



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
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CLIMATE ADAPTATION WORKING GROUP

June 24, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, please join via web conferencing:
To join the meeting: <https://scag.zoom.us/j/94900463627>
Dial-In: 1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 949 0046 3627

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Lorianne Esturas, Assistant Regional Planner from the Sustainability Department at SCAG, welcomed all participants.

SCAG Staff:

Anita Au
Kimberly Clark
Andy Dunlap
Lorianne Esturas
Emily Rotman
Vannesa Reyes Salazar

Presenters:

Dr. Richard Matthew, UC Irvine
Dr. Brett Sanders, UC Irvine
Dr. V. Kelly Turner, UCLA
Dr. Nicola Ulibarri, UC Irvine

Participants:

Reece Allen
Vanessa Alvarizares
Christine Baginski
Caitlin Brooks
Amanda Caswell
Erin Coutts
Clay Downing
Charles Guiam
Lori Huddleston
Carola Moore
Chris Moore
Scott Rigsby
Yoli Sanchez
Chandler Sheilds
Dan Silver
Derek Towers

2. CLIMATE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK (CAF): NEW RESOURCES & TOOLS

Lorianne Esturas, SCAG

- The Climate Adaptation Framework is a resource that provides planning guidance and model policy language, outreach templates, and other tools that local jurisdictions can utilize in planning for climate adaptation.
- The Housing Element Parcel (HELPr) Tool version 2.0 is a web-mapping tool developed by SCAG that provides parcel-level data layers on existing land use, priority growth/constraint areas, Environmental Justice opportunity areas, and more, and is now available for public access.
- The Climate Adaptation Framework can be accessed online at <https://scag.ca.gov/climate-change-regional-adaptation-framework>
- The HELPR Tool 2.0 can be accessed online at https://maps.scag.ca.gov/helpr/?page=page_0

3. SB 379 COMPLIANCE CURRICULUM FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

Emily Rotman, SCAG

- SCAG staff provided an overview of SCAG's recently published Senate Bill (SB) 379 Guidebook: Compliance Curriculum for Local Jurisdictions, a resource stemming from the Climate Adaptation Framework.
- The Compliance Curriculum provides guidance to local jurisdictions on how to become compliant with SB 379, and includes information on SB 379 requirements, case studies of SB 379-compliant planning documents, and more.
- The SB 379 Guidebook: Compliance Curriculum can be accessed at https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/3000_sb379guidebook_final.pdf

4. FLOODBRIDGE FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING & NEIGHBORHOOD DISADVANTAGE INDEX

Dr. Richard Matthew, Dr. Brett Sanders, Dr. Nicola Ulibarri, UC Irvine

- Dr. Richard Matthew and Dr. Brett Sanders from UC Irvine presented the FloodBRIDGE Flood Hazard Mapping, a tool that provides data on flood risk and vulnerability at the household and neighborhood level.
- Dr. Nicola Ulibarri from UC Irvine provided an overview of the Neighborhood Disadvantage Index StoryMap, which layers the flood risk data with census-block data to visualize the intersection between disadvantaged communities and areas that are vulnerable to flooding hazards.
- Questions & Answers
 - Question: Is the FloodBRIDGE GIS map or the NDI StoryMap available to the public?
 - Answer: Not yet.
 - Comment: It is my understanding that melting glaciers cause sea-level rise, but it is the warmer expanded water that surges causing the problem as occurred recently with the high tides at the Balboa peninsula.
 - Answer: High tides impacted by several factors.
 - Comment: Also, I have not heard of the effect of all the paving which tends to speed up flow and add to the issue. But we continue paving one other issue is the building of sea

walls which affect deposition and contribute to the problem.

- Answer: We are using historic data. May be a scenario to look at, a previous focus group mentioned the built environment and pavement.
- Question: Are there any plans to work with the team putting together SCAG's Greenprint? My understanding is that they're working on doing projections for the impacts of future development to show jurisdictions where development will have the most/least impact. It could be interesting to integrate your work.
 - Discussion:
 - Brett: Hi Erin. That's a good idea it would be great to know more about specific projects that are being considered, especially if they are expected to redistribute flood risks.
 - Erin: @Brett - I'm not certain that they'll be including proposed development projects, rather it's a decision support tool for stakeholders understand the conservation value of land. (Here's more on the project: <https://scag.ca.gov/gis-social-greenprint>) My thinking was that it could be useful for them to have access to a fine grain flood model to help demonstrate how conservation efforts will impact flooding.
 - Lorianne: @Erin - Thanks for highlighting SCAG's SoCal Greenprint project and sharing the link! @Brett - We'd be happy to connect the UCI team with the SCAG Greenprint team to look into opportunities for integrating your work and/or sharing info on how flood risk data is incorporated. The SoCal Greenprint has been a collaborative effort between SCAG and The Nature Conservancy.
 - @Lorianne - Yes, we would be very interested in that conversation. Thanks you and thanks @Erin too for the suggestion.

5. COOLING THE CITY: REGULATING OUTDOOR CLIMATE THROUGH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Dr. V. Kelly Turner, UCLA

- Dr. V. Kelly Turner from UCLA presented on extreme heat, and the challenges and complexities of implementing effective cooling measures to combat extreme heat in cities.
- *UCLA Sandpit: Heat Resilient Los Angeles* is an initiative that is engaging with community, collecting data, and utilizing available policy and legal measures to develop recommendations on effective and innovative cooling strategies that cities can implement.
- Learn more about *UCLA Sandpit's* work at <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/project/heat-resilient-la/>.
- Questions & Answers
 - Comment: It also is tied to ignorance. I own a condo in moderate income neighborhood and the HOA voted to cut down all the trees and replace them as well as the small patch of grass with rocks, some shrubs as well as smaller trees to save water. They failed to understand the rocks absorb heat and then reflect it. Hard to believe but true.

- Answer: Agree, several lawn retrofitting strategies have the intent of addressing multiple things but may have negative impacts on the environment, such as having the opposite effect of cooling.
 - Response: Thank you for recognizing the problem for it was not that many years past when we were encouraged to replace grass with artificial turf not a good idea.

6. WORKSHOP: SCAG ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY DEFINITION

Emily Rotman

- SCAG led a workshop to receive feedback on SCAG's draft Environmental Equity definition.
- The goals of the Environmental Equity definition are to build upon SCAG's equity work, emphasize environmental equity in SCAG's work, and develop a shared understanding of environmental equity for SCAG and its shareholders.
- Comments & Feedback
 - Comment: What I see is developers framing their intent while not really considering the consequences for those who must bear their decisions. Creating high density along transportation corridors impacts lower income people.
 - Comment: I like the word choice of "abolish" in the definition (instead of mitigate, which we see in CAP rhetoric)...implies a strength behind the definition's conviction.