

# Climate Action Planning



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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH



# Who is OPR?



The Office of Planning and Research (OPR), created by statute in 1970, is part of the Office of the Governor. OPR serves the Governor and his Cabinet as staff for long-range planning and research, and constitutes the comprehensive State planning agency.

# OPR Efforts for 2012



- SB226 (Infill Streamlining) CEQA Guidelines Update
- Annual Planning Survey results (climate specific summary)
- CAP Technical Advisory in process
- Local Government Conferences on Climate Change
- Coordinating State Response to Sustainable Communities Strategies
- LAFCO Annexation Guide Update
- Environmental Goals and Policy Report Update
- Geospatial Data Coordination and Enterprise Access
- Model Ordinances on EV, PV, DG
- General Plan Guidelines Update
- CEQA Guidelines Update
- Military Liaison for the State
- Other State Guides/Resources in coordination with other organizations:
  - ARB, ICLEI and other State and federal agencies.

# Climate Action Planning – OPR Role



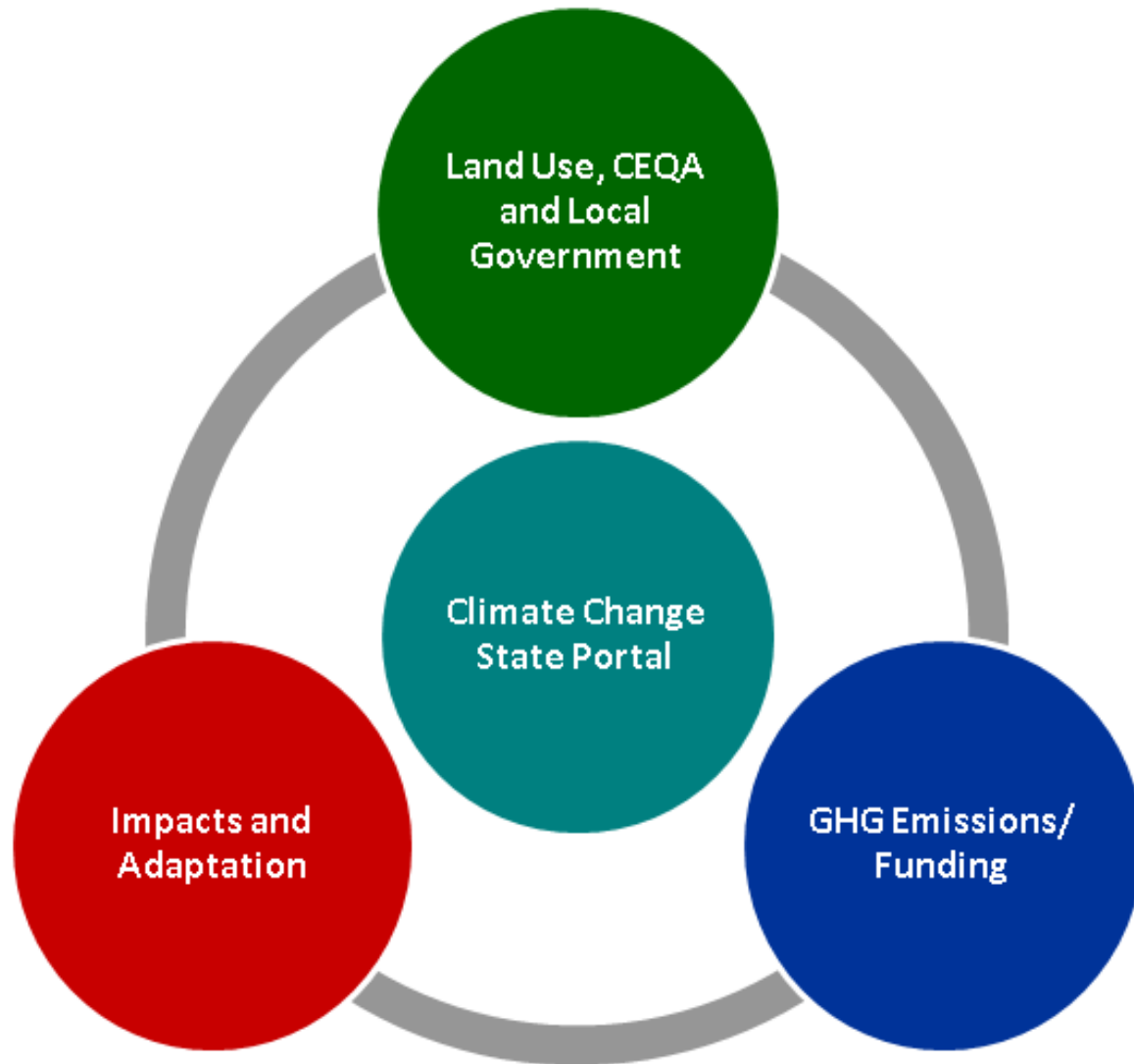
- Provide guidance regarding State law and tools to support compliance with State law (CEQA, General Plans, etc);
- Provide guidance on good planning;
- Collaborative partner on tool development and coordination of consistent messaging from the State;
- Helping to link coastal planning, hazards planning, regional planning and local planning together with OPR statutory obligations;
- GHG inventories are the pedestal that supports all other actions on GHG reductions in a community;
- OPR has a vested interest in ensuring coordinated guidance, resources and tools

