to increase local water supply and attenuate storm water surges during heavy storms
Improved Air Quality
Address root causes of homelessness/equity/justice
Transportation with less than 15 minute waits at peak traffic hours
Thoughtful community engagement and partnership
Additional funds to implement retrofits to climate-proof existing properties for extreme heat and maximize solar footprint and energy storage on-site
Local parks/trails
Addressing sea-level rise, water resilience.
Mandate governmental regulatory agencies comply with laws, regulations, rules and programs

Priority 1: Protect climate vulnerable communities
Availability of information, planning and expert help to small to medium size communities
Roof top solar
Actions identified by those communities themselves
Improved transportation options
Identifying the communities and engaging with them on potential actions
Excessive heat mitigation
Real outreach to the communities
Carbon-free transportation
Education so that we can achieve some bottom up changes.
Stopping toxic pollution, where vulnerable communities tend to live adjacent to
Walkable/bikable (15 minute) cities
Smarter land use
Mitigation of heat islands
Don't know
Education/funding
Needs assessment
Building trust
Investments and letting those community groups lead in their solutions
Funding
Urban Greening

Priority 2: Advance public health and safety
Cease oil/gas extraction, storage, refining
Incentivize water catchment systems
Mandate that electric utilities cannot turn off solar power during emergencies
Clean air
Green building requirements instead of just incentives
Improve water capture systems
More trees
Better public health studies
Mandate Zero Emission Technologies
Mandate Emissions Capture & Treatment Technologies
Mandate Best Available Control Technologies
Less urban development
Integrated planning across jurisdictions/sectors/landscapes
(1) Reduce density. (2) Increase urban agro-ecology to reduce urban heat-island, increase food security / sovereignty, (3) Plan based on ecological carrying capacity including water.
Providing cooling centers that are powered by microgrids
Conversion to non-toxic and biodegradable consumer packaging

Priority 2: Advance public health and safety
Air quality improvements - both on the regional and extremely local (adjacent uses) scales
Reduce/ban synthetic pesticides in lawns, golf courses, schools, etc.
Incentivize or mandate use of electric powered trucks at LA and Long Beach Harbor
Education on the connection between climate impacts, extreme heat, wildfires, and resulting air pollution
Funding/grants for food security and community gardens
Giving public health depts. New charges and responsibilities
Stop greenfield developments (focus on the city center)
Educate
Prevent destructive wildfires.
Working across sectors and breaking down silos
Required multiple evacuation routes for any new developments
Educate the public on the importance of soil health and how to steward the land
Linking climate-supportive transportation with affordable housing
Restrictions on where folks can build/rebuild
Collaboration across sectors
Creating water resiliency
Better land use planning
Land use changes to address heat and wildfire risks
Funding for environmental remediation and brownfield cleanup
Incentives to use public transportation
Spread green energy supported electric vehicle charging stations across the region
Reduce wildfire ignitions along roadways (especially the 91 freeway in OC/RC)
Transition to clean energy as soon as possible, with incentives
Protect health from extreme heat and wildfire smoke
Restoring surface aquatic ecosystems to cool the area
Stop building houses in high fire prone areas
Stop toxic pollution

Priority 3: Build a climate resilient economy
Incentivize local businesses/economy
Encourage reuse of "gray water" (may require a policy change)
Prioritize health and wellness in how we structure our daily lives/work requirements
The same things that make a generally-resilient economy, especially protections for the most vulnerable - anti-displacement, good minimum wage, universal healthcare
Use taxes to disincentivize high-emissions industries, or similar strategies
Finding alignment between housing and parks (EIFDs)
Like the plan to reduce organic waste, a program must be developed that will provide a transition with phase lines to transition from carbon based fuels to renewables and include a system to transitions from carbon jobs to green jobs so that our economy is not slammed all at once but can make a reasonable transition.

