

- 1) LCI estimates a one-time General Fund cost of approximately \$1.1 million in fiscal year (FY) 2027-28 – comprised of \$750,000 in contracting costs to support LCI’s role in the Action Plan gender assessment (LCI asserts the specialized technical expertise needed to prepare the assessment is not available within its existing staff resources) and \$300,000 to implement and support the new requirements for the California Climate Change Assessment (specifically for contracting for external expertise, research development, technical review, stakeholder engagement, report production, and communications activities). After FY 2027-28, LCI anticipates General Fund costs of \$300,000 every five years; LCI is legally required to update the California Climate Change Assessment at least every five years.

The administration is scheduled to release the Fifth California Climate Change Assessment this fall. As part of the Governor’s FY 2026-27 budget, LCI, CNRA, and the California Energy Commission have requested \$9.9 million (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) over five years to implement the Sixth California Climate Change Assessment. This request is being considered as part of this year’s budget negotiations.

- 2) With LCI taking the lead on development of the required gender assessment, CNRA anticipates its costs to be minor and absorbable. LCI and CNRA are in the process of finalizing the 2026 Action Plan by July of this year. For its part, to date, CNRA has absorbed the workload associated with updating the Action Plan within existing resources.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

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.

- 2) **Background. Action Plan.** In 2022, the state released the Action Plan outlining a strategic and comprehensive set of state actions to adapt and strengthen resilience to extreme heat. Stakeholder input highlighted the need for the Action Plan to drive coordination and collaboration across federal, regional, and local efforts, support localized action through funding and technical assistance, and maximize multi-benefit strategies that advance the state’s climate and public health goals.

California Climate Change Assessment. Since 2006, the state has undertaken four comprehensive climate change assessments, designed to assess the impacts and risks from climate change and to identify potential solutions to inform policy actions. The climate change assessments directly inform state policies, plans, programs, and guidance to promote effective and integrated action to safeguard California from climate change.

Gender and Climate. According to the Gender Equity Policy Institute (GEPI), the impacts of climate change fall disproportionately on women. For example, in California, women – especially women of color – face more affordability challenges than men. Data shows

women are significantly more likely than men to spend unaffordable shares of income on housing or home energy costs. According to GEPI, women are underrepresented in the construction and energy sectors and therefore less likely to benefit from public climate investments. GEPI further argues there are distinct biophysical vulnerabilities to climate change by age and sex that have disparate gendered impacts; women, on average, possess fewer resources to prepare for, adapt, and respond to climate change; and, at the same time, women play a critical role in protecting the health and safety of Californians in the face of climate-driven extreme events.

GEPI contends this bill “mandates a process for the state to assess the gendered impacts of climate change and to recommend evidence-based policy solutions to advance climate resilience for everyone and ensure that no one is left out of the many benefits of the state’s investment in a climate-ready economy.” Specifically, the bill mandates an assessment of the gendered impacts and risks of extreme heat in the Action Plan and the inclusion of gendered impact considerations in reports on issues of statewide significance in the California Climate Change Assessment.

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