

Date of Hearing: June 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Isaac G. Bryan, Chair

SB 10 (Padilla) – As Amended May 12, 2026

SENATE VOTE: Not relevant

SUBJECT: Climate change: plans: gender impacts

SUMMARY: Requires the Natural Resources Agency (NRA) and the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) to incorporate the gender impacts of climate change in specified state climate-related planning documents.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires NRA to update the state’s climate adaptation strategy (Safeguarding California Plan) every three years. Requires NRA to coordinate with relevant state agencies and requires the plan to include vulnerabilities to climate change by sector, as specified, vulnerabilities to climate change for vulnerable communities, a definition of “climate resilience,” priority actions needed to reduce risks and achieve climate resilience, special protections of vulnerable communities and specified industries, opportunities to improve policy and budget coordination, and timetables and metrics to measure and evaluate the state’s progress in implementing the Safeguarding California Plan. (Public Resources Code (PRC) 71153)
- 2) States the intent of the Legislature to prioritize the most vulnerable communities, ecosystems, and economic sectors in the state’s climate adaptation and resilience strategy set forth in the Safeguarding California Plan by ensuring that all state departments and agencies accurately identify, collaboratively prepare for, and are sufficiently resourced to adequately respond to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, the urban heat island effect, habitat loss, wildfire, sea level rise, and drought. Requires the adoption of strategies that seek to address worsening social and racial inequities. (PRC 71152)
- 3) Requires LCI, formerly the Office of Planning and Research, to develop the California Climate Change Assessment (Assessment), in coordination with NRA, the California Energy Commission, and the Strategic Growth Council, and in consultation with partner public agencies. Requires LCI to conduct the Assessment at least every five years. (PRC 71340)
- 4) Requires LCI and NRA, on or before July 1, 2026, and every three years thereafter, to update the Extreme Heat Action Plan (Action Plan) to promote comprehensive, coordinated, and effective state and local government action on extreme heat. (PRC 71361)

THIS BILL:

- 1) Revises legislative intent regarding the Safeguarding California Plan to include the adoption of strategies that seek to address and, at a minimum, avoid worsening, social, racial, *and* gender inequities.

- 2) Requires LCI to include gender impacts considerations in its reports on issues of statewide significance prepared as part of the Assessment.
- 3) Requires LCI and NRA, on or before July 1, 2028, to conduct an assessment of the disparate and differentiated gendered impacts and risk of extreme heat for purposes of integration into updates to the Action Plan. Requires LCI and NRA to consider intersectional and systemic inequities. Requires the assessment to be posted on LCI's and NRA's websites and provided to the relevant policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature. Requires the assessment to include:
 - a) An analysis of the disparate and differentiated gender impacts and risks of extreme heat to identify gaps or unmet needs in the state's approach to addressing extreme heat;
 - b) An analysis of sex- or gender-disaggregated data, where available, on workers in relevant sectors, including health care and care workers, outdoor workers, and others, to identify those substantially responsible for protecting community health and supporting community resilience in response to extreme heat, as well as those substantially in danger of negative impacts at work from extreme heat; and,
 - c) Recommendations on additional measures or priority actions to address the disparate and differentiated gendered impacts of extreme heat to improve policies, programs, and interagency coordination. Authorizes state agencies to consider the recommendations in developing their programs and policies.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Climate change and gender.** Climate change does not affect all people equally. It can act as a "threat multiplier," by amplifying the threats already facing vulnerable communities. This includes impacts on women and girls. According to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, "climate change affects women, men, boys and girls, and gender-diverse people in different ways. Entrenched and systemic discrimination can lead to gender-differentiated impacts of climate change with respect to health and well-being, food security, livelihoods, and human mobility, among other issues." The *Gender Snapshot 2024* estimates that by 2050, climate change may drive over 150 million more women and girls into poverty (16 million more than men and boys), and that nearly 50 million more women face food insecurity and hunger than men.

According to the Gender Equity Policy Institute, women bear the brunt of climate change, including in California. The Institute cites more acute affordability challenges facing women and disproportionate responsibility for caregiving. Further, during climate-caused events and emergencies, women are more likely to protect vulnerable individuals, such as children, the elderly, and those with disabilities.

In response to these challenges, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted a Gender Action Plan in 2019 to provide guidance on policies and measures to mainstream gender and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The objectives of the plan are:

- To enhance women’s role as agents of change by addressing the gender inequalities they face;
- To build the capacities of women and girls to access the resources they need to improve their livelihoods, manage land sustainably and become resilient to drought;
- To build the technical capacities of stakeholders at all levels to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programs; and,
- To develop a baseline on gender-related issues in land degradation and desertification, and monitor, report and regularly review progress in the implementation and achievement of objectives; and,
- To mobilize adequate resources to achieve these objectives.

2) **This bill.** SB 10 is intended to ensure that gender perspective is integrated into California’s climate work. This bill requires NRA and LCI to include an assessment of gender impacts into climate planning to avoid exacerbating gender inequities associated with climate change.

3) **Author’s statement:**

Women bear the brunt of the effects of climate change. Global climate agreements include commitments to analyze and address how climate change affects women, men, and gender diverse people differently, in order to mitigate the gendered impacts of climate change, support more effective climate solutions, and advance resilience. Equity is a pillar of California’s climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and gender is one of several vulnerabilities to climate change. Yet despite the state’s commitment to climate equity, the different and disparate impacts of climate change on women have previously been largely overlooked in the state’s climate policy and planning. SB 10 ensures that future planning will address women’s distinct vulnerability in the face of worsening climate impacts., as well as the distinct gendered impacts faced by men and LGBTQ+ people. Integrating gender impact analysis in California’s climate plans will strengthen the state’s ability to design effective and accountable programs, allocate resources where they are most needed, and ensure that all Californians benefit from the significant public investments made by the state to build a climate-ready economy and climate resilient communities.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Environmental Voters
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice
Climate Resolve
Coalition of Clean Air
Dake Landscape
Gender Equity Policy Institute (sponsor)
GRID Alternatives, Southern California
LAANE

Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles
The Women's Building
Worksafe

Opposition

None on file

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