

State & Local Energy Climate Coordination (SLECC)

Coordination meetings between State and local leaders across California

Welcome!

Quarterly Statewide Meeting | Sept 3, 2026



Co-facilitated by



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL

With participation from



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome
- Roundtable Updates
- Progress on 2026 SLECC Priorities
 - Legislative & Regulatory Pathways
 - **Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer**
 - **Lucia Baseman, Local Government Climate Alliance**
 - Administrative Pathways
 - **SGC & CCEC REACH Update**
 - **Danna Stroud, GoBiz (Jobs First)**
 - **Nicole Hernandez, CARB (Lowering Burdens Report)**
- Closing

SLECC's Purpose

SLECC serves as a **statewide communication and ideation hub to help State and local leaders improve coordinated efforts** to more rapidly unlock the unique potential of California regions and communities to address energy, climate, and land use goals.

SLECC will **identify priority needs and co-create operational solutions to advance place-based energy and climate action.**



Roundtable Updates

*What does **your** organization want State and local governments to know more about?*

- *Assistance, learning, or engagement opportunities*
- *Recent successes/lessons*
- *Information needs*
- *Invitations to partner*



DRIVE FORWARD EXPO

*See, Drive, and Discover
Zero-Emission Vehicles*

November 18, 2026 ⚡ 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Big Fresno Fair | Fresno, CA

DRIVEFORWARDEXPO.ORG

📍 1121 S Chance Ave, Fresno, CA 93702

📱 @CARBTruckStop

📱 @CalFleetAdvisor

📧 events@calstart.org



What to Expect

Test drive zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty commercial trucks and off-road equipment

Become familiar with various zero-emission technologies

Past Ride and Drive events have featured over 70 Class 2b-8 trucks, buses, vans, and off-road equipment

Receive information on incentive opportunities and Cal Fleet Advisor technical assistance program

CARB staff will be available to answer questions on programs including:

Advanced Clean Fleets applicable to State and Local Government Fleets
Clean Truck Check
Off-Road Diesel
and more!

Free admission and parking available for attendees



Roundtable Updates

*What does **your** organization want State and local governments to know more about?*

- *Assistance, learning, or engagement opportunities*
- *Recent successes/lessons*
- *Information needs*
- *Invitations to partner*



Progress on 2026 Priorities

[Access Report](#)

SLECC 2026 Priorities Update



Priority 1: AFFORDABILITY & DECARBONIZATION

Scaling up decarbonized and climate-resilient buildings and homes amid affordability concerns

Barriers:

- Energy Affordability & Rates
- Retrofit Feasibility
- Climate Resilient Housing

Priority 2: STREAMLINED FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION

Streamlining funding access and implementation support for community-driven climate action plans and clean energy, efficiency and decarbonization initiatives in difficult times

Barriers:

- Transitioning to Implementation: Planning Capacity
- Insufficient Investment
- Unstable Assistance
- Application Burden & Accessibility
- Representation & Inclusion

Priority 3: GRID RESILIENCE & DER INTEGRATION

Building local energy resilience through improved utility processes for interconnection, grid infrastructure, and distributed energy resources

Barriers:

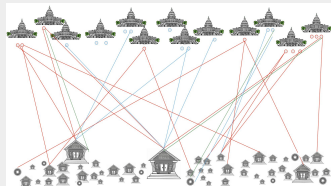
- Grid Infrastructure
- Interconnection and Energization Processes
- Energy Resilience
- Transportation Electrification

Progress Pathways Tracking



Purpose & Progress of SLECC

We set out to: Build deeper understanding and stronger collaborative relationships between State and local agencies to identify barriers and streamline/improve delivery of energy and climate information, resources, and services.



SLECC

REACH





Group Discussion

[Access Report](#)

SLECC 2026 Priorities & Pathways Update

Priority 1:

AFFORDABILITY & DECARBONIZATION

Scaling up decarbonized and climate-resilient buildings and homes amid affordability concerns

Progress Pathways

Engage in Administrative Pathways

Share SLECC report, submit comments, participate in or host workshops, or other coordination with agencies

- All - distribution of SLECC report
- CEC
 - [Draft Building Energy Action Plan - comments](#) submitted Feb 20
 - [SB 100 Joint Agency Report - comments](#) submitted March 20
 - CEC IEPR Report
 - Draft Building Performance Standards Strategy Report - LERN
 - [Non-Energy Impacts Informational Proceeding](#) - LERN, comments pending
 - [Energy Affordability Index](#) (LERN)
 - EPIC 5 Investment Period [Strategic Objectives](#) (LERN)
 - Equitable Building Decarbonization (comments submitted, LERN)
- CPUC
 - Kerry F. (SLECC)
 - External Affairs presentation
 - SB 1221 Neighborhood Decarbonization (LERN)
 - SGIP (LERN)
- Other
 - PSE National Energy Affordability Tool (LERN)
- CalOES
 - Wildfire Home Hardening (LERN)
- LCI
 - oversight of [AB 39](#) Local Electrification Planning Act Implementation
- State-funded programs: (eg CEC EBD, CEC/CPUC EPIC 5 Investment Period [Strategic Objectives](#).)