Priority 3: Build a climate resilient economy
Investments in resiliency strategies
Strategically redesign local economy and jobs for climate resilience
Grants for developing products recycled from "single use"
Encourage vegetable and vegan based eating/marketing of food
Actions that prioritize sustainability and minimize impacts to ecosystems and communities
Regulate industry to reduce air emissions, which have a large effect on the economy.
Water resilience, support for transitioning to sustainable transportation, preventing and responding to wildfires.
Economy -- see New Commons, Community Wealth, David Commons, Elinor Ostrom, etc. There is an empirical basis for relocalizing the economy.
Promote/incentivize circular economy
Encourage private sector responsibility for greening from production to disposal of products
Environmental, climate, health costs need to be captured into products
Comply with CEQA Law Comply with AB617 Comply with AB32
First, identifying where losses are happening due to CC . . . then planning to deal with those losses.
Green bonds
Including the faith communities in implementation
Streamlining for green building
Flexibility
Public private partnership
Understanding green job options (outreach)
Workforce development and training
Better awareness among private sector and public of the risks.
Create a LOCAL market for recycled materials
Green jobs/careers and training

Priority 4: Accelerate nature-based climate solutions
No more road widening/freeway expansion. Instead invest in greenways, bikeways, permeable sidewalks, wetlands, etc.
Hold lead agencies under CEQA accountable for implementing and following through on mitigation for impacts on natural resources.
Environmental education
Yes to Robert Burns.
"Growth" is NOT smart . . .
Allowing State Parks to meet its mission and expand its land ownership again.
Create means for ground water to get back into the ground. Permeable, permeable, permeable.
Remove non-porous materials in streets, parking lots, etc.

Priority 4: Accelerate nature-based climate solutions
Value the multiple benefits of trees
Yes to prescribed burns
Smart suburban growth
Stop the habitat type conversion by ensuring a natural fire frequency
Change the supply-demand factor of recycled water: require water suppliers to use it
Feral fix programs to cut overpopulation of cats! (remove some areas' restrictions)
Reducing dependence on imported water by reducing use
Restore the LA River - let it flow, take out the concrete where we can, let it be a habitat for fish and birds
Read Tending the Wild, Kat Anderson . . .
Put non-profit organization Conservation Organizations in charge
Getting back to the natural fire regime (no prescribed burns)
Stop vectors so trees won't die.
Hill top preservation
Use robust coupled social ecological systems models, planning tools (GeoDesign, ESRI), etc. Add ecological regeneration scientists and local indigenous peoples to planning teams.
Stop development of housing at the urban-rural interface
Requiring that water suppliers have a minimum % of recycled water in their supply portfolio.
Stop letting everyone pave their property. They all want to do it because of the drought.
Budget water and ensure allocation for cooling native plantings
Equitable implementation of county, state and federal dollars to implement climate resilience projects on the ground. Ex. WHAM, TCC, Federal Infrastructure Package.
Kelp forest and sea grass restoration and expansion
Native plants, pollinator plants
Engage in local restoration efforts.
Water infiltration/groundwater recharge
Reduce Fire Ignitions (especially along the 91 Freeway in OC/RC)
Prevent destructive wildfires.
Stop wildfires so trees won't die.
Better integration of planning for community and ecosystem resilience
Encourage plantings and watering spots in urban areas and containers for native pollinators
Switching to locally native species that are appropriate for available water conditions
Rehydrate the land vs channeling away
Land conservation
Public support
Stopping Bug Infestations (GSOB, ISHB)
Plant more trees and create more green spaces, especially in "climate vulnerable" communities

Priority 4: Accelerate nature-based climate solutions
Immediately start soft armoring of our shoreline where ever possible.
Quicker permitting process
Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into planning, building, infrastructure, and community development decisions
Restoration
Local collaborative efforts modeled on Landcare movement
Composting service for everyone - businesses, residential
Stop droughts so trees won't die
Better delivery of recycled water
Land Conservation (Acquisitions)

Priority 5: Make decisions based on best available climate science
Improved General Plans that tie into climate science
(1) Planning Departments (City, County, etc.) tend to be staffed with individuals trained 20+ years ago, especially the managers. Their thinking, their methods, their work are painfully outdated. Recognize that and address it. (2) Implement planning that looks at full coupled social-ecological systems, local ecological carrying capacity, science based methods and tools (GeoDesign as one example -- NOT Urban Footprint - Peter Calthorpe b/c it is outdated, too.)
Communicate climate science to local politicians
Encourage population limitations
People avoid the topic of climate crisis - needs to be more normalized. Increase collaboration
Do a gap analysis
Localized climate models/projections (honestly this already exists for SoCal, but isn't always easily accessible to or communicated to policy- and decision-makers)
Need determine of where and why science-based solutions can be placed geographically
Making the data available and accessible for multiple audiences (technical, public, multiple languages)
Not just hard science but sociological and psychological
Political will
Translate available water to supportable land uses and populations
Partnerships for coproduction and collaboration to develop regionally relevant and actionable science
Applying wildfire science to the Wildland Urban Interface (USGS - Jon Keeley)
Better wildfire models
Mandate the California Air Resources Board and Air Quality Management Districts follow best available science in their decision making
Technical assistance and political will
Community engagement - citizen science using iNaturalist app
Keep communicating the climate science to the public. Make sure they know that it's urgent and there are solutions available.

