

# THE PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE

## Ensuring a Resilient Future



As the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC), British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, and the cities of Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles are working together to prepare for and address disruptions on the West Coast of North America due to climate change. The PCC is committed to enhancing the capacity of our social, economic, and environmental systems to thrive and succeed in a changing climate. These investments will preserve lives, protect cultural resources, enhance natural habitats, and strengthen the economy of our region.

The PCC represents the world's fifth largest economy, a thriving region of 55 million people with a combined GDP of \$3 trillion.

### Investing in climate resilience helps the region's natural systems, resources, infrastructure, and cultural and traditional practices adjust to a changing climate and eases recovery and restoration efforts.



**Building resilience to natural hazards saves an average of \$6 for every \$1 spent.**

**Investing in resilience helps avoid impacts to human health and the environment.**

Unprecedented heat waves and smoke events from wildfires have increasingly contributed to health emergencies in our region and impacts to marine and other ecosystems.



**Resilience projects can boost local economies and asset values.** Washington's Floodplains by Design Program has restored habitat in 15 major floodplains, which created 2,755 jobs, reduced flood risk for 2,212 homes, and improved 7,840 acres of working lands.

**Resilience to future disruptions can be strengthened by including recovery strategies.**

After a destructive 2007 flood in Vernonia, Oregon, recovery funding was used to elevate houses and businesses, upgrade sewer lagoons, and relocate the school and other public services. As a result, a major flood in 2015 caused only minimal damage.



**Natural wetlands can reduce the costs of flood damage by 29% in rural areas and 38% in urban areas.** In British Columbia, the naturally occurring White Tower Park ponds provide \$2.7-\$3 million USD in stormwater storage services annually.



**Modeling allows the region to anticipate and prepare for climate-related disruptions.**

California's investment in the expansion of the USGS Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) has helped in assessing impacts from sea level rise and coastal storms on shorelines and the surrounding communities and allows for the modeling of different scenarios.

## Our region is moving forward with investments in resilience.



British Columbia's **Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy** outlines actions to take by 2025. The strategy describes four key pathways for resilience: strengthen foundations, enhance community climate resilience, foster resilience of species and ecosystems in a changing climate, and advance a climate-ready economy and infrastructure.



Washington's **Prioritizing Actions and Investments for Climate Resiliency in Washington** provides a list of recommendations to advance the state's resiliency efforts. These include continuing investments into projects, activities, and programs that increase climate resilience, creating a mechanism for coordinating and reporting on climate resilience actions, updating the state's resilience strategy, and prioritizing funding for climate resilience.



The **Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework** describes guiding principles for climate resilience efforts, an administrative framework, and climate change adaptation strategies. The framework identifies six main themes and related adaptation goals and strategies. For example, under the theme of social relationships, a strategy is to ensure the "most-impacted" communities are represented in future decision-making processes.



In 2021, California published the most recent **California Climate Adaptation Strategy**. It focuses on six priorities to promote climate resilience, including building a climate resilient economy, strengthening protections for climate vulnerable communities, and making decisions based on the best available climate science.



Across the Pacific Coast region, **many local governments** have climate preparedness & resilience plans with a broad focus on areas such as climate resilient infrastructure & buildings, healthy & vigorous natural areas and green space, connected & prepared communities, coastal preparedness, and racial equity and justice plans/programs. To lead and coordinate their resilience work, cities are investing in targeted programs and dedicated staff, including Chief Resilience Officers in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, & Vancouver. As all levels of government mobilize to respond to climate risks, strong collaboration is crucial for a more resilient future.