

FACT SHEET

Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)

Background and Summary

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (LACP), in partnership with the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) and Emergency Management Department (EMD), is conducting and preparing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). The CVA examines physical and social vulnerability to the anticipated climate changes of extreme heat, extreme precipitation and flooding, wildfires, sea level rise, drought, and public health, but also considers climate hazard mitigations and strategies needed to address these identified vulnerabilities.

The CVA is an important step to ensure that the City can adapt and be resilient to the impacts of climate change with a strong focus on climate equity. The City will assess climate change impacts, identify at-risk communities and develop adaptation strategies, in partnership with City stakeholders including vulnerable communities and populations, community based organizations, tribal nations and groups, City departments and other agencies.

Program Overview

The CVA conducted a **Climate Hazard Assessment** that will serve as the technical analysis of existing and projected climate hazards and risks to identify the areas impacted by these hazards throughout the City of Los Angeles. A **Social Vulnerability Assessment** was conducted which integrated a detailed assessment of the vulnerability and adaptability of communities and populations across the City to climate hazards and their interplay with pollution, smoke, pre-existing health conditions, economic and social disparities, and the built environment. The **community engagement** process was carried out through a **Community Partners Program** where six community based organizations in communities most impacted by climate hazards and compounding health, economic and social disparities, participated in the CVA process to inform and guide community driven solutions. The six community based organizations the City has partnered with for the CVA are the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Pacoima Beautiful, Promesa Boyle Heights, Rising Communities, Strength Based Community Change (SBCC), and Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education Los Angeles (SCOPE LA). The work explores innovations, models, best practices, and community informed solutions and develops recommendations on equitable climate adaptation strategies and implementation measures that specifically address and prioritize these at-risk communities. The feedback gathered from each of the six Community Partner's outreach efforts was compiled into a **Summary of Input**. A **Climate Vulnerability Assessment Report** will include an executive summary that summarizes the CVA findings and recommendations for how the City can work to equitably address the climate crisis through future work programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) and how does it align with Environmental Justice efforts?

The CVA will help to ensure that the City can adapt and be resilient to the impacts of climate change with a strong focus on climate equity. The CVA will assess climate change impacts, identify at-risk communities and develop adaptation strategies, in partnership with City stakeholders and our Community Partners. The CVA will also analyze the social and physical vulnerability of the City's populations and communities and their sensitivity and adaptability to climate impacts as well as provide recommendations for mitigation and resilience strategies.

The CVA provides recommendations for mitigation strategies and resources that were obtained through meaningful engagement with the most climate hazard exposed communities that are also most under-resourced against climate hazard exposure. These recommendations inform the [environmental justice policy](#) work being undertaken by City Planning's Environmental Justice Policy Unit, as well as other city work programs that are also addressing environmental justice throughout the City. The CVA's findings will help in the development of policies and programs that address climate resilience and equity in the City's General Plan.

What are current City climate efforts and how does this work align with those efforts?

The [Emergency Management Department \(EMD\)](#) recently updated the City's [Local Hazard Mitigation Plan \(LHMP\)](#) which includes mapping projected climate hazards and analyzing impacts related to extreme heat, sea level rise, extreme precipitation and inundation, wildfires and drought. The [Climate Emergency Mobilization Office \(CEMO\)](#) is leading the development of the City's heat action plan to coordinate how the City adapts to increasing heatwaves and droughts, as these are the primary climate hazards for Los Angeles. The CVA has coordinated with both EMD and CEMO to develop adaptation recommendations to be incorporated into existing climate efforts like the LHMP and [Heat Relief 4 LA](#) efforts and future climate planning efforts that ensure climate equity is prioritized. Furthermore, other city departments also have various climate planning efforts around infrastructure and operations that are being reviewed to identify how these efforts can collaborate as the City's overall comprehensive approach.

What was the community engagement process for the CVA?

The community engagement process ensured communities most impacted by climate hazards and compounding health, economic and social disparities, participated in the CVA process to inform and guide community driven solutions. In collaboration with LADCP, CEMO and EMD, a co-designed community engagement process was conducted that partnered with six Community Based Organizations (CBOs), which we referred to as the CVA Community Partners, to meaningfully engage vulnerable and sensitive communities, including Angelenos who traditionally do not engage in government processes, Angelenos of color, and monolingual non-English speakers. The CVA Community Partners are: the [Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians](#), [Pacoima Beautiful](#), [Promesa Boyle Heights](#), [Rising Communities](#), [Strategic](#)

Concepts and Organizing for Policy Education in Los Angeles (SCOPE LA), and Strength Based Community Change (SBCC). Other strategic partners focused on other specific vulnerable populations including the unhoused and outdoor workers. Additional strategic partnerships led to focused engagement with representatives from the [Gabrielino-Shoshone Nation of Southern California](#), the [Anahwakalmekak Indigenous School](#) and [NorthEast Trees](#). Outreach efforts focused on populations residing in South Los Angeles, Northeast Los Angeles, the Harbor, and the Central and North San Fernando Valley, which include areas of the City experiencing the greatest hardships.

What is the difference between the CVA and a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan?

- While the CVA and a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) both seek to help mitigate the effects of climate change on communities, they represent different stages in the policy process. The CVA can be thought of as an inventory of existing climate hazards and the degree of their severity in the City of Los Angeles through data analysis, identifying which communities are most exposed and under-resourced to mitigate those exposures. A CAAP seeks to direct specific actions, work programs and resources at specific issues/hazards and their mitigations. The City of Los Angeles' CVA goes beyond the traditional approach to recommend mitigations and strategies that have been community driven, and are contextualized by the City's baseline data. Furthermore, the City's CVA also identifies work programs and the departments that have some of the recommended mitigation strategies and resources currently underway.

How will the CVA be used?

The CVA is intended to address several purposes and goals. For stakeholders, the recommendations in the report and mitigation table are meant to create transparency about the existing climate work already being done throughout the City. Through the CVA, stakeholders also communicated their priorities for resiliency and the gaps in the work programs the City is currently conducting. For the City, the CVA serves as guidance for next steps as departments prepare for future budget requests to ensure that future work programs prioritize our most vulnerable communities and provide more resources for climate exposure resiliency as well as helping inform how to prepare for large scale events such as the Olympics. It lays the foundation for a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and the development of a citywide climate dashboard by cataloging the existing work programs in the mitigation table to the degree possible. For CBOs, it offers an opportunity to use the CVA to partner with the City and apply for grants where they can implement those mitigations that are a priority at the local level without having to wait for City funding to be available.

Who can I contact for additional information?

For questions — and to be added to City Planning's email notification list, contact: Gabriela Juárez | planning.climate@lacity.org | (213) 978-1199.