Priority 5: Make decisions based on best available climate science
Water budget
Employing technology, such as sensors, to gather data.
Need more evaluation of "best available" science solutions on multiple criteria -- not just monetary cost-benefit.
Working in partnership with local research universities
Provide access to experts who can help inform our region, in a means we can understand, to be able to make the decisions.
Having research on carbon sequestration for SoCal landscapes (CSS, chaparral, etc.)
Access and timing
Technical assistance and easily available data
Understanding smoke impacts on the SoCal community during fire days

Priority 6: Leverage resources for climate action through partnerships and collaboration
Clear roles and responsibilities
A mitigation bank for biodiversity
Leadership by SCAG to tie pieces together
LASAN -- Mas Dojiri is amazing. Ask for his involvement.
Utilize public research universities
Clear priorities across the city/county/region
Sue cities that fail to comply with SB 379.
SoCal Greenprint
Legal support for establishing new organizational structures
Involve non-profits in collaborations
Adopt the Polluters Pay Principle. Tax \$ 1,000 per pound of air pollution in every category
Investments in staff time (government and otherwise) so collaboration can be real instead of a single meeting here or there
More strategic partnership between City of LA LADWP, LASAN and LA Rec and Parks
Not sure what the solution is, but I heard that it's hard for community groups to apply for grants because they have to "compete" with each other but really want to help each other achieve goals
Provide residents with an online "platform" with "social network" mapping, seed fund small local initiatives. Get city planners and "overlords" out of way. We need to support neighborhood and community level initiatives, then link them together across the "watersheds" and region. City Hall staff in some cases have created BIG problems.
Increased awareness of existing partnerships and projects/programs
Increase use of small to medium size businesses in developing collaborative solutions - - not JUST universities and cities/towns
Use assessment districts for preparedness.

Priority 6: Leverage resources for climate action through partnerships and collaboration
Columbus, OH won this prize then every business in the city got on board and provided additional funding to the tune of 10 times the federal grant. https://www.transportation.gov/smartcity/winner
COG taking lead for smaller communities
Innovative partnerships (high tech, non-profits, businesses, housing, etc.)
Revoke municipal local control when it abuses climate goals.
Tax policy that supports climate action and reinvests in equitable climate solutions
Cross-sector tables for dialog and partnerships, where CBO's receive financial support to engage in the process.
Staff to support the formation and early start up stages
Funding equity (There is a bias to fund projects North of Fresno, than South of it)
Staff with expertise and time/resources to continue and prioritize this work
Plan across natural boundaries (e.g., watersheds) rather than political boundaries
A source of accurate information that is easily accessible
Reorganize county and large city governments to manage natural resources in a climate resilient zero-waste manner (see as an example King County, WA Department of Natural Resources and Parks)
Support partnerships with experts already doing the work - EPA, NOAA, etc.
Collaboratives w/ TEETH!!
Involve more small to medium size communities in collaborative responses to climate change
Political will and funding
Long term, sustainable funding

Question #5: How are you working to ensure equitable adaptation outcomes for this priority? (Open answer)

Priority 1: Protect climate vulnerable communities
Advocating for reduction in toxins in environment (consumer choice)
Prioritize women focused resilience not just the usual construction, firefighting jobs that go to men
First, change from "strategic growth" to "strategic management." Revisit 1070s and 1980s "limits" -- Remember Jerry Brown's first term? Second, exclude the "investors" who expect a return on their investment from the solution. We need to strengthen our local economy.
Raising awareness about our vulnerable communities,
LA and CA should stop supporting the false promise of green hydrogen which is propping up the gas industry
Training capital project designers and implementers
Requiring materials used on our site to be compostable or reusable

