

# Local Health Department Involvement in State Climate Planning & Activities

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Climate Action Team – Public Health Work Group  
Quarterly Meeting  
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# Barriers to LHD Involvement

<u>At State Level</u>	<u>At Local Level</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of capacity/time/staff</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of capacity/time/staff</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opportunities unclear, don't know the players</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No clear mandate</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concern about limits of authority – don't want to be seen as lobbying</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seen as too political</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Believe impact greater at local or regional level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seen as too distant – need evidence of current local impacts</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of support from local leadership</li></ul>

# Local health department work to improve climate change and health at local and regional level :

- Involvement in SCS/RTP under SB 375
- Climate Action Plans
- Environmental Impact Reports
- General Plans, Bike and Pedestrian Plans, Health element, etc.
- Active transportation, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.



# Where Can Climate Change Fit in LHDs

## Not limited to a single program area

- Public health preparedness (LA, Tulare, Merced)
- Built environment/healthy planning (Alameda County)
- Health equity (BARHII, San Diego)
- Environmental health (LA, Kings, Mendocino)
- Epidemiology/health policy (San Mateo, Contra Costa)
- Health promotion/chronic disease (SLO county)
- Nutrition, local food security, urban ag, farmers' markets
- Health education, community education/engagement
- Infectious disease/vector borne disease
- Public health nursing

# Local Health Departments & State Climate Action

## Actions taken:

- Input on guidelines (e.g., Safeguarding CA Implementation Plan, OPR General Plan Guideline Updates)
- Informational testimony at Senate Committees when asked
- Participation in meetings hosted by assembly members (e.g., Sea Level Rise Summit at NASA)



# LHD Suggestions for the Climate Change & Health Team

- Support dedicated funding for LHDs to work on climate change
- Encourage CDPH to issue a mandate for LHDs to do climate work
- Encourage LHDs to support the local agencies in applying for GGRF funding (i.e., Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Grants)
- Alert LHDs about guidelines and plans needing comments
- Share CDPH Office of Legislative Affairs final list of bills



# LHD Suggestions for the Climate Change & Health Team

- Provide technical assistance
- Provide communications materials that can be tailored to county
- Provide research, tools, and local data, e.g.:
  - Template for local vulnerability assessment
  - Quantify cost savings of climate action at local level
  - Attributable risk of local harms due to climate change
- Model strong leadership for public health involvement



# What do you say, Local Health Depts?

- Shireen Malekafzali, MPH, San Mateo County
- Elizabeth Rhoades, PhD, Los Angeles County
- Others – please join the conversation:  
Call-In #: 888-566-6180  
Passcode: 23151  
Email: [sierrarm@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:sierrarm@calepa.ca.gov)



# Wrap Up



- Updates and Announcements
  - John Faust, CalEPA
  - CalBRACE Program
  - More...
- Feedback/Suggested topics for future meetings

# Thank you!

Networking in the room for 30 minutes

Next meeting: April 19, 2016 1–3:30pm