Track Legislative & Regulatory Pathways

Share the following information with local and state leaders

- **Key bills:**
- Key CPUC Proceedings:
 - Self Generation Incentive Program
 - Cost of Capital proceedings
 - Wildfire Management or rate cases
 - PCIA charge
 - EE Business Plans
- Policy Best Practices
 - Just Solutions Energy Affordability Library (LERN)
- Local engagement/coordination opportunities
 - Assembly Utility Committee and related bills
 - Letter XX
 - EmpowerDSM coordination group
 - CivicWell Policy Bridge Event and Playbook
 - **Local Government Climate Policy Alliance**
 - LGSEC
 - CalCCA
 - RENs



Group Discussion

[Access Report](#)

SLECC 2026 Priorities Update

Priority 2: STREAMLINED FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION

Streamlining funding access and implementation support for community-driven climate action plans and clean energy, efficiency and decarbonization initiatives in difficult times

Barriers:

- **Transitioning to Implementation: Planning Capacity**
- **Insufficient Investment**
- **Unstable Assistance**
- **Application Burden & Accessibility**
- **Representation & Inclusion**

Top Solutions

- *Develop a dedicated, flexible, and stable state funding program for CAP implementation, deployed through state-funded regional bodies or hubs and available on a formula or rolling basis to jurisdictions with an eligible CAP that meet community participation requirements, supported by regionalized technical assistance*
- *Support unfunded projects by establishing a project pipeline and ID/match to various capital sources*

Progress Pathways

Engage in Administrative Pathways

- **SGC/SLECC Funding Access and Alignment Initiative (focus on existing sources like SB 54 Implementation and capital stacking research)**
- **CEC [Draft Building Energy Action Plan](#) - comments submitted Feb 20**
- **CEC [SB 100 Joint Agency Report](#) - comments due March 20**
- **CARB GGRF Allocations and CCI Investment Planning**
- CARB 2027 Scoping Plan
- LCI/CARB's Climate Action Plan Technical Advisory
- LCI's CEQA mitigation fees
- CNRA Prop 4 Funding Deployment
- CEC/CPUC EPIC 5 Investment Period [Strategic Objectives](#)

Track

- **Legislative pathways** (The Local Government Climate Policy Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Little Hoover Commission, CivicWell, other)
 - [Cap and Invest Expenditure Plan](#) and budget bills
 - **AHSC - trailer bill**
- **Regulatory pathways** (LGSEC participation in proceedings: CPUC Energy Efficiency, Self Generation Incentive Program)
 - **CPUC EE Business Plans**



Group Discussion

[Access Report](#)

SLECC 2026 Priorities Update

Priority 3: GRID RESILIENCE & DER INTEGRATION

Building local energy resilience through improved utility processes for interconnection, grid infrastructure, and distributed energy resources

Barriers:

- **Grid Infrastructure**
- **Interconnection and Energization Processes**
- **Energy Resilience**
- **Transportation Electrification**

Top Solutions

- *Strengthen regulation of the Investor Owned Utilities (eg PG&E). Make hearing their rate cases at the CPUC contingent on meeting grid performance and safety goals first.*
- *Accelerate and standardize interconnection timelines and requirements.*
- *Expand procurement pathways that allow CBOs, Tribes, and small jurisdictions to implement community-scale energy-resilience projects (e.g. microgrids, solar + storage systems, behind the meter batteries and EV-based backup storage at critical communities facilities).*

Progress Pathways

Engage in Administrative Pathways

- **CEC [Draft Building Energy Action Plan](#) - [comments submitted Feb 20](#)**
- **CEC [SB 100 Joint Agency Report](#) - [comments due March 20](#)**
- CEC [2026-2027 Clean Transportation Program Investment Plan](#)
- CEC [2024-2026 Integrated Resources Planning Cycle](#)
- CEC [Informational Proceeding on Distributed Energy Resources in CA's Energy Future](#)
- [CPUC Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment](#)
- State funding programs: SGC Community Resilience Centers, **CARB and CEC EV grants and incentives**