Donating funds that were awarded to me for COVID-19 recovery to a local food bank.
Work from home, drive an EV, i.e. contribute fewer pollutants to the air
Developing resilience hubs
Stakeholder outreach
Improving business processes to include equity considerations
Funding equity
Prioritizing solutions at a subregional scale to have more targeted solution
Working with tribal partners, including those that are not state or federally recognized
Prioritizing equity in all actions
Advocating for community-wide natural infrastructure
Identifying appropriate funding sources.
Planning to provide affordable expertise and knowledge to help such communities become more resilient, adaptable and sustainable.
Monitoring and Demanding that the city of Los Angeles comply with laws, regulation, rules and programs
Increasing access to sustainable transportation
Solarized church building available for community-oriented uses
Addressing Food Insecure Areas
Updating planning process to allow communities to lead
Work to promote policy focusing on the best available science, mindful of the big picture of costs/benefits for any protective measure.
Find the nexus of disadvantaged communities and climate vulnerable communities, and focusing investment there.
Urban Greening
Gaining an understanding of needs
Community Garden for Food security and cooling
Shade structures at transit stops
Allowing these communities to lead. Lifting their voices.

Priority 2: Advance public health and safety
Remove and cap all grandfathered oil wells in LA
Focus on the biggest factors first - mass air emissions from industry
Need to create *healthy* food access (rather than processed/fast food, which are too readily available)
Monitor city elected officials, planning departments and planning commissions failure to comply with laws, regulations, rules and programs
SFRs in South Central are being bought up by investors for conversion to rentals. This is not equitable.
Research and data focused on at risk communities, including those in rural areas, the WUI and tribal partners
Urban Greening
Include the Faith Communities

Monitoring service levels in different communities and shooting for high performance across all communities
Encourage community gardens as a way to reduce number of "food desserts".
Understanding local needs
focus on the unhoused
CCC partnerships
Educate those people in vulnerable communities on the why and the how and then provide resources for electric cars, charging stations, solar.
Using the best available data to identify need.
Social justice is tethered to climate justice
Easily available information for all communities
Working with leaders representing affected communities, having robust stakeholder input opportunities.
Improve health facilities (hospitals, clinics) in low-income and minority areas
Creating resilience hubs in partnership with communities
Define "equitable." Living in a high-density urban multi-family area is not equitable to a SFR with a garden, trees, etc.
Resilience hubs
Starting with equitable outcomes as an overriding goal
Local/targeted hiring
Need long term, sustainable investments and green careers
Using science about where it is safe to build
Resilience hubs (better than cooling centers)

Priority 3: Build a climate resilient economy
Strategic partnership
Supporting local businesses
Advocating for toxic ingredient regulation legislation
Identifying appropriate funding sources to fund infrastructure.
All public pensions should be deinvesting from fossil fuel related industries
Include impacts to vulnerable communities in prioritizing adaptation actions
Moving from auto-focus development patterns to human-focused
Monitoring Elected Official and Political Appointed Commissioners compliance with CEQA, AB32 and AB617
Buy goods and services from such areas when aware of them
Investing in pollution removal technology and infrastructure
Assess how strategies engage and reflect the communities in which they are applied: Economically and diversity/culturally
Focusing on vulnerabilities
Lemons into lemonade. Focus on impacts as a means to invest to overcome, and focus job recruitment in disadvantaged communities.
City of Long Beach should deinvest from oil & gas extraction
Minority/women/veteran and other disadvantaged business inclusion

Create education centers where people can get on board with decent paying green jobs.
Local preference/priority for housing/transportation
Supporting community-based food orgs and mutual aid groups
Helped found Habitat for Humanity Los Angeles to encourage AFFORDABLE local housing
Avoid regressive tax strategies
Local/targeted hiring
Understanding what the community needs
Building "green" into every budget for every project type

Priority 4: Accelerate nature-based climate solutions
Expand "greening" of alleys in Los Angeles
Tax incentives or grants for green roofs
Youth educational curriculum
Resilience plans in low income communities
Working to connect landscapes through Wildlife Corridors
Engage the public in restoration efforts
Subsidize farmers' markets so disadvantaged communities have access and can afford veggies.
Stop Fracking state-wide
Working with community members in design and decision-making
Creating a SoCal Greenprint
Provide access to open space/nature based solution
Using science to inform decision making
Need to bring more nature to disadvantaged communities
Advancing water quality initiatives
Monitoring Government agencies, cities and counties elected and appointed commissioners compliance to Climate Laws, Programs and Strategies
Multi benefit problems: tree canopy plus . . .
Identifying high need areas in disadvantaged neighborhoods and prioritizing them
Cap and retire all oil wells in LA to prevent pollution of the land
Providing solutions to reduce wildfire ignitions
Talk with Lois Arkin at LA EcoVillage
Measure W implementation for multi-benefit, green infrastructure projects. Combine with Measure A funds for community-generated green space projects.
Advancing community land trusts (to decommoify land), limited equity cooperatives -- housing and enterprise (See LA Coop LAB), advancing regenerating agro-ecology,
Restoration at the Wildland Urban Interface
Working with a wide range of communities and tribal partners
Avoid displacement (with neighborhoods receiving urban greening, etc.)

