

## About This Document

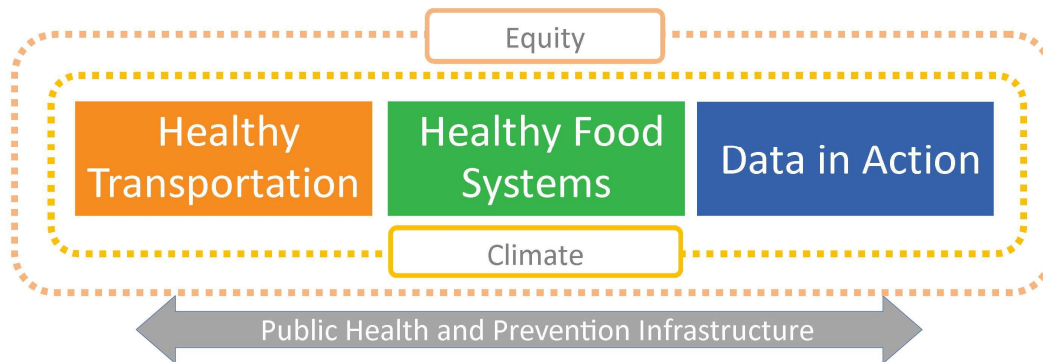
This resource of sample legislative platform language provides a range of options for local health departments seeking to integrate health promoting policies into their jurisdiction’s legislative platform. Topic areas identified support and advance the Public Health Alliance of Southern California priority initiative areas. Sample language is drawn upon evidence-informed, federal, state and local best practices accompanied by references and resources. Development of policy and policy recommendations is part of Public Health’s Essential Health Services as defined by the [American Public Health Association 2014](#).

**Disclaimer:** Contents of this resource are not intended to reflect positions of Alliance members.

## About the Alliance

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance) is a collaboration of local health departments in Southern California. Collectively our members are statutorily responsible for the health of nearly 60% of California’s population. Our vision is “All Southern California communities are healthy, vibrant and sustainable places to live, work and play.” The Alliance builds healthy communities through upstream multi-sector policy, systems and environmental change; and mobilizes and amplifies the Southern California local health departments’ regional voice in three Priority Initiatives: **Healthy Transportation and Land Use, Healthy Food Systems and Data in Action**. The Alliance work is grounded in two overarching frameworks including: **1) Equity/Opportunities for All and 2) Climate and Health**.

### Priority Initiatives:



The Suggested Legislative Platform Language statements are grouped around these priority initiatives and overarching framework categories, with sections devoted to each. A sixth section provides recommended language for supporting overall Public Health and Prevention Infrastructure.

## Document Structure

This document provides a set of sample legislative platform policy statements that support and advance the three Alliance Initiative Priorities and overarching approaches to address equity and climate change. These policy statements were identified by the Alliance within the context of our current work to achieve significant policy, systems and environmental change for the Southern California region. References provided in the document demonstrate how each policy statement is aligned with leading public health organizations, other prominent regional, state and national organizations, research centers and local laws and ordinances.

## Guiding Principles

The Alliance's efforts to reduce the burden of chronic disease and build healthy communities will be guided by core principles to protect health, equity and sustainability, and ensure the greatest near- and long-term benefits:

- Take substantial and timely action toward primary prevention
- Support strategies with the highest potential impact through policy, systems and environmental change that can shift population health
- Promote health equity and environmental and social justice by identifying and addressing the social determinants of health to reduce health disparities.
- Engage the community in assessment, planning, decision-making and policy development to address health inequities
- Support greater resource allocation for communities suffering a disproportionate burden of social and behavioral determinants that lead to chronic disease
- Maximize health, environmental and economic co-benefits, including climate change adaptation, readiness, mitigation and community resilience especially for the most vulnerable with chronic illnesses
- Prioritize prevention for children and youth, the aged and other vulnerable groups
- Support better quality health care and self-management for those already affected by chronic disease
- Promote "Health in All Policies" approaches within government and non-governmental organizations to improve population health
- Build collaboration between public health, healthcare, transportation, land use planning, energy, housing, agriculture and environmental health sectors to improve population health

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**Include impacts of climate, health water projections and equity considerations for emergency preparedness planning.**

