

California is facing the need for serious climate adaptation, from sea level rise and diminishing water resources to increasing temperatures and wildfires. Scientists, engineers, and environmental professionals have concluded that we have breached the atmospheric carbon thresholds associated with accelerating climate change. In preparation for this new reality, the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) and its California Chapter are hosting the **California Council for Adaptation** (Council) in Sacramento from February 28 to March 2, 2020. Key state agencies have agreed to participate, and CNU is committed to sharing our Council's findings and discussion points with the rest of the nation.

Background: California has long been aware of the likely need for adaptation. The Council has taken note of the adaptation planning already undertaken, including the Adaptation Design Guidelines by the Department of Natural Resources (2012), the City of Richmond Adaptation Plan (2017), and more.

Why CNU: CNU is about the patterns of human habitation. Thus, the Council will bring a deep awareness of how the urban form will be crucial to adaptation, whether from creating effective new communities upon retreat from rising sea levels, new agricultural patterns, or providing relief from extreme heat days. The Council will include many who have spent their careers studying the urban form.

Purpose: The Council intends to deliver a series of context-sensitive scenarios and accompanying data in the form of papers, maps, recommendations **for climate adaptation actions throughout California**. These products will be presented to the Governor's office in the spring of 2020, published in a series of reports and presentations in the summer of 2020.

Participants: The team city-making and climate change experts will be joined by members of the CNU, CNU-California, government agencies, and selected professionals. The governmental agencies, including the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments who have already agreed to take part and conversation are underway with other government agencies.

Process: The consecutive-day charrette or iterative design-test-document format will cover the topics of prospects, premises, precedents, and proposals. Given the compressed timeframe, initial drafts will be circulated, with the four meeting days dedicated toward the presentation, expansion, and editing of the material. A final editing committee will subsequently complete the work.

Premise: The Council will focus on what can be done to adapt to the most likely consequences of climate change amidst increasing social anxiety in a time frame from 2025 to 2095. The underlying approach of the Council is to acknowledge the essential need for climate mitigation, even if only to slow and temper the adverse impacts of climate change, while preparing plans to be ready for adaptation.

Participation: The Council will be held as a non-public, volunteer event, relying on a restricted number of attendees to enable us to produce as much high-value content as possible with a core group. And we welcome qualified volunteers who can participate fully and effectively in the four days.

Conclusion: According to scientific evidence the changes needed to stabilize the earth's climate "require a fundamental reorientation and restructuring of national and international institutions." The Council will be open to all forms of assistance in our effort to prepare California to adapt to this new normal.