Minority/women/veteran/other disadvantaged business inclusion in awarded contracts
Creating funding sources with infrastructure agencies by using advanced mitigation
Look to the Los Angeles Eco village and you will see an example of a community in the heart of LA that has been doing this for decades.
Identifying vulnerable communities and areas of disparity in green space
Recycled water (purple pipe) to low-income communities.
Should do lots more. Tore up the sidewalk in my patio area.
UC-trained Master Gardeners teaching classes
Targeted/local hiring
Conservation (Acquisition) through unique partnerships

Priority 5: Make decisions based on best available climate science
Eliminate grandfathered land uses
Develop better integrated 'models' -- knowing map is not the territory
Educating decision makers, their staff, and the press
Monitoring actions and investments
1. Robust stakeholder process including scientists not receiving funding for the project. 2. cost benefit analysis - some proposed actions may have unintended consequences, e.g. kelp die off due to nutrient starvation.
Access to and consensus around tools to quantify outcomes
Trying to combine info on vulnerability and climate projections - more work needed on this
Important to have data applicable to scale of communities - otherwise, focus on overall goal of equitable outcomes
Completing fire studies to understand where the issue areas are and offering solutions to address them.
Using OEHHA CalEnviroScreen to guide project and investment prioritization to achieve equity
Trying to involve my church in considering both equitable programs and policies AND relating these to climate change
Reframe land tenure toward community land trusts held by residents of their community. Land asset values and cash flows should NOT be externalized to non-resident investors as their passive income. Thereby, build the financial statements of each community household -- assets and income. Build local equity and cash flow.
Partnership with equity-oriented Community Based Organizations, and their work engaging community members.
Work with the department of education to add curriculum in multiple languages into our schools at all grade levels.
Monitoring Government agencies, cities and counties elected and appointed commissioners follow best available science in their decision making
Understanding the differences between urban and rural needs
Creating opportunities for under resourced communities to drive research priorities

Priority 5: Make decisions based on best available climate science
Need agencies/orgs/people to be on the same page as to the urgency and need to focus on this as a community
Informing myself on this more and more and planning actions, professional and personal

Priority 6: Leverage resources for climate action through partnerships and collaboration
Organizing religious and community groups, creating new partnerships
TRUE -- Move LA is one . . . of the Unholy alliances (enviros/housing advocates, enviros/transportation agencies, etc.)
Find the "and" instead of focusing on the "either or" of a situation.
P= Paying attention to government bills and laws in terms of impact on "vulnerable communities"
This is a constant struggle. Ensure the outcome will not negatively impact disadvantaged communities.
Put the businesses in the region on the spot to step up and assist with the adaptation in vulnerable communities. They could get great press. Public Opinion can be the best leverage especially if people vote with their dollars.
Working "in partnership" with the "most" vulnerable communities
Unholy alliances (enviros/housing advocates, enviros/transportation agencies, etc.)
Need a fundamental deep analysis of what is meant by "equitable." There are huge long-standing structural / geospatial blockages to equitability . . .
Being intentional about who is included in the conversations - inclusive, diverse, representative
Monitoring Government agencies, cities and counties elected and appointed commissioners proposals and decision making
Measures Matter Report provides suggestions: https://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/measures-matter-la/
Disadvantaged communities must be part of the partnerships from the beginning
Focus on the areas that need "it" the most.
Working with less popular, non-traditional groups, community organizations, non-profits outside of government agencies
Fund SB 1072 climate justice collaboratives

Question #6: Are there any critical regional priorities not covered by one of the six we've outlined? (Open answer)

Response
Better toxic substances control - help people be healthier and support wellness to avoid reliance on pharmaceuticals
Expand knowledge base & partnerships beyond the region. Collaborate with federal agencies for resources/ solutions
The regional carrying capacity has been exceeded. Unless population and "development" can be scaled back, there is NO HOPE for LA. Water, etc.

