

Humboldt
Baykeeper

Inland Empire
Waterkeeper

Klamath
Riverkeeper

Monterey
Coastkeeper

Orange County
Coastkeeper

Russian
Riverkeeper

San Diego
Coastkeeper

San Francisco
Baykeeper

San Luis Obispo
Coastkeeper

Santa Barbara
Channelkeeper

Santa Monica
Baykeeper

Ventura
Coastkeeper

Prepare California for the Consequences of Climate Change

In Brief

Scientific modeling shows that even if greenhouse gas emissions are drastically curtailed, California will still experience significant impacts from climate change. Sea level rise, reduced snow pack, and other impacts will affect our waterways, coastline, and marine ecosystems. The Governor's Climate Change Adaption Strategy reports damage that can reach tens of billions in direct costs alone.



Projected sea level rise will have serious impacts on coastal infrastructure.

Legal Landscape

In November 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed an Executive Order requiring the California Natural Resources Agency to identify and prepare for expected climate change impacts to California. The Governor's Climate Action Team released the California Climate Adaptation Strategy in December 2009, identifying a wide range of adaptation measures and outlining the legal and policy processes to implement them. This year, a Climate Adaptation Advisory Panel will make recommendations on how to implement the Adaptation Strategy. Agencies such as the State Water Board have been taking coordinated action already to identify near-term steps, such as greater use of low-impact development strategies to reduce flooding and increase local water supplies.

Moving Forward

As the consequences of a changing climate unfold for California, federal, state and local policymakers will need to take swift action to integrate adaptation measures into environmental laws and policies. Many key climate adaptation decisions will rest with regional and community governing entities, and will need to be implemented at the local level through General Plans and Local Coastal Plans. For example, Local Coastal Plans will all need to be updated to include a sea level rise analysis and an action plan.

In Your District

Connect with the local Waterkeeper who works to protect your District's waterways: www.cacoastkeeper.org/waterkeepers/california-waterkeepers.

Learn More. Read the state's adopted Climate Change Adaptation Strategy at: <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/>. Follow the Ocean Protection Council's work at: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2009/12/climate-change/>, and the State Water Board's efforts at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/climate/index.shtml.

Key Issues: Climate Change Adaptation, Coastal Development, Water Supply, Habitats

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