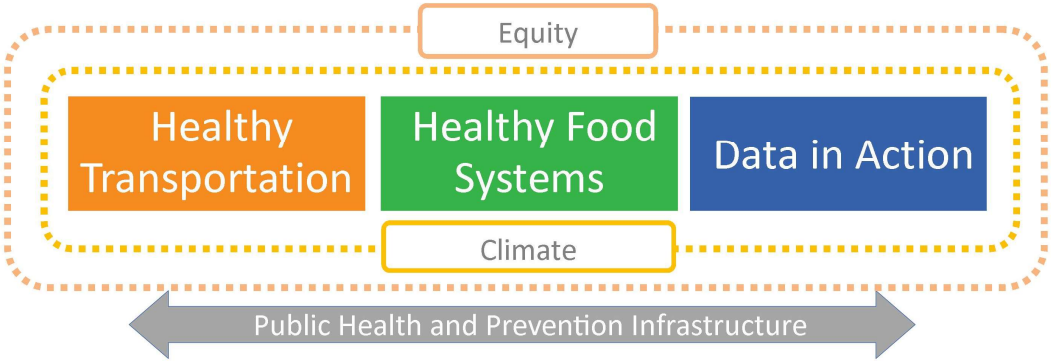
About This Document

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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Integrate storm water capture and green infrastructure into transportation and built environment plans and investments.

References

California Natural Resources Agency	Support collaboration and coordination of land use and water planning activities to ensure that sustainable development is resilient to climate changes. Land use planning decisions are made at the city and county level which provides opportunities to reduce water consumption and green house gas emissions through implementation of more sustainable land use policy, siting and design techniques. *(Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, Water Sector Plan, California Natural Resources Agency, March 2016, page 213; http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf)*
State Water Resources Control Board	Senate Bill 985 encourages the use of storm water and dry weather runoff as a resource to improve water quality, reduce localized flooding, and increase water supplies for beneficial uses and the environment. Accordingly, the development of Plans will encourage public agencies to identify opportunities to use existing publicly owned lands and easements to capture, treat, store, and use storm water and dry weather runoff either onsite or offsite. Water Code section 10562 was amended requiring a Storm Water Resource Plan as a condition of receiving funds from any bond approved after January 2014, including Proposition 1, which authorized $200 million in grants for multi-benefit storm water management projects. Water Code section 10565 was added and requires the State Water Board to establish Storm Water Resource Plan development guidance that shall include, but is not limited to, the following: identifying types of local agencies and nongovernmental organizations that need to be consulted in developing a Storm Water Resource Plan; defining appropriate quantitative methods for identifying and prioritizing opportunities for storm water and dry weather runoff capture projects; defining the appropriate geographic scale of watersheds for storm water resource planning; and other guidance the [State Water Board] deems appropriate to achieve the objectives of Water Code section 10565. *(Draft State Water Resources Control Board Resolution No. 2015-___ Draft Storm water Resource Plan Guidelines; http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/docs/draft_resolution_swrpg.pdf)*

Link green infrastructure strategies as part of implementation for emergency preparedness plans.

References

American Planning Association	Green infrastructure reduces damage from storm surge and flooding. Green infrastructure can reduce damage from natural disasters by conserving environmentally sensitive lands through land acquisition or easements and natural resource protection ordinance. Green infrastructure such as trees, parks and green roofs can reduce surface temperatures during heat waves. Incorporating green infrastructure into planning for post-disaster recovery can provide environmental, economic, and social benefits for disadvantaged neighborhoods, which frequently have fewer trees and green spaces than more advantaged communities. *(American Planning Association, Green Infrastructure and Post Disaster Recovery; https://www.planning.org/research/postdisaster/briefingpapers/greeninfrastructure.htm) date?*
California Natural Resources Agency	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. *(Safeguarding California: Implementation Action Plans, Emergency Management Sector Plan, California Natural Resources Agency, March 2016, page 64, 65; http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/Safeguarding%20California-Implementation%20Action%20Plans.pdf)*
California Office of Planning Research	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. *(State of California General Plan Guidelines, Draft for Public Comment, 2015, page 192, 193; https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/DRAFT_General_Plan_Guidelines_for_public_comment_2015.pdf)*

Support minimal water use for new development by encouraging multi family housing types, smart landscaping, localized treatment for re-use, and grey water use options.

References

Environmental Protection Agency	Compact development generates less storm water runoff per unit through fewer impervious surfaces. It can also conserve drinking water via shorter pipes, reducing the amount of water lost to leaks. Incorporating gray water uses for landscaping and toilet flushing also conserves water. *(https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-and-water)*
California Water Action Plan 2016 Update	Promote Local Urban Conservation Ordinances and Programs 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. *(California Water Action Plan 2016 Update, page 6; http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf)*
City of Los Angeles Stormwater Ordinance	A Low Impact Development Plan shall be prepared to comply with the following: 1. Stormwater runoff will be infiltrated, evapotranspired, captured and used, and/or treated through high removal efficiency Best Management Practices onsite, through stormwater management techniques as identified in Section 4.1. The onsite stormwater management techniques must be properly sized, at a minimum, to infiltrate, evapotranspire, store for use, and/or treat through a high removal efficiency biofiltration/biotreatment system, without any stormwater runoff leaving the site to the maximum extent feasible, for at least the volume of water produced by the stormwater quality design storm event that results from: i. The 0.75-inch, 24-hour rain event, or ii. The 85th percentile 24-hour runoff event determined from the Los Angeles County 85th percentile precipitation isohyetal map, whichever is greater *City of Los Angeles Stormwater Division Low Impact Development Manual:* http://www.lastormwater.org/wp-content/files_mf/lidmanualfinal.pdf