Response
Encourage collaboration on climate change concerns across ethnic/"racial" divisions so that not everything appears to focus only on "vulnerable" communities.
Aligning agency priorities to not contradict efforts
The BIG GULP!
Sustainable water - being realistic about permissible land uses and programs given the level of drought projected
Any new Project Proposal or Expansion Project must have No-Net Increase in air pollution emissions and greenhouse gases
Social cohesion is crucial for LA.

Question #7: What actions are needed to mitigate the impacts of increasing temperature and extreme heat in your region? (Open answer)

Response
Incentives to change trip times
Mass transit. How much heat does an auto engine put into the environment?
Reduce high energy use manufacturing
Greenhouse gas reductions
Need to support distributed food delivery (local groceries you can walk to)
Rooftop vegetation
Incentives to avoid vehicle use
Weather-proofing residences (subsidize this, especially for low-income households, rental properties)
Plant the right trees in the right area. So, for example, sycamores need high water table. Oaks need other conditions. People need to understand basic ecology and urban ecology
Walkable and bikeable communities
Treating transit users, walkers, and bicycle riders as just as important as vehicle users
Millions of additional trees
Funding for multi- benefit projects for stormwater, transportation, and urban greening
Water trees and lawns from recycled water
Recycling water, incentivizing the use of graywater for plants
Solar in parking lots/parking structures
Light-colored paving surfaces
Plant communities of plants that take care of each other
Getting vulnerable individuals/households/communities access to AC
Work with army corps to add habitat to concrete channels. Include trees in habitat to cool the water heated in the concrete channels.
Solar parking lots.
Less pavement
Mandate Zero Emissions Technologies
Mandate Emissions Capture & Treatment Technologies

Response
Mandate Best Available Control Technologies Eliminate Governmental Agencies loop-holes for air polluting industries like Cap & Trade Programs and Air Pollution Credit Off-Sets
Don't plant trees that require a lot of water unless there is naturally a lot of water in that area
Make sure green energy is universally available for air conditioners and fans -- subsidized if needed
More concrete, less asphalt.
Flexible cooling structure in areas with high heat and low tree canopy
Solar shade structures: benches, carports, plus rooftop w/green roofs
Stop allowing everyone to pave everything. Keep open spaces green not concrete.
Advance regenerative ecosystems restoration using nature-based solutions. Ecological restoration means -- plant the right plant in the right place. (This is NOT about planting monoculture tree farms across LA.) Greatly reduce hardscape. Restore living soil health.
All community members should have access to a public cooling center within a quarter mile walk and/or 10-minute transit commute; all new parks should have green space; all public funds spent on the urban tree canopy should be allocated to areas with the highest need
Urban greening with NATIVES!!
Resilience hubs
Less concrete, more permeable surfaces
Reallocating road space to sustainable transportation and trees
Encourage mulching, greening of landscapes, use of locally-sourced biosolids to reduce runoff and increase tree growth potential.
Environmental education - PSAs - not just about water conservation and staying safe, but about how to solve the problem - restoring infiltration and vegetation and letting the earth breathe -restoring the water cycle - but with plants that are adapted to the water availability
Improved "built environment" features (green buildings)
Multi sectoral approach: trees, reflective surfaces, water fountains, shade structures.
Cool pavement; more cooling centers; street trees
Micro grids to prevent rolling black outs so people will be able to use their solar powered heat pumps to cool their homes.
More natural shade solutions: trees in key corridors to increase walkability and use of open space, urban greening
Provide "cooling stations" and water access in "climate vulnerable communities"
Plant trees and vegetation
Trees
Urban greening
Build healthy soils that store carbon and infiltrate water, recharging aquifers
Cool streets/cool roofs

Question #8: As you consider all of the priorities, are there knowledge gaps or information needs that you need answered in order for you to accelerate your work across these priorities? Examples include research needs or data and tools you think would be helpful to advance your work. (Open answer)