# Climate Action Planning Benefits



- What Benefits Come from a CAP?
  - Local control
  - Quantified benefits of agency actions
  - Saves money
  - Development certainty
  - CEQA Streamlining
  - Leverage for funding tied to climate goals
  - Fills gaps in SB375
  - Helps to avoid catastrophic climate change
  - Helps to prepare for changes in the community that result from climate change

# Web Based State Resources



# Plans and Cumulative Impacts



- Section 15064(h)(3)
  - Says you can create a plan that mitigates a cumulative problem, in this case GHGs emitted from an entity and the hazards associated with the impacts of climate change on an entity
  - If a project is consistent with the plan, then the Lead Agency can presume that the incremental contribution to the impact is not cumulatively considerable
  - If the project is challenged, the presumption that the impact is not cumulatively considerable is the rebuttable

# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



- § 15183.5(b)(1)(A) of the CEQA Guidelines recognizes a wide variety of planning efforts (not just CAPs)
- A Plan should contain at least the following elements:
  - Quantify GHG emissions within a defined area
  - Establish a level where GHG emissions are not cumulatively considerable
  - Identify emissions from Plan activities
  - Specify measures to achieve the specified emissions level
  - Monitor progress and amend if necessary;
  - Adopt in a public process following environmental review



# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



- Other considerations:
  - Impacts on existing/future development/resource and approaches to reducing those impacts (hazards/adaptation/resilience)
  - Relationship with General Plan (how does it work with the GP/ GPEIR, incorporation into the GP implementation program, etc)
  - Regional planning (RTP/ SCS), water, relationship to surrounding jurisdictions, etc)
  - State programs/policies, etc that may benefit or impact a jurisdiction's ability to reduce GHG emissions and address the impacts of climate change on the community

# Focus on the GHG Inventory/Targets



- § 15183.5(b)(1)(A) – Establish a Baseline
  - “Quantify [GHG] emissions ... resulting from activities within a defined geographic area”
    - ✦ Depends on the community – SOI, City/County limits, UGB, etc
  - What is an appropriate baseline year?
    - ✦ 2005 – 2008 commonly accepted if using targets based on AB32 scoping plan – but this is quickly becoming out of date
  - How can the baseline emissions be calculated?
    - ✦ SEEC, CACP, consultant tools → transparent and replicable are key

# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



- § 15183.5(b)(1)(B) – Establish a Target Emissions Level
- “Establish a level, below which the contribution to [GHG] emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable”
  - Must be based on “substantial” evidence
  - Scoping Plan suggestion = 15% below “today’s” levels
  - **Overall Emissions**, Service Population? Per Capita?
  - Which target years?
    - ✦ 2020
    - ✦ 2035?
    - ✦ GP “Buildout”?
    - ✦ 2050?
    - ✦ Other?

# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



- § 15183.5(b)(1)(C) – Estimate Projected Future Emissions from the Plan
- “Identify and analyze the [GHG] emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within the geographic area”
  - Plan Activities
    - ✦ Land Use Approvals
    - ✦ Utilities
    - ✦ Municipal Operations
    - ✦ Others
  - Methodologies to Calculate?
    - ✦ General Plan Growth Estimates (GPEIR Consistency)
    - ✦ Regional Estimates (more realistic growth estimates? Transportation modeling?)
    - ✦ Combination of the above?
    - ✦ Other?

# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



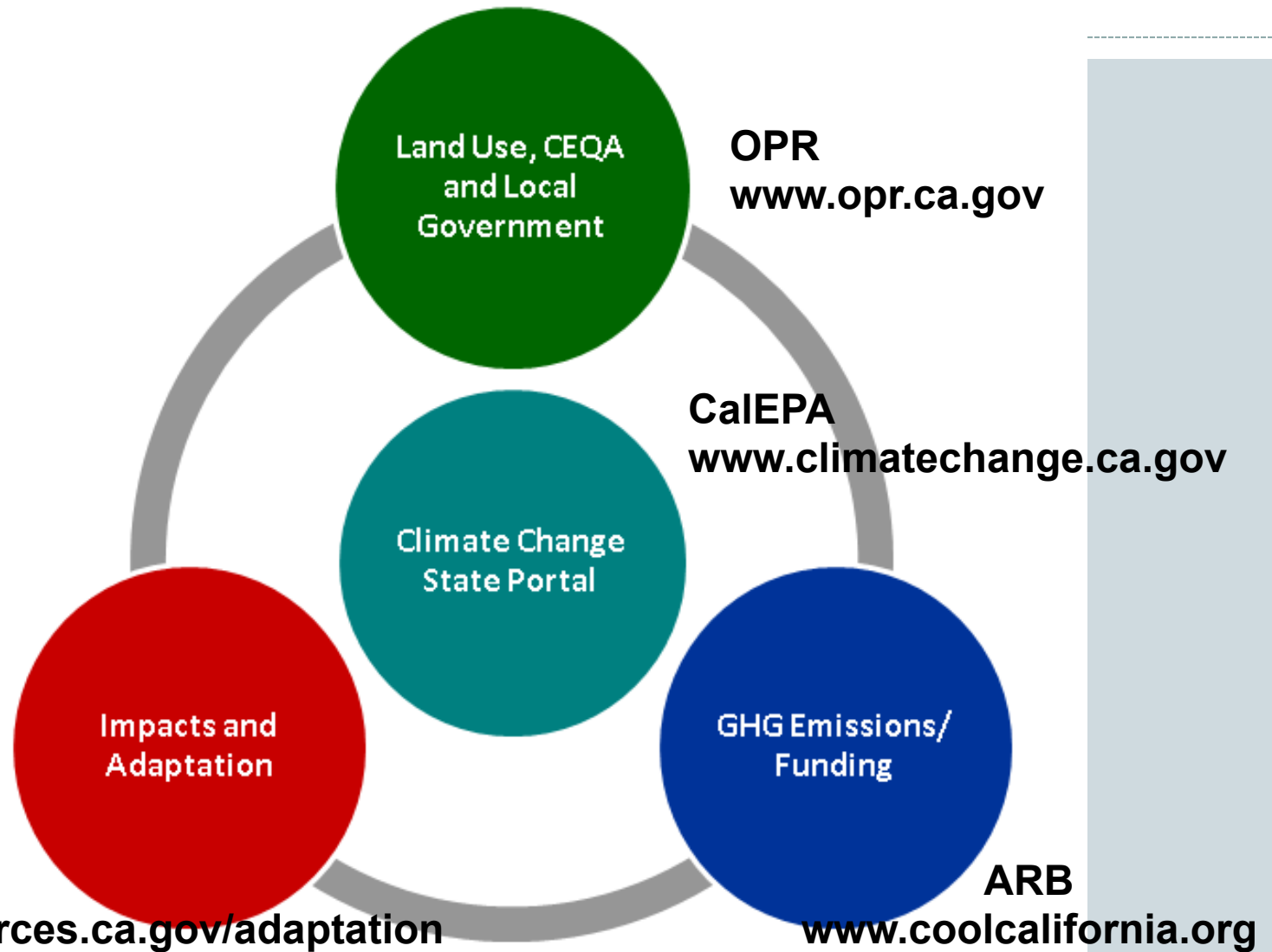
- § 15183.5(b)(1)(D) – Measures to Achieve Reduction Target
  - “Specify measures ... that ... would collectively achieve the specified emissions level”
- § 15183.5(b)(1)(E) – Monitor Progress
  - “monitor the plan’s progress ... and ... require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels”
- § 15183.5(b)(1)(F) – Environmental Review
  - “Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.”
- § 15183.5(b)(2) – Use with Later Activities
  - Demonstrate Project is consistent with the CAP at project application

# Plan for the Reduction of GHGs



- Its not just about what is required
- Focus on what is right for your community
- Think about the big picture
- Educate the public and decision makers
- Create follow through and a long term trajectory
- Make the benefits of dealing with climate change tangible
- Think about what is coming in regards to policy/infrastructure rather than what is currently in place

# Web Based State Resources



# Resources



- Financial
  - Cool California Funding Wizard: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/funding-wizard-home>
  - Strategic Growth Council: <http://sgc.ca.gov/>
  
- Local Assistance
  - Governor's Office of Planning and Research: <http://opr.ca.gov>
  - Climate Change Portal: <http://climatechange.ca.gov>
  - Cool California: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org>
  - Energy Aware Planning Guide: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/energy\\_aware\\_guide/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/energy_aware_guide/index.html)
  - Resources Agency: <http://www.resources.ca.gov/adaptation>
  - CAPCOA, "Model Policies for Greenhouse Gases in General Plans": <http://www.capcoa.org/>
  - AEP Community GHG Emissions Protocol White Paper: [http://califaep.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=101&Itemid=255](http://califaep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101&Itemid=255)
  - SEEC Tools: <http://www.californiaseec.org>
  - Evaluating Greenhouse Emissions as Part of California's Environmental Review Process: A Local Official's Guide: <http://www.ca-ilg.org/CEQA-GHGGuide>
  
- Legal
  - CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)
  - Attorney General Resources: <http://ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/ceqa/resources.php>
  - CEQA Guidelines Statement of Reasons: [http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/Final\\_Statement\\_of\\_Reasons.pdf](http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/Final_Statement_of_Reasons.pdf)



# Thank You



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