

CAF Track 2: **Integrated Planning for Holistic Solutions**

Workshop #3: **Effective Regional Planning & Collaboration**

Tuesday, September 28th • 1:00 - 3:00 PM

[Main Session Recording](#)

Description

The landscape-level impacts of climate change do not recognize the political boundaries and sector-based silos that adaptation practitioners must often operate within. Recognizing the importance and benefits of regional collaboration, many communities and jurisdictions are working together to share information, develop plans, and implement solutions at the regional scale. This workshop will highlight examples of effective multijurisdictional planning and regional collaboration, as well as key tools and resources to support regional efforts. Participants will engage in a series of discussions to explore the big elephants in the room: how do we define regions; what is the ideal role of regional climate collaboratives, who should be leading regional planning; and how do we hold ourselves accountable to advance regional priorities?

Track Facilitators

- **Whitney Brennan** | Acting Program Supervisor for Landscape Forestry, California Tahoe Conservancy
 - **Peggy Nguyen** | Environmental Supervisor, City of Los Angeles
 - **Reema Shakra** | Senior Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.
 - **Julia Kim** | Climate & Energy Program Director, Local Government Commission
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Welcome

Code of Conduct and Group Norms

- Find the CAF Code of Conduct and Group Norms for Track 2 [here](#).

Recap from Postcard Design Exercise from Workshop #2

- View the Postcard Design Exercise from the last workshop [here](#).

Presentations

Presentation slides can be viewed [here](#).

Multijurisdictional LHMP Planning | Lisa Hulette, Permit Sonoma, Sonoma County

- What is Mitigation?
 - Mitigation is one of the 5 phases of Emergency Management
 - It is risk reduction and these projects should provide benefit to the community that they serve
- There are two types of Disaster Planning
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - These plans are proactive
 - They develop action to reduce or eliminate risk from future hazard events
 - Emergency Operations Plan
 - These plans are reactive
 - They establish overall operational concepts
- What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?
 - Establishes a broad local vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risk
 - These plans are **not** policy.
 - Making connections with the needs of policymakers and the communities that they serve
- Why a multi-jurisdictional HMP?
 - Oftentimes these plans serve specific boundaries or territories and hazards such as wildfires have no regard for these jurisdictional boundaries. This multi-jurisdictional cooperation is necessary to effectively address these hazards.
 - Enhance public awareness and understanding across jurisdictional boundaries
- Steering Committee and County Team
 - TetraTech was hired as a consultant to help put together this 800-page plan
 - Non-traditional associates such as The Nature Conservancy and CalFire were considered in order to bring in a non-traditional perspective. This helped to communicate policy with, and generally engage with, community members throughout Sonoma County.
- The Draft Plan
 - Two Volumes
 - V1 applies to all planning partners
 - V2 is jurisdiction specific
- Mission Statement of the plan
 - Create a resilient Sonoma County for the whole community
- Objectives of the SoCo Hazard Plan
 - Encourage the incorporation of mitigation best management measures into plans, codes, and other regulatory standards

- Sonoma County Hazard Plan Story Map
 - Presents updated hazard and risk data for Sonoma County communities and provides opportunities for community input and involvement
 - Wildfire hazard Index Map
 - Identifies areas of high and low risk to damage by wildfires
 - This information is incredibly important when applying for funding or when adjusting for future policy
- Project Timeline
 - Funding for this project was recently approved FEMA/ Cal OES
 - For more information you may go to the [Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Website](#) or reach out via email at: PRMD-HazardMitigation@sonoma-county.org

Regional Collaboration Beyond Information Sharing | Julia Kim, Climate Change & Energy Program Director, Local Government Commission

- The Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRCRC) is a multidisciplinary network of local and regional agencies, organizations, businesses, and association working together to advance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts throughout California's 6-county Capital Region
- Even though CRC is an example of moving beyond information sharing, these processes do all begin with information sharing
 - Several years ago an urban heat island study was conducted in the Sacramento Area. This study found that heat generated in the urban core of Sacramento migrates into other parts of the surrounding area.
- After conducting this study and creating a Regional Urban Heat Island model CRC was awarded funding through the SB-1 Adaptation Planning Grant by Caltrans, and this is where the regional collaborative was essential.
 - It was vital to pull together support from other members of the collaborative in order to create a robust application that was in the end successful.
- Keeping cool in the capitol Region
 - CRCRC developed a detailed model of the Urban Heat Island Effective
 - This model measures the effectiveness of various heat mitigation measures
 - The Urban Heat Island Mitigation Plan is not a formal plan. It is a set of strategies and potential road maps for mitigation implementation efforts.
 - Some of the primary heat mitigation methods explored through this plan were Urban Greening/ Urban Forestry and increasing Albedo through Cool Covers and Cool Pavement
- Current Priorities and Next Steps
 - CRCRC formed a working group focused on extreme heat and urban greening.
 - CRCRC Working Group