Track

- **Legislative pathways** (The Local Government Climate Policy Alliance, CalSSA, EmpowerDSM, CivicWell, other)
 - Sen Allen letter: audit of CPUC oversight on interconnection
- **Regulatory pathways**
 - CPUC R.25-08-004 Phase 1 and 2
 - CPUC R.21-06-017 High Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Proceeding



Progress on 2026 Priorities

Legislative & Regulatory Pathways

Featuring

- **Geoff Neill** | Nielsen Merksamer
- **Lucia Baesemann** | Local Government Climate Alliance

2025–26 BUDGET & LEGISLATIVE SESSION

California Climate & Energy Policy Update

Prop 4 & GGRF budget allocations, key bills passed and failed, and Prop 45 CEQA streamlining

Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer
gneill@nmgovlaw.com
(916) 267-1679

AB 113 — \$2.66 Billion from Prop 4

- Water — \$1.05 billion
- Clean air & energy — \$355.6 million
- Wildfire & forest resilience — \$329.5 million
- Biodiversity & nature-based climate solutions — \$288.4 million
- Extreme heat mitigation — \$245.9 million
- Coastal resilience — \$204.2 million
- Parks & outdoor access — \$103.8 million
- Climate smart agriculture — \$103.6 million

Inside the \$355.6M for Clean Air & Energy

- **\$322.6 million — Transmission Accelerator at I-Bank**
 - Public financing of clean energy transmission projects, via GO-Biz and the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank).
- **\$10 million — CEC Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program**
 - Grants or loans supporting distributed backup electricity assets.

AB 113 — GGRF Allocations

- Geothermal development: additional \$10 million (brings total to \$20 million)
- \$20 million to CARB for community emissions reduction plans (AB 617)
- \$20 million (General Fund & Prop 4) for the Distributed Electricity Backup Assets Program — new clean microgrids and distributed clean energy/storage projects
- \$230 million restored for SB 125 transit capital and operations
- AHSC (Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities): estimated \$57 million — well short of the \$240 million target under SB 840

Utility Bill Affordability & Accountability

- **SB 905 (Becker) — passed**
 - Alternative financing for IOU infrastructure projects; CPUC to consider reduced ROE on certain capital costs, including undergrounding.
- **AB 1715 (Schiavo) — passed**
 - IOUs must report taxpayer funding above \$1 million.

Grid Flexibility & Distributed Energy

- SB 913 (Becker) — authorizes and expands use of aggregated distributed energy resources (DERs) to satisfy resource adequacy requirements
- SB 868 (Wiener) — allows plug-in solar without interconnection requirements
- AB 1813 (Ward) — greater compensation for grid energy from community renewable (DG) generators, increasing subscriber benefits
- AB 2313 (Berman) — gas line replacement projects must offer a monetary incentive to end gas service instead
- AB 2493 (Petrie Norris) — creates independent oversight and enforceable accountability for transmission and interconnection project delays
- SB 222 (Wiener) — requires HOAs to allow residential heat pumps; requires cities/counties to offer asynchronous inspections, online permitting, and other streamlining

Data Centers: New Energy Oversight

- SB 887 (Padilla) — confirms CEQA applies to data centers, with streamlining for projects meeting clean energy, sustainability, EJ, and labor requirements
- SB 886 (Padilla) — requires new tariffs for data centers so costs aren't shifted to other ratepayers
- AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan) — data centers must report energy usage/efficiency to the CEC and local agencies; feeds into the 2029 IEPR
- AB 2383 (Zbur) — requires special tariffs for data centers

Permitting & Resource Planning

- SB 222 (Wiener) — requires HOAs to allow residential heat pumps; requires cities and counties to offer asynchronous inspections and other streamlining, such as online permitting and limiting extra criteria
- AB 2111 (Papan) — aims to better incorporate uncertainty and risk into resource portfolio planning, informing transmission planning; sponsored by community choice aggregators (CCAs)

Bills That Did Not Pass

- AB 2508 (Hoover) — would have moved REN funding from energy bills to the GGRF, subject to optional annual appropriations by the Legislature
- SB 1097 (Wiener) — would have created a CEQA exemption for existing transmission lines
- SB 978 (Pérez) — would have created a special rate structure for data centers

Prop 45 — CEQA Streamlining

- Streamlines CEQA review for transmission lines and for facilities that produce, generate, or store clean electricity
- Also streamlines CEQA for housing, infrastructure, and many other public-benefit projects

CONTACT INFO

Call Me, Maybe

Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer
gneill@nmgovlaw.com
(916) 267-1679



Local Government
Climate Alliance

Linking policy to progress

LGCA leverages the collective influence of cities and counties to advocate for climate policies that deliver tangible benefits to local communities across California.