**References**

<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>Collaborate with California Office of Emergency Services and CDPH Emergency Preparedness Office to support cities and counties to incorporate climate, health, water projections and equity considerations in their updates to local hazard mitigation plans and general plan safety elements.</p> <p><i>(California Natural Resources Agency, Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, March 2016, page 168;</i>  <a href="http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf">http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf</a>)</p>
<p>California Natural Resources Agency</p>	<p>Increase emphasis and incorporate climate change impacts and adaptation strategies into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) as part of the Safety Element of local government General Plans.</p> <p><i>(Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, Emergency Management Sector Plan, California Natural Resources Agency, March 2016, page 64, 65;</i>  <a href="http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf">http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf</a>)</p>
<p>California Office of Planning and Research</p>	<p>The Safety Element of the General Plan aims to reduce potential risk of death, injuries, property damage and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides as well as other hazards and climate change impacts. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ideally would be incorporated into the Safety Element with policies identifying hazards and emergency response projects as well as mitigation through avoidance of hazards by new projects and reduction of risk in developed areas.</p> <p><i>(State of California General Plan Guidelines, Draft for Public Comment, 2015, page 192, 193;</i>  <a href="https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf">https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf</a>)</p>

**Increase resiliency in water management through conservation, coordination and communication.**

**References**

<p>Office of Planning and Research</p>	<p>Increase resiliency in water management through conservation, coordination and communication.</p> <p><i>(The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, Drought Toolkit, August 2014; <a href="https://www.opr.ca.gov/s_droughttoolkit.php">https://www.opr.ca.gov/s_droughttoolkit.php</a>)</i></p>
<p>CDC</p>	<p>Identify, coordinate and engage interagency partners and stakeholders working on drought efforts and participate in local water agency vulnerability assessments to include a health lens.</p> <p><i>(CDC Every Drop Counts: Protecting public health during drought conditions- guide for public health professionals, 2010; <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/when_every_drop_counts.pdf">https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/docs/when_every_drop_counts.pdf</a>)</i></p>
<p>Public Health Alliance of Southern CA</p>	<p>Identify strategies for integrating healthy water system promotion in healthy communities work (e.g., review water systems design integration with parks planning; integrate Green Streets messaging into Complete Streets promotion).</p> <p>Adopt sustainable, water-friendly procurement policies (e.g. “Meatless Monday” resolution); support water-friendly community garden practices; partner with schools to ensure drinking water availability and quality.</p> <p>Update emergency preparedness and response plans to incorporate water and climate vulnerability assessment data.</p> <p>Include water supply and quality safety checks into home health visits; communicate health resources and messages on appropriate drought-time water use, disposal of prescription drugs, soil and water testing and emergency preparedness.</p> <p>Identify water data gaps and potential mitigation strategies.</p> <p><i>(Public Health Alliance of Southern California, Water Actions for Local Health Departments Checklists, 2015; <a href="http://phasocal.org/water-initiative/">http://phasocal.org/water-initiative/</a>)</i></p>

**Promote measures that safeguard water resources when approving new development.**

**References**

<p>EPA</p>	<p>Protecting Water Resources with Higher Density Development</p> <p><i>(<a href="https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/protecting-water-resources-higher-density-development">https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/protecting-water-resources-higher-density-development</a>)</i></p>
<p>California Water Action Plan 2016 Update</p>	<p>Promote Local Urban Conservation Ordinances and Programs</p> <p>Local agencies are increasingly conserving water by prohibiting certain types of wasteful water use. Examples include: prohibiting watering hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas; prohibiting outdoor watering during and after periods of rain; and not serving water to customers in restaurants unless specifically requested. Local agencies are also pioneering incentive programs, for example, converting lawns to drought tolerant landscapes—and programs to capture rainwater. In July 2015, the California Water Commission adopted a new statewide model water efficient landscape ordinance that will limit lawn in new residential and commercial developments and require efficient irrigation systems. Under the model ordinance, which local governments must meet or exceed, new development will use roughly a third less water on landscaping.</p> <p><i>(California Water Action Plan 2016 Update, page 6; <a href="http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf">http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf</a>)</i></p>
<p>City of Los Angeles</p>	<p>The City of Los Angeles passed Ordinance NO. 181899 on September 27, 2011 that amended Sections 64.70.01 and 64.72 of Article 4.4 of Chapter VI of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to expand the applicability of the existing Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements by imposing rainwater Low Impact Development (LID) strategies in development and redevelopment projects that require building permits. Requirements for construction activities and facility operations of development and redevelopment projects comply with the the requirements of the Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan, integrated Low Impact Development practices and standards for stormwater pollution mitigation and maximize open, green and pervious space consistent with the City’s landscape ordinance and other related requirements in the Development Best Management Practices Handbook.</p> <p><i>(City of Los Angeles, Storm Water Program, September 27, 2011; <a href="http://www.lastormwater.org/wp-content/files_mf/finallidordinance181899.pdf">http://www.lastormwater.org/wp-content/files_mf/finallidordinance181899.pdf</a>)</i></p>