

Introducing SB 379: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Strategies

SB 379 Quick Facts

- Adopted on October 8, 2015.
- Applies to all cities and counties in California.
- Created to ensure that climate adaptation is integrated into the general plan process.
- Builds upon the requirements of [AB 162](#), which requires flood protection to be considered in the safety elements of general plans and [SB 1241](#), which requires the consideration of fire protection.
- Supports the State's overall adaptation strategy, [Safeguarding California](#), by ensuring cities and counties are providing for the safety of their communities and planning for adaptation to climate change impacts.

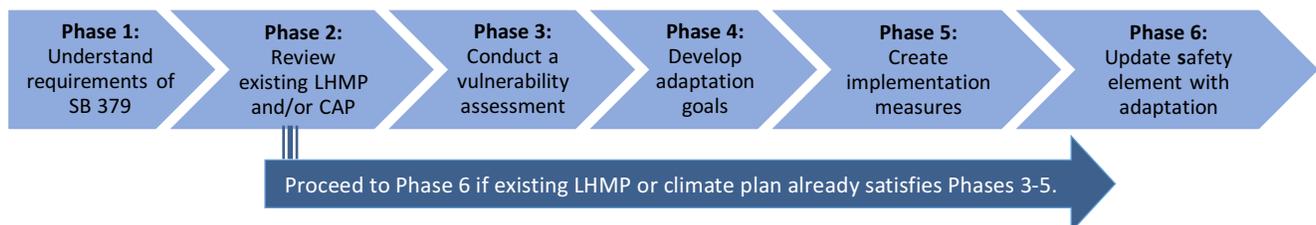
What does SB 379 require?

Requires the safety elements of general plans to be reviewed and updated to include climate adaptation and resiliency strategies. The review and update must consist of the following components:

1. **A vulnerability assessment** that identifies the risks climate change poses to the local jurisdiction and the geographic areas at risk from climate change.
2. **Set of adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives** based on the information specified in the vulnerability assessment.
3. **Set of feasible implementation measures** designed to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives identified in the adaptation objectives.

What is the implementation timeframe?

- If a city or county currently **has an adopted local hazard mitigation plan**, then starting January 1, 2017, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation must be addressed in the safety element of the general plan.
 - As long as the information complies with the requirements of the bill, then the information can be summarized into the safety element and the local hazard mitigation plan and/or climate adaptation plan incorporated by reference.
- If a city or county **has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan**, then the safety element of the general plan must be updated to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies by January 1, 2022.



3-Step Approach to SB 379 Implementation

#1: ASSESS

Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify risks to climate change in local jurisdictions.

Informational resources to assist with assessment:

- [Cal-ADAPT](#)
- [California Adaptation Planning Guide](#)
- Information from local agencies on vulnerable assets, resources, and populations.
- Information from local agencies on current ability to deal with climate impacts.
- Historical data on natural events and hazards.
- Public agencies with the responsibility to protect health, safety, and environment.



#2: DEVELOP

Create a set of adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives based on information identified in the vulnerability assessment.

Factors to consider when developing strategies:

- Consider co-benefits – link adaptation goals to social equity and public health strategies.
- Conduct outreach and build support – community and staff understanding and buy-in are critical to effectively build resilience.
- Climate change does not recognize political boundaries – build collaborative relationships with adjacent jurisdictions.
- Consider cost, environmental impacts, funding, timing, and compatibility with other plans.



#3: IMPLEMENT

Create a set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry out the goals identified in step 2.

Examples of implementation measures:

- Undertake strategies to identify, engage, and work collaboratively with key agencies.
- Identify natural infrastructure approaches to building resilience (e.g., wetland restoration, forest protection, or urban tree planting).
- Develop early warning systems.
- Create a plan to develop seawalls and storm surge barriers and dune reinforcement.
- Relocation of essential public facilities away from at-risk areas.
- Designation of adequate infrastructure and safety procedures in at-risk areas.