Current members represent ~9% of CA

Cities

Cupertino
Goleta
Mountainview
Salinas
Pico Rivera
San Francisco
San Luis Obispo
San Rafael

Cities

Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz
Santa Monica
Sunnyvale
West Hollywood
Elk Grove
Berkeley

Counties

Monterey
Santa Clara
San Mateo
Yolo County
Santa Cruz
Ventura
LA County
Santa Barbara

Affiliates

SBCCOG

2026 Policy Priorities: Energy Affordability

**Reduce
Pressure on
Electric Rates to
Incentivize
Building
Electrification**

**Expand Access
to Local
Renewable
Energy and
Resilient Power
Systems**

**Strengthen Public
Accountability,
Transparency and
Local Government
Participation in
Energy Regulation**

**Scale Investment
in the Equitable
Decarbonization
& Workforce
Development**

**Modernize
Interconnection
and Enable
Distributed
“Plug-and-Play”
Clean Energy**

2026 Priority Bill Slate - LGCA Supports

1. [AB 2463 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#) – Utility Return on Equity Reform 
2. [AB 2313 \(Berman\)](#) – Home Energy Choice / Electrification 
3. [SB 905 \(Becker\)](#) – Electricity Charge Structure Reform 
4. [SB 1138 \(Padilla\)](#) – Resource Adequacy Flexibility
5. [AB 1677 \(Boerner\)](#) – Electricity Affordability

Why did we form LGCA?

- Local governments **lack a unified, influential voice**
- Existing municipal **lobbyists are spread thin and often lack deep expertise** on complex climate issues.
- The Alliance provides **dedicated focus and technical expertise**
- By joining forces, **cities and counties amplify their influence**
- The Alliance **strengthens credibility with state decision makers**
- A coordinated platform allows local governments to **proactively shape legislation rather than react** to it.



Discussion

*Please add questions
in the chat*

Q&A and Discussion



Progress on 2026 Priorities

Presentations & Audience Discussion

Featuring

- **Angela Hacker** | California Climate and Energy Collaborative
- **Sean Kennedy** | California Strategic Growth Council

- **Danna Stroud** | GoBiz (Jobs First)

- **Nicole Hernandez** | CARB (Lowering Burdens Report)



Streamlined Funding and Implementation

REACH & Assistance Marketplace

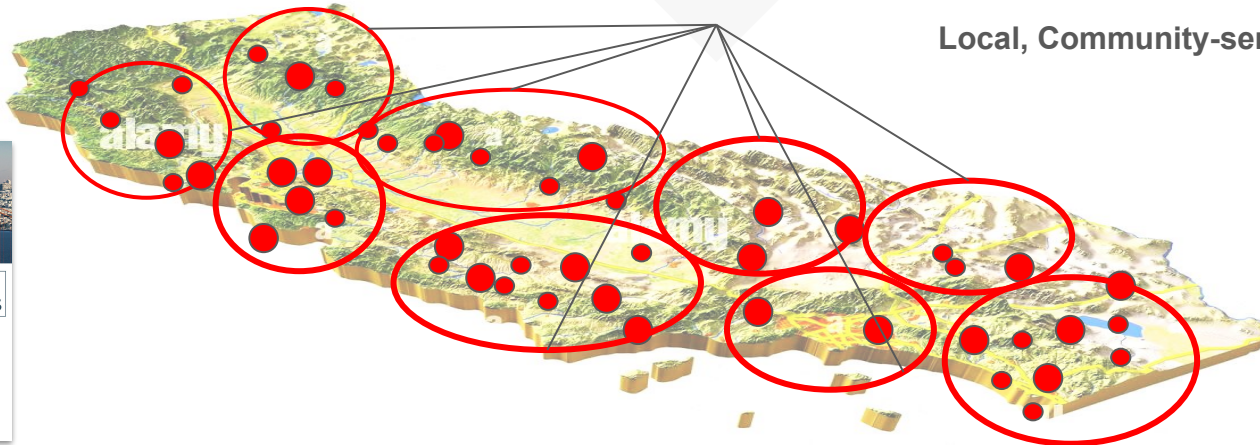
California State Agencies



**SLECC
REACH**

Local, Community-serving Organizations

- Local governments (cities, counties, special districts)
- Regional agencies (APCD, COGs, CCAs, RENs)
- Tribal governments & intertribal consortiums
- Philanthropic organizations
- CBOs/NGOs
- Academia
- Regional collaboratives





