

Climate Change Research Program

Round 3: Engagement Activities

ATTACHMENT 3

In 2019, staff developed a strategy for engaging with the Research Program's eligible applicants and potential non-academic partners in an effort to understand the needs, interests, and trends around climate change research in California. Objectives for this engagement included:

- Providing opportunities for participants to learn about the Research Program and its emphasis on meaningful engagement and science to action.
- Learning about past experiences of applicants and their partners.
- Understanding, from diverse perspectives, what are considered important program criteria for awarding future funds.
- Receiving recommendations on how to evaluate research questions that address the needs of a community.
- Hearing from researchers that have launched robust, diverse, and unique multi-stakeholder partnerships with organizations that transformed research into action.
- Discovering tips and past experiences from non-academic organizations on successfully partnering with members of the research community.

Spring Engagement Activities

Staff designed two types of outreach events to implement across the state to engage to researchers, non-traditional research partners, and stakeholders. These events provided a variety of perspectives about what the Council should consider when investing in climate research that engages and benefits communities in California. All of the outreach efforts were announced to the public through the SGC's listserv, internal applicant lists, and the networks of the Research Program's grantee institutions and their non-academic partners. These events occurred in May at the following institutions:

UC Berkeley

Wednesday, May 1st

UC Davis

Thursday, May 2nd

UC Merced

Friday, May 3rd

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Tuesday, May 7th

UCLA

Wednesday, May 8th

San Diego State University

Friday, May 10th

Research Roundtables

Six institutions of higher education hosted Research Roundtables, geared towards past and potential research proposers. Each roundtable began with staff welcoming attendees and introductions, followed by a ten-minute primer of the program's



purpose, structure and goals. The remainder the ninety-minute meeting consisted of an open discussion driven by the approximately 180 attendees that participated in a roundtable event.

Prior to the event, registered participants received a brief overview of the program, along with discussion prompts to support a meaningful exchange of ideas. These prompts for reference were:

- The Research Investment Plan has broad focuses for priority research areas. We welcome discussion on these areas, and feedback on critical research gaps for Californian communities and policymakers.
- Discuss the Program's emphasis on incorporating meaningful engagement in funded research, including ideas on better articulating requirements, both within and outside of solicitation.
- Describe past approaches you have taken to launch robust, diverse, and unique multi-stakeholder partnerships to support your research.
- Discuss how past research has been used or put into action. If it has not, what would you like to see as an actionable result?
- Describe your experiences finding research partners in other departments, divisions, and/or colleges at your university (i.e., physical vs. social science).
- Share tips and/or past experiences, including challenges and solutions, on how you have partnered with non-traditional research partners, and/or across disciplines within the academic community.
- Ideas or feedback on how can the Program can connect your research to actionable policy outcomes.

Listening Sessions

Staff also convened six listening sessions at the same institutions, to learn from non-traditional research partners about how the program can better address community priorities in future rounds of the program. These open discussions were geared towards engaging community-based organizations – including civic, community, and advocacy groups; Federal research agencies and departments; Local land use agencies, departments, and organizations; Local health agencies, departments, and organizations; Non-profit organizations – including conservation, environmental justice and natural resources; Open space landowners and recreation providers; Private sector businesses; Regional agencies – focused on transportation, resources, and infrastructure; Regional climate collaboratives; and, Tribes.

These ninety-minute sessions followed the same agenda format as the research roundtables, with more than an hour available to hear from attendees about how they value research and can engage with researchers moving forward.

Registered participants receiving the following discussion prompts to consider prior to the event:

- Discuss how meaningful engagement and science to action can support research questions/information gaps that need to be addressed within your community.
- Describe experiences you have had working with researchers, for instance around developing multi-stakeholder partnerships - including what worked well, lessons learned, and what could have been improved.
- Share tips and/or past experiences, including challenges and solutions, on how your organization has successfully partnered with members of the research community.
- If you have not partnered on a research initiative before, describe why not, and what would increase your comfort in engaging in partnerships with the academic community.