

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Regional Synthesis Reports

Call for Coordinating Lead Authors

The California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) seeks applications from University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) representatives for a funded role leading the development of one of nine Regional Synthesis Reports as a part of California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) will work with OPR to identify experts and community representatives who will contribute to the development of each report. Applicants who are not selected as a CLA may be considered for other funded roles throughout the Fifth Assessment.

Please sign up for the [Climate Change Assessment Email List](#) for updates and announcements or email climateassessment@opr.ca.gov with any questions.

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Application Process (Coordinating Lead Author)

1. Fill in [Fifth Assessment Regional Synthesis Report Author Team Interest Form](#)
2. Please send the following to climateassessment@opr.ca.gov by **November 17th, 2023**, with the subject line, **“CLA Application”**:
 - o **A resume or curriculum vitae**
 - o **Statement of qualifications** (1-2 pages) including a description of:
 - Applicable expertise and demonstrated qualifications (see below)
 - Availability & capacity to meet project deadlines (see timeline below)
 - Primary (3-5) research priorities for the region

Scope and Purpose of Regional Synthesis Reports

California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment is a suite of original research and tools describing the impacts and risks of climate change to equip communities and leaders across the state with the best available science and knowledge to inform their planning and decision-making processes. Worse and more frequent extreme weather events and trends are impacting the state every year, making up-to-date information on climate change imperative to driving sound policy and investment decisions.

Regional Synthesis Reports will be developed for nine regions of California (Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Sierra Nevada, Inland Deserts, Central Coast, North Coast, Los Angeles, San Diego – see map on page 4) through a community-led process that compiles and synthesizes the key findings into regionally focused reports that meet the needs and context of communities across the state. Reports will be used to synthesize new research on the impacts of climate change in California, summarize other relevant resources, and where necessary, fill knowledge gaps. Reports should be written to help guide local and state policy, planning, and action on climate change, including regional and local vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and community resilience efforts.

Anticipated Timeline (subject to change)

Action Item	Key Dates
Call for Regional Synthesis Report Authors/Contributors	Closes November 17th, 2023
OPR selects Coordinating Lead Authors (CLA)	December 1st, 2023
OPR/CLA select Lead Authors (LA)	January
OPR/CLA/LA select Authors/Contributors	January 1- February 28 th , 2024
Expert and Community Advisors will be invited on an	as needed basis
Report development	January 2024-June 2025
Review process	July 2025-December 2025
Final editing, formatting, and design	January 2026-May 2026
Fifth Assessment rollout and release	May-June 2026



Key Themes & Topic Areas

Regional Synthesis Reports shall reference the best available climate science, and address the Fifth Assessment [Climate Research Topics](#) and the following themes, as relevant to the region.

Climate Related Events and Trends:

- Sea Level Rise
- Extreme heat
- Drought
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Ocean Acidification
- Declining snowpack
- Rising temperatures
- Extreme weather events
- Cascading & compound climate change impacts
- Other, as relevant (e.g., groundwater rise, coastal erosion, landslides, air quality, etc.)

Natural, Built, and Social Systems:

- Indigenous Knowledge(s)
- Tribal Communities
- Biodiversity & Habitat
- Agriculture
- Water supply & quality
- Ocean & Coastal Issues
- Open space & Land Use
- Built & Critical Infrastructure (e.g.,
- Transportation, Power Grid, Buildings, Water Conveyance)
- Housing
- Emergency Capacity
- Public Health
- Finance & Insurance
- Labor & Workforce
- Economics
- Equity & Climate Justice
- Policy & Governance
- Communications & Engagement
- Human displacement
- Other, as relevant

Qualifications

Required

- General understanding of climate science, including adaptation and resilience
- Demonstrated expertise in at least one of the Key Themes & Topic Areas (above)
- Experience with CA State contracting processes (Model Agreement-STD 213)
- Proven ability to coordinate large research projects across diverse teams
- Affiliation with a California State University or University of California