Next Phase of REACH

[Access Report](#)

REACH aims to help regions access sustained funding and assistance to advance their priorities and projects

- **AMPLIFYING PRIORITIES**
- **SUSTAINING REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
 - Join our [Assistance Marketplace](#) and email me if you'd like to discuss TA opportunities
- **EXPLORING PROJECT PIPELINES**
 - If you're working in this space, email me to join our Project Acceleration Study Cohort kick off meeting on September 17th

ahacker@civicwell.org





Streamlined Funding and Implementation

REACH & Assistance Marketplace

Assistance Marketplace

CCEC's Assistance Marketplace is a regional based guide showcasing organizations in all nine regions of California (iteratively updated) that provide funding, incentives, or technical assistance to local, tribal, CBOs, or NGOs to an individual region.

3C-REN

Description of Assistance Opportunity:
Energy Efficiency Programs

Region(s) Served: Central Coast

Who is providing this assistance:
Organization: 3C-REN
Org Type: County
Contact: Itzel Torres

[LINK TO ASSISTANCE](#)

Assistance Type:	Activities Covered:	Eligibility:
Incentives	- Climate Action Planning & Implementation - Building Energy Efficiency & Electrification - Electric Vehicle & Charging Infrastructure	- Tribal Governments - Tribal Residents - Cities - Counties - Individuals - COGs - Nonprofits

Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planning

Description of Assistance Opportunity:

Region(s) Served: San Francisco Bay Area

Who is providing this assistance:
Organization: Acterra
Org Type: Nonprofit Organization
Contact: Jacquelyne Marlene Vera

Add your opportunity to the marketplace!

Help us grow the marketplace! Add your organization and the assistance you provide via this form.

Use these filters to drill down by region or by assistance type etc.

Regions Served

- ☐ North Coast
- ☐ Sacramento Valley
- ☐ San Francisco Bay Area
- ☐ Central Coast
- ☐ Sierra Nevada
- ☐ San Joaquin Valley
- ☒ Greater Los Angeles
- ☐ Inland Deserts
- ☐ San Diego
- ☐ Statewide





Streamlined Funding and Implementation

Project Inventory - Possible Utility and Use Cases

○

**<Insert Amaury slides (3
minutes)>**



CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development

Jobs First updates

Danna Stroud

SLECC Quarterly Meeting | September 3, 2026

California Jobs

First

investments in key sectors
to drive sustainable economic growth,
innovation, and access to good-paying
jobs.



CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
Food and Agriculture



CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency



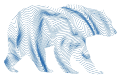
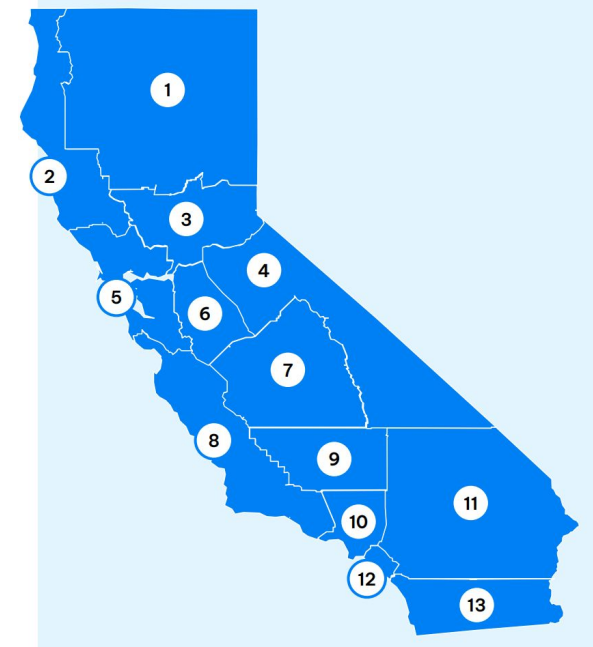
CALIFORNIA
NATURAL
RESOURCES
AGENCY



We've implemented a regional strategy for economic development

13 Jobs First Regions:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. North State | 8. Central Coast |
| 2. Redwood Coast | 9. Kern County |
| 3. Capital | 10. LA County |
| 4. Sierra | 11. Inland SoCal |
| 5. Bay Area | 12. Orange County |
| 6. North San Joaquin | 13. Southern Border |
| 7. Central San Joaquin | |



The CA Economic Blueprint drives growth in key industries

What is the CA Economic Blueprint?