- Working Group members are working to devise a strategy for engaging additional local agencies to advance cooling solutions.
- Local Engagement
 - CRCRC staff and members will work together to engage local agencies throughout the region to advance priority solutions
- Grant Support
 - CRCRC will then assist local agencies and organizations in securing resources to implement cooling solutions by identifying grant opportunities, developing project concepts and supporting applications.

Regional Planning Tools and Resources | Reema Shakra, Senior Planner, Rincon Consultants, Inc.

- [Regional Resilience Toolkit:](#)
 - This toolkit consists of 5 steps to build large scale resilience to natural disasters and was originally established by FEMA and EPA
 - It has a broader focus than just adaptation and also includes resiliency measures which can include non-climate change related topics such as earthquakes.
- [SFEI Resilience Atlas](#)
 - This tool provides cutting-edge science and accessible data on shoreline characteristics, infrastructure, vulnerability, and restoration that can be used by communities for vulnerability assessments.
 - Does not consider boundaries such as district or county boundaries, is meant to be cross-jurisdictional
 - The intent of this tool is to acknowledge nature-based solutions to sea-level rise in the greater bay Area
- [Silicon Valley 2.0 Climate Change Preparedness Decision Support Tool](#)
 - This tool provides support to the entirety of Santa Clara County with climate risk assessment, adaptation and resilience planning.
 - Silicon Valley 2.0 is being updated to include other social factors.
 - Decision Support Tool allows users to run customized queries using regionally-specific data. This will help cities to understand their vulnerabilities specific to their jurisdictions.
- [SCAG Regional Climate Adaptation Framework](#)
 - This Framework includes templates for workshops and community outreach & engagement strategies
 - This contains a step-by-step guide focused on southern California case studies
 - Includes model policies
- [Resilient IE Toolkit](#)
 - Interactive map depicting city-level evacuation routes with the ability to overlay hazard layers

Panel Discussion/ Q&A

How did the planning effort help with establishing a foundation for interjurisdictional coordination?

Lisa: During the pandemic the County of Sonoma had to make additional efforts to build those connections. This included scheduling meetings with various jurisdictional groups and reaching out to planning partners personally on a regular basis.

How did you incorporate climate change into your Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Lisa: The plan contains a chapter on climate change that was authored in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and Pepperwood Preserve and TetraTech. While the plan does not specifically include climate change predictions this chapter is acting as a placeholder and offers analysis of the impacts of climate change and the tangible effects they have on the land.

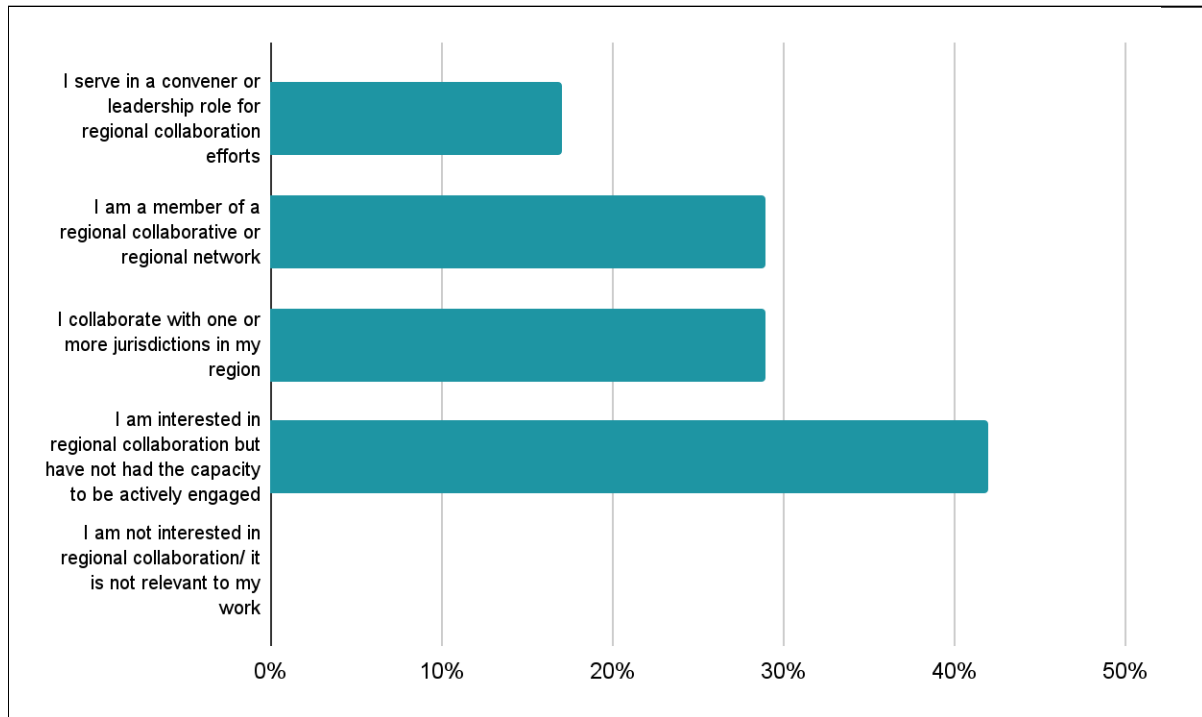
What do you see as key factors to successful regional coordination and collaboration?
What funding opportunities exist that could provide preference to regional collaboratives?