Preferred

- Geographic expertise or lived experience in the California region of interest
- Experience working with disadvantaged/environmental justice communities, including experience living and working within these communities
- Existing partnerships in the region, including community-based organizations

Author / Contributor Roles, Responsibilities, Time Commitment & Compensation

**NOTE: Roles, responsibilities and compensation structures reflected below are subject to change depending on the distribution of responsibilities across each individual author team, individual expertise and interest of authors/contributors, and the overall needs and context of each region.*

Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) Compensation: \$65,000-\$100,000

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Must be affiliated with a UC/CSU
- Oversee all administrative logistics and tasks, including invoicing, and subcontracting
- Chair Author Team meetings
- Coordinate with OPR to select additional authors /contributors /advisors, track progress, ensure alignment with State priorities
- Conduct/oversee literature review/research
- Draft report language
- Review and edit all deliverables
- Finalize deliverable(s) in response to peer review process
- Lead or support engagement and focus group meetings/workshops

Estimated Minimum Time Commitment:

- Kickoff meeting
- Author training session
- At least public 2 roll-out presentations (statewide/regional)
- 10-20 regional author team meetings (2-4 hrs. ea.)
- 2 - 4 all authors meetings (up to 8 hrs. ea.)
- At least 2 community engagement workshops, including time for planning
- Time for research, drafting, review, coordination, planning, and administrative oversight

Lead Author Compensation: \$40,000-\$50,000

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Lead for specific topical issues and/or community engagement and outreach for the report development and roll-out in coordination with OPR
- Participate in / co-lead Author Team meetings
- Coordinate with OPR and CLA to select additional authors / contributors / advisors
- Support literature review/research
- Draft, review, and edit relevant deliverables
- Lead or support engagement and focus group meetings/workshops

Estimated Minimum Time Commitment:

- Kickoff meeting
- Author training session
- At least 2 public roll-out presentations (statewide/regional)
- 10-20 regional author team meetings (2-4 hrs. ea.)
- 2 - 4 all authors meetings (up to 8 hrs. ea.)
- At least 2 community engagement workshops
- Time for research, drafting, & review
- Time for planning and outreach

Author Compensation: \$5,000 each (up to 10)

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Participate in author team meetings and relevant focus groups/workshops
- Support drafting, reviews, or editing relevant deliverables
- Provide input on areas of expertise

Estimated Minimum Time Commitment:

- Author team meetings, focus group meetings, and workshops (as relevant)
- Time for drafting and review of relevant report sections

Technical Advisory Committee Compensation: TBD

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Participate in relevant focus groups and workshops led by Author Team leads/OPR
- Provide input on areas of expertise

Estimated Minimum Time Commitment:

- Workshops and focus group meetings (as relevant)
- Time for review

Community Advisory Committee Compensation: TBD

Responsibilities & Expectations:

- Participate in community workshops led by Author Team leads/OPR
- Provide input on areas of expertise

Estimated Minimum Time Commitment:

- Community engagement workshops and focus group meetings (as relevant)
- Time for review

Example Budget (subject to change)

OPR will work with each CLA to finalize budgets for individual Regional Synthesis Reports. Budget items may vary depending on the distribution of work for each regional author team.

Budget Item	Total	Percent
Coordinating Lead Author	\$82,500.00	25%
Lead Author	\$50,000.00	15%
Authors (total)	\$50,000.00	15%
Engagement	\$50,000.00	15%
Overhead	\$82,500.00	25%
Other	\$16,500.00	5%
	\$330,000.00	100%

DRAFT Updated Regional Boundaries

The Fifth Assessment will produce nine regional reports for the areas shown below (North Coast, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, San Francisco Bay Area, Sierra Nevada, Inland Desert, Los Angeles, San Diego). Minor adjustments to these boundaries may be made prior to finalizing the scope of work for each Regional Synthesis Report. Where relevant, Author teams may establish sub-regions to address the unique climate issues in their area of focus.