- Launched February 2025
- **Business and workforce strategy** for industry development & job creation
- **Statewide planning effort** informed by California's 13 Jobs First regions
- **Priority sectors** identified for every region



The State has invested in Jobs First

Since the launch of Jobs First, the State has dispersed **\$428.5 million** to support economic development initiatives across California.

October 2022

\$65 million for each of the 13 regional collaboratives (\$5 million per region)

March 2024

\$182 million in Catalyst Funding (\$14 million per region, of which \$9 million was granted to pre-development projects)

September 2025

\$80 million for Round 1 of the Regional Investment Initiative, supporting eleven projects

May 2023

\$39 million for eight “ready to go” pilot projects

July 2025

\$15 million in Tribal Implementation Funding, supporting fourteen projects

August 2026

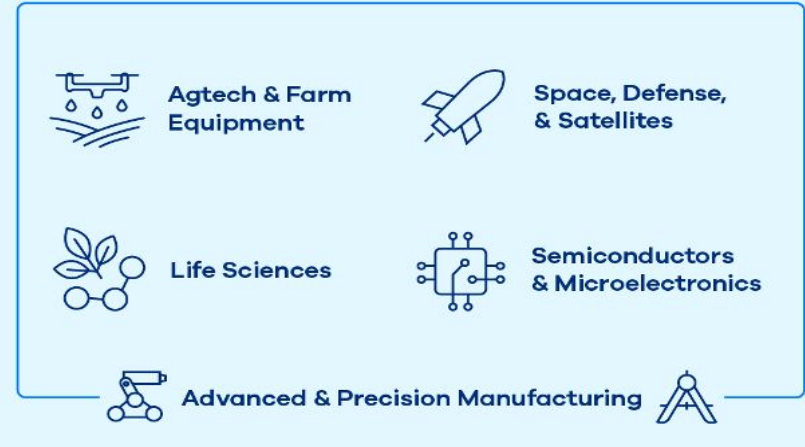
\$48.5 million for Round 2 of the Regional Investment Initiative awarded – 18 projects

Four strategic industry sectors are receiving targeted support

State support includes:

- **Sector Working Groups** – Regional reps meet monthly to discuss industry needs
- **Jobs First Council** – State agency leaders convene quarterly to tackle roadblocks
- **Incentives & funding** – Coordination of state incentives, including new RII grant
- **Targeted industry engagement** – Meeting employers and leading State presence at major events

Sector Pilots



GO-Biz is supporting multiple initiatives and activities under the Jobs First umbrella

Jobs First Council Meetings August 2026 and November 2026

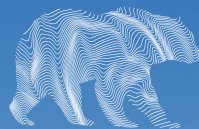
- Working to outline and produce a Jobs First transition “playbook” for the new administration with proposed goals and objectives for the continuation of Jobs First initiatives

Permit Streamlining Academy

- Established via a grant agreement with CA Association of Local Economic Developers (CALED), the Academy will launch late fall of 2026 for local government permitting staff

Opportunity Zone 2.0

- In partnership with the Dept. of Finance and the Governors Office, a final nomination list of 618 eligible census tracts will be submitted to the U.S. Treasury by September 28, 2026
- The new designations will be in effect starting January 1, 2027
- GO-Biz will provide technical assistance for newly designated tracts to leverage the investment opportunities



CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Danna Stroud
danna.stroud@gobiz.ca.gov



California Climate Investments:
Proposed Supplemental Guidance Document
to Avoid Burdens or Harms to Priority Populations

Nicole Hernandez

What is California Climate Investments?



 AGRICULTURE	 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
 ENERGY	 TRANSPORTATION
 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS	 WASTE DIVERSION
 PLANNING AND RESEARCH	 WATER
 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Administering Agencies



Funding Guidelines Principles

Facilitate GHG emissions reductions

Target investments to priority populations

Avoid potential burdens or harms

Maximize economic, environmental, and public health benefits for communities across the State

Ensure transparency and accountability

Funding Guidelines Requirement II.C.5



“Administering agencies must consider and **avoid potential substantial burdens or harms to priority populations** throughout program design and into project selection”

California Climate Investments Definition of Burden or Harm



Adverse impacts from implementing a climate program to:

- Regions
- Communities
- Households
- Cultures
- Environments

These impacts can **introduce, continue, or worsen** existing inequities or patterns of injustice

