

California Climate Adaptation Strategy

CAT Public Health Work Group
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Today's Goals

- Overview of CAS and PH chapter
- Your comments
- Next steps

What is adaptation?

- Efforts to respond to the impacts of climate change
- Adjustments in natural or human systems to actual or expected climate changes
- Goals
 - minimize harm
 - take advantage of beneficial opportunities.

Mitigation and adaptation

- Mitigation: slow & reduce magnitude of climate change (reduce GHG emissions)
- Without mitigation, adaptation capacity will be overwhelmed
- BOTH ARE NECESSARY

Complementary and Conflicting Adaptation and Mitigation Actions			
Favorable Actions		Unfavorable Actions	
Favorable for Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Demand Management • Energy Efficient Buildings • Water Conservation • Biodiversity-Oriented Forestry • "Smart Growth" • Development in Cooler Regions 	Favorable for Mitigation, but Unfavorable for Adaptation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry with Non-Native Species • Urban Forestry (shade trees) with High Water Demand • Some Biofuels Production 	Favorable for Adaptation, but Unfavorable for Mitigation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Peak Energy Demand with Fossil Fuels • Wastewater Recycling and Desalination • Groundwater Banking • Increased Air Conditioner Use • Use of Drainage Pumps in Low Lying Areas 	Unfavorable for Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in Floodplains • Traditional "Sprawl" Development • Development in Hotter Regions

Source: Bedsworth and Hanak (2008) - Reprinted with Permission by Authors

Adaptation approaches

- Hazards based
 - Identify amount and nature of projected climate changes
 - Assess consequences for specific sectors & environments
- Vulnerability based
 - Assess natural or human system's ability to cope with and adapt to change
 - Focus on socioeconomic and ecological factors that influence vulnerability, ability to adapt
- BOTH ARE NECESSARY

Critical factors in adaptation

- Baseline & projected resources
 - economic, technologies, infrastructure, institutional support, access to information
- Public awareness & engagement
- Effective governance
- Sustainably-managed natural resources
- Equity in access to resources

Public Health Chapter

- Climate change impacts on health
 - Heat, air quality, extreme weather events, drought, wildfires, sea level rise, infectious disease, vector/water/food-borne diseases
- Promote community resilience
 - Working group to promote PH considerations in land use/transportation
 - Food security and quality: work with NGOs to promote access to healthy foods
 - Health care access
 - Reduce heat islands

Public Health Chapter ⁽²⁾

- Educate, empower, engage
 - Educational outreach and materials
 - Education re: risk reduction
 - Education re: mitigation & adaptation
 - Occupational safety standards (heat)
 - Training of health professionals
 - Integration of mental health services in disaster response

Public Health Chapter ⁽³⁾

- Promote mitigation & adaptation strategies with public health co-benefits
 - Identify strategies with co-benefits
 - Health Impact Assessments

Public Health Chapter ⁽⁴⁾

- Robust, rapid surveillance
 - Environmental conditions, climate-related illness, vulnerabilities, protective factors, adaptive capacities
 - Implement CSTE indicator set
 - Bio-monitoring
 - Detailed vulnerability assessment
 - Electronic surveillance systems
 - Health information systems (Rapid Response Registry)
 - Water accessibility information
 - Infectious disease monitoring
 - Electronic surveillance systems
 - Emergency monitoring
 - Health information exchange

Public Health Chapter ⁽⁵⁾

- Improve PH preparedness, emergency response
 - PH advisories re climate-related events
 - Refine PH preparedness plans
- Partnership and collaboration
- Research
- Implement policy changes
 - Health in All Policies
- Funding for implementation of PH CAS
- Lead by example