Response
The threat to LA economy
Centralized grant availability resource
GHG potential draw down of kelp
Research into how people interpret cost-benefit
Prioritized list of important conservation areas needing protection.
Updated information on fire risk as veg type conversion increases. Better understanding of effective fire risk reduction strategies
SoCal Greenprint
We need to require Health Impact Assessments for all public policies and programs
Need invasive weed maps and regional efforts to replace weedy areas with seed banks for future climates.
Need coupled social ecological systems (both social and ecological scientists)
Kelp nutrient requirements with increasing ocean temps
Knowing what provides the best return-on-investment for addressing co-benefits of climate action, reducing pollution, and improving equitable outcomes
Need more involvement of social scientists in developing and evaluating solutions. Includes anthropologists, sociologists, scientists, community organizers. Not JUST physical scientists -- it is a human and social problem
Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of different policy strategies (at reducing GHG emissions, at reducing urban heat island, at decreasing indoor temperatures in a heat wave, etc. etc.)
How much does our refrigeration and freezing habit contribute to climate change? If we used fresh food more often and refrigerated and froze less, would it help? Is there a need for a cultural change in this regard?
Provide a central location to place any proposed Federal or State legislation that is being considered that could effect a local plan for moving forward with their CARP.
Please collaborate with Jack Dangermond (ESRI) and his science and planning staff to build a planning and using GeoDesign. CalFire and other agencies already build on GeoDesign.
Modeling tools (water needs by housing stock density, climate impacts of new development)
Are there any comets or meteors or zombie attack coming our way that would eliminate the need to mitigate and adapt?
Funding for conservation work
Regionally specific information on climate refugia and co-occurring stressors that affect community and ecosystem resilience
Benefits of carbon sequestration by plants and soil for SoCal habitats
Below-ground carbon stocks

Question #9: How can the state support a regional approach to adaptation and resilience through the Strategy? (Open answer)

Response
Continue to use efforts like this to exchange with a larger audience
Platform ecosystems
Provide incentives for NOT building at the Wildland Urban Interface
Return more of taxes to LA for spending on resilience so we can stop relying on sales tax and other local tax and fee revenues
Enforce MPAs - they provide resiliency
Provide "platforms" online.
Work with decision-makers/elected officials to develop more political will and agreement
Help the LA legislative delegation understand what this region needs!!!
Provide expertise to the SCAG region in the form of scoping meetings, and workshops that would allow the jurisdictions to gather and collaborate. This should include MTA, CalTrans, Utilities, etc. Require SCAG to put together these meeting and workshops as well as an outreach to all jurisdictions to get them involved.
Coordinate across state, county, and local governments and state agencies so that they don't work against one another but work together.
Need to adopt Non-Compliance Penalties for the state, counties, cities and business industries
Better define the effects of regional CO2 inputs with regard to regional intensification of ocean acidification.
Fund staff positions in major regional players so that a regional approach can be developed *and then carried out*
Include wildlife corridors in developed LA in state wildlife connectivity efforts.
Maintain the HIGHEST standards and expectations around these various issues -- equity, resilience, etc. Recognize "green washing" and "self interest" in all its forms, and move beyond these impediments. We have great hope for the SGC and OPR, and HOPE you folks can greatly, rapidly, advance this urgent work.
Ensure geographical equity in resilience funding. LA needs forest and wildfire and water funding too!
Clear definition of roles and responsibilities- who is driving, who is defining/approving priorities, who are the collaborators, who can remove roadblocks?
Encourage cross-county partnerships (habitats/species don't follow geopolitical boundaries)
Recognize the potential role of coastal and ocean ecosystems in climate action and resilience
Creating and funding regional networks that support adaptation for local agencies
Increase regional capacity, such as through the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program.
More use of GIS!!

Response
Like Caltrans sums up all of the District efforts, the state could sum up the input from each Metropolitan Planning Organization for urban areas
Funding for SoCal projects (even though they tend to cost more, they also benefit more people)
Support and empowerment of regional boundary spanning organizations that have large and diverse partnerships
Mandate Zero Emissions Technologies Mandate Emissions Capture & Treatment Technologies Mandate Best Available Control Technologies Eliminate Governmental Agencies failure to Eliminate loop-holes for air polluting industries like Cap & Trade Programs and Air Pollution Credit Off-Sets
Map invasive weed infestations, and coordinate replacement of infestation with locally native vegetation and seed banks that would be climate adapted to multiple possibilities (RCP 4.5 or 8.5, near future and far future). Provide local plant lists to CalTrans to vegetate along roadways accordingly.
Honestly reckon with the fact of MPOs. Are they really the correct vehicle for coordinated climate action? Or should they stay in their transportation lane?
Define natural ecosystem boundaries (e.g., river watersheds) and encourage and FUND collaboration across ALL political and human boundaries in those natural ecosystems areas.
Recognize the differences between the forested North and the chaparral/coastal sage scrub South