A burden or harm can be **direct** or **indirect**, and **exist across time** from design to implementation to long-term impacts

Supplemental Guidance to Avoid Burdens to Priority Populations



Phase 1: Identify Potential Burdens

- A. Learn about types of burdens
- B. Identify potential burdens
- C. Community engagement



Phase 2: Develop Strategies to Avoid Burdens

- A. Implement strategies in program design
- B. Implement strategies in project selection
- C. Community engagement

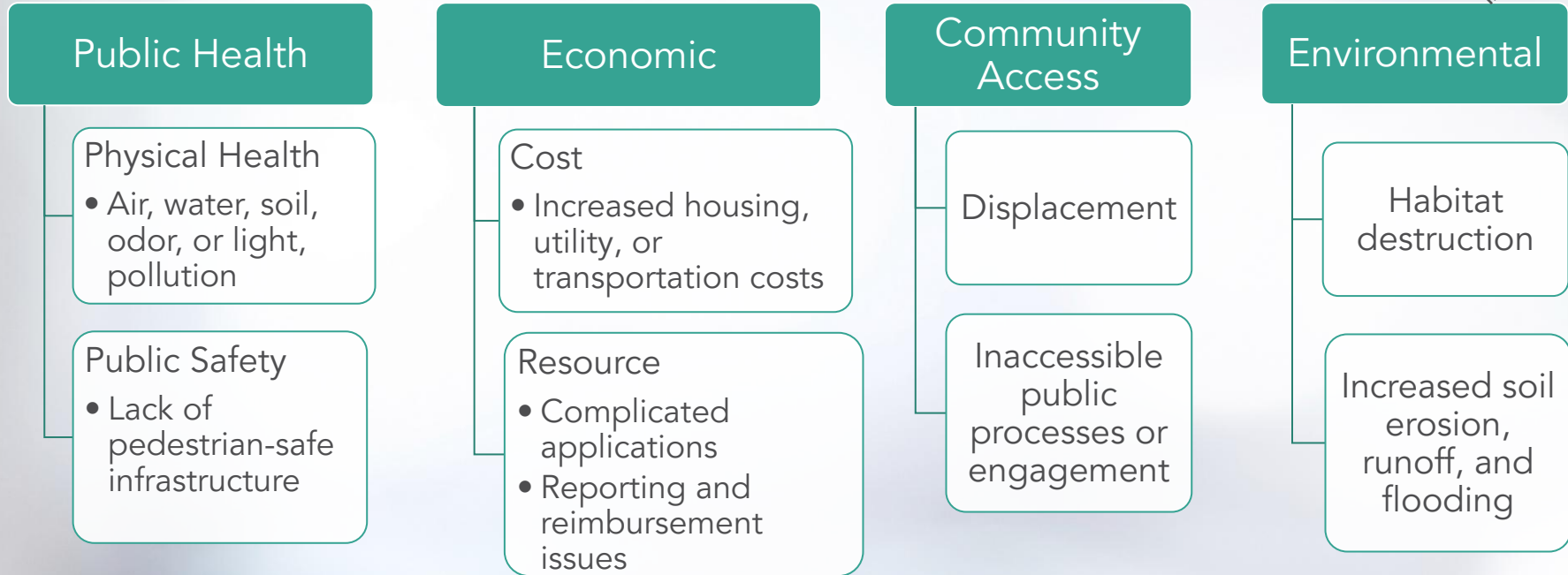


Phase 3: Evaluate Outcomes and Identify Improvements

- A. Monitor projects and evaluate outcomes
- B. Build capacity and improve burden avoidance

Phase 1: Identify Potential Burdens

Step A: Learn about types of burdens



Discussion Question: What kinds of burdens do you see or experience that you want us to include?

Phase 1: Identify Potential Burdens

Example Strategies



Step B: Identify potential program and project type burdens

- Existing reports, letters, or feedback from communities
- Data mapping tools: CalEnviroScreen and Healthy Places Index
- Health Impact Assessments

Step C: Conduct meaningful community engagement

- Share identified burdens and confirm with communities
- Ask communities to share additional burdens
- Ask communities to recommend strategies to avoid the identified burdens

Discussion Question: What strategies for identifying potential burdens would you want to see us uplift and encourage?