Lisa: There has never been this much money specifically for climate mitigation and resiliency in many years and for many administrations. We need to put that money to use now as we might not have an opportunity such as this one again for quite some time.

Julia: While we always need more resources, we are in a very exciting time for adaptation planning in California. There are constantly new funding opportunities coming down the pipeline. It is all about relationships. We have to find who those champions are and find those voices who are often left out of the conversation and then bring them into the fold.

Audience Poll

How are you currently engaging in regional collaboration for climate adaptation?



Key Takeaways from Collaborative Discussion

Notes captured in the Jamboard [here](#).

- BEACON is related to erosion and beach nourishment. While this is focused on climate mitigation and resiliency there are currently efforts to try to connect climate resilience and sediment management from a watershed to ocean perspective.
- The BayCAN Working Group has compiled a number of resources for the member agencies in the Bay Area. BAYCAN recently released a guide for climate adaptation practitioners to integrate equity into their work. This includes a framework for compensating CBOs for their time and efforts.
- The Climate Science Alliance of Southern California focuses on making the connection between climate change in regards to policy and a scientific standpoint. It also helps to provide grant funding to local governments.
- The Tribal Climate Health Project has an Exposures, Impacts, and Strategies (EISI) Tool that allows access to the highest quality data available to the public.

Report Outs from Breakout Session

Group 1: How should a “region” be defined? Who should be leading regional planning and what authorities are needed?

- How should a region be defined?
 - Watersheds
 - Metropolitan Boundaries
 - Regions should be defined in a way that recognizes existing governance structures
 - Regions should be determined by the issue that communities are addressing. For instance, if sea-level rise is the issue being addressed, perhaps a coastal region for collaboration should be formed in order to address this issue.
- Who should be leading regional planning and what authorities are needed?
 - It is dependent on the problem that is being addressed. Regardless, there would need to be collaboration with local governments and the communities in the areas served.

Group 2: What is the ideal function of regional collaboratives and how do we get there? What would we see as indicators of success?

- What is the ideal function of regional collaboratives and how do we get there?
 - Creating genuine partnerships with private-sector actors, climate scientists, CBOs, local governments, regional stakeholders, and tribal governments.
 - Providing support with accessing grants, policy permitting, and peer learning groups.
- What would we see as indicators of success?
 - A positive response from the communities that are being served
 - Metrics such as JPAs and projects implemented

Group 3: How do we hold ourselves and others accountable to engage in and advance regional adaptation efforts?

- Engage with politicians to set priorities for the communities that they represent
- Build these efforts into grant requirements.
- Be weary of relying too heavily on grant funding as you still want the community leading these efforts.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps:

- This was the final workshop in this track! This track has covered some daunting topics. While there is always much more work to do, through our conversations and interactive exercises we have to no small extent begun to address the issues surrounding effective regional collaboration, inclusive community engagement, and integrated planning. Thank you for participating in these workshops with us!
- The Closing Webinar for this track will be on October 19, 12:30 - 2:00pm