

CITIES

How can local governments use the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment?

A primary objective of the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is to provide a foundational assessment that can be used for and enhanced by local city planning efforts. This CVA provides a countywide look at vulnerability, but cities can use the report and mapping tool to go further with local expertise and knowledge about specific communities and infrastructure. Moreover, the CVA helps planners center vulnerable populations and prioritize equitable climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

Cities and local governments are encouraged to use the LA County CVA as a first step in approaching state planning mandates like:

- SB 379, which requires all cities and counties to update the safety elements of their general plans with climate adaptation and resilience strategies, including a vulnerability assessment, set of goals and policies, and set of implementation strategies.
- SB 1000, which requires all cities and counties to include an environmental justice element to their general plans that outlines objectives and policies to reduce the health risks in disadvantaged communities in their jurisdiction.
- SB 1035, which requires, after 2022, the safety element to be reviewed and updated upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard-mitigation plan to address climate adaptation and resiliency and identify new information regarding flood and fire hazards.

As cities update their safety elements, or develop their own vulnerability assessments, the County CVA can help to examine:

- **Broader Climate Impacts**
 - The *Climate Hazards* section discusses and summarizes the extent to which climate hazards like heat, drought and wildfire are anticipated to affect the County.
- **Physical Vulnerability**
 - The *Physical Vulnerability Assessment* analyzes the impacts of climate change on specific types of infrastructure, which can aid in understanding which assets are most at risk in your city.
- **Social Vulnerability**
 - The *Social Vulnerability Assessment* provides an overview of understanding climate change's impact on people and details how climate change is affecting people across the County.
- **Place-Based Findings**
 - The *Mapping Tool* allows the user to combine information about climate hazards like heat with information about populations or infrastructure systems, allowing cities to see overlaps like areas where older adults are living that are projected to see significant increases in extreme heat.
- **Cascading Impacts**
 - Physical and social vulnerability both impact each other greatly. If transportation fails, it affects workers. If workers are unable to get to work, it affects the provision of services. The relationships between these impacts are explored in the *Cascading Impacts Assessment*. This section can help give cities a comprehensive view of how critical infrastructure can be for people, and vice versa.

Aside from informing local planning and directing investment, the **CVA can be used to help apply for government grants** like the state's [Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities \(AHSC\) Program](#), FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#), and the forthcoming programs in the \$3 billion [2021-2022 California State Budget allocation for climate resilience](#). For more state and federal funding opportunities, go to grants.ca.gov or grants.gov.