Phase 2: Develop Strategies to Avoid Burdens

Example Strategies



Steps A & B: Implement strategies to avoid burdens in program design and project selection

Project activities and locations

- Incentivize burden avoidance plans
- Burden reducing activities as eligible costs
- Require projects to demonstrate they will not worsen existing burdens

Community engagement

- Require community and Tribal partnerships or advisory committees
- Incentivize community benefit agreements
- Require regular reporting, communication, and feedback processes

Support and accessibility

- Streamline and simplify application processes and requirements
- Fund capacity building activities and provide technical assistance
- Navigate Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity carefully

Discussion Question: What strategies would you encourage us to include to meaningfully avoid or reduce burdens?

Burdens Identification and Strategy Tool and Supporting Resources



California Climate Investments Burdens Identification and Strategy Tool

Burdens Identification and Strategy Tool

Purpose: The Burdens Identification and Strategy Tool is for agencies administering California Climate Investments programs to track how they are avoiding potential substantial burdens to priority populations in program design and project selection. The tool follows the three-phase approach in the *Supplemental Guidance to Avoid Substantial Burdens or Harms to Priority Populations*. Administering agencies must complete the required portions of the Burdens Identification and Strategy Tool when creating new or updating expenditure records or program guidelines or posting solicitations, as feasible. The required responses of the BIST must be reflected in the program's expenditure record. The strategies identified in the BIST to avoid burdens should be incorporated into program materials such as guidelines and solicitations, as applicable.

Who uses it: Agencies that administer California Climate Investments.

Background: The *Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments* requires that administering agencies "must consider and avoid potential substantial burdens or harms to priority populations." The *Supplemental Guidance to Avoid Substantial Burdens or Harms to Priority Populations* provides a three-phase approach to identify burdens and implement recommended strategies to avoid the identified burdens. For more examples and resources, see the *California Climate Investments Avoiding Burdens and Harms Webpage* and the *California Climate Investments Roadmap*. The terms "burden" and "harm" are used interchangeably within the context of California Climate Investments. For simplicity, the word "burden" will be used throughout this tool.

Phases to Identify and Avoid Potential Burdens

The three-phase approach outlined in the *Supplemental Guidance to Avoid Substantial Burdens or Harms to Priority Populations* is as follows.

Phase 1: Identify Potential Burdens. Administering agencies must identify potential burdens that may result from the program and project types.

Phase 2: Develop Strategies to Avoid Burdens. Administering agencies must consider and avoid potential burdens throughout program design and project selection.

Phase 3: Evaluate Outcomes and Identify Improvements. Administering agencies should evaluate the impact of the implemented burden avoidance strategies and identify opportunities to improve burden avoidance at the program and project levels.

Avoiding Burdens or Harms

Agencies that administer California Climate Investments programs must avoid burdens to priority populations. The following draft resources help support agencies in meeting this requirement.

Many communities across California encounter disproportionate climate risks, environmental and health hazards, and lower capacity to adapt to climate change. Equity and environmental justice must be centered in every policy, program, and project, ensuring that climate solutions do not increase burdens for disadvantaged and low-income communities, particularly communities of color and California Native American Tribes.

California Climate Investments released draft guidance and resource pages to help administering agencies avoid burdens. All resources on this page are open for public comment until August 31, 2026. Submit feedback to ggrfprogram@arb.ca.gov.

Explore the following resources to learn about recommendations and examples for avoiding burdens

GUIDANCE
DOCUMENT

SUPPORTING
RESOURCES

PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHTS

OTHER
RESOURCES

Conclusion

- We invite public comment on the draft supplemental guidance and resources by **September 15, 2026**
- View the guidance and resources and submit public comment at caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/public-participation-opportunities
- Contact information:
 - To submit public comments and for questions: GGRFProgram@arb.ca.gov
 - Avoiding Burdens Guidance Lead: Nicole.Hernandez@arb.ca.gov



Discussion

*Please add questions
in the chat*

Q&A and Discussion



Regional Breakout - Project Huddles

Report Out & Takeaways

- **Facilitators:** Please share key regional assistance providers you identified that can help get projects in the region “unstuck”
- **All:** Discuss takeaways or questions



Contact Angie Hacker
ahacker@civicwell.org



What's Next?

- Catalyst Convening North Coast (in person, Sept 15)
- REACH Project Acceleration Study Cohort Kickoff Meeting (online, Sept 17 at 11am)
- Catalyst Convening Inland Deserts (in person, Oct 6)
- SLECC Partner Meeting (online, Nov 19, 11am)
- Next SLECC meeting (online, Dec 3)
 - Potential Topics: CPUC non energy benefits, Regulatory update from LGSEC and CPUC, CARB Scoping Plan...

***Thank you for continued help improving
state-local coordination!***