



December 5, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Attn: Jennifer Venema
City of Sacramento
Office of Climate Action and Sustainability
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Sacramento Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Preliminary Draft Chapter 7: Adaptation)

Dear Jennifer Venema:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Draft Chapter 7: Adaptation (Adaptation Chapter) of the Sacramento Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

We appreciate the efforts staff have taken in developing the Adaptation chapter of the plan. The CAAP is a critical step to the City of Sacramento's climate action, considering the multi-fold impacts that climate change will have on the city's residents, particularly frontline communities who will suffer the impacts of climate change first and worst.

Civic Thread is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing equitable investment in the built environment. As such, we would like to emphasize the importance of implementing adaptation strategies through an equity lens that prioritizes the needs of vulnerable communities that will be disproportionately impacted by climate disruption. Stated prioritization of historically disinvested communities is included in several places in the Adaptation Chapter, and we encourage the Climate team to ensure that this is done for every strategy in the CAAP. We also recommend the City use stringent language throughout the plan to commit to climate action – e.g., “the City *shall*” rather than “the City will strive to”, particularly for key strategies. We are at a critical juncture, and binding language is important for committing to a path of action. We hope, moving forward, to see the City dedicate funding towards additional sustainability and climate staff, to hasten implementation of this CAAP and ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation

activities have robust support and that implementation is not resting on the shoulders of a few.

We also encourage the City to consider the expansion of a Universal Basic Income program as a resiliency tactic. Particularly for low-income families, providing a base level of income can improve people's ability to prepare, endure, and recover after climate disasters, particularly when facing loss of housing or destruction of property. While this tactic may not seem like a direct adaptation strategy, it has numerous co-benefits and equity impacts and should be considered.

We would like to offer the following specific feedback on sections in the Adaptation Chapter:

Tree Canopy and Urban Heat Island

- ER-EC-5-7: Tree Canopy: We appreciate that prioritization will be given to areas with the lowest tree canopy cover. We would like to see some examples given regarding strategies that will be explored to reduce barriers to tree planting in disadvantaged areas and would like to see stated intent to partner with local tree experts and community groups to increase the prevalence of tree planting and continued tree maintenance in these neighborhoods. We would like to see strategies explored that can increase tree planting for homeowners *and* owners of multi-family housing, and programs that can support workforce development through tree maintenance.
- A-2.5: Urban Forest Plan: We suggest including a sentence that states that an equity lens will be used in the development of the Urban Forest Plan and that equity will be explicitly considered in the prioritization of resources as this plan is implemented.

Extreme Weather

- A-2.11: Extreme Weather Outreach Strategy and A-2.12 Severe Weather Action Plan: While we are pleased to see that the City intends to utilize social media and in-person outreach to the unhoused population, these two strategies for outreach leave out significant portions of the population, such as seniors or low-English proficiency individuals who may have internet but are either not internet-savvy or are isolated due to language barriers. We recommend including additional options for outreach, for example traditional mailers, telephone outreach, or radio,

that can help reach these populations, as well as considering additional populations that might need in-person outreach to have meaningful access to information. We would also like to see greater partnership with community partners who provide shelter during extreme weather events, in particular when determining the thresholds for when to begin cooling/warming center activations. Cooling and warming centers have not been provided for sufficient lengths of time in recent years when there have been extreme weather events, and this has greatly impacted vulnerable members of the community. We do understand that the City operates in a resource-constrained environment and hope that funding sources can be identified so that adequate coverage can be provided in the future.

Air Quality

- A-4.3: Outreach on Effects of Smoke on Air Quality: This section states that outreach will be carried out via social media and network media. We appreciate the addition of radio to the proposed outreach method but recommend going further and considering additional outreach methods such as traditional mailers, local news broadcasts, and disseminating print resources through community-based organizations.
- We are pleased to see that north and south Sacramento have been noted as high priorities for air pollution control initiatives, and that disadvantaged communities more generally are highlighted as needing interventions to improve air quality. Communities with greater air pollution due to historical racist development patterns are more likely to suffer from adverse air quality impacts such as asthma. Equity-based action to rectify these health disparities is crucial.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and for City's staff diligent work on the Draft Sacramento Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. Civic Thread looks forward to continuing to follow this planning effort. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kcanepa@civicthread.org.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Canepa
Project Manager, Civic Thread