

Action Evaluation

Thurston Regional Planning Council

February 23, 2017

Overview:

In this step, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) will evaluate actions to address climate risks.

What's Done:

Risk Identification: On Oct. 27, (*Meeting 4*), the SAC identified about 130 climate change risks and 30 opportunities that intersect with the 12 project goals and 8 climate change stressors.

Risk Analysis: On Nov. 17 (*Meeting 5*), the SAC assessed each risk's likelihood & consequence (*high, medium or low*), spatial extent, and time horizon. The project team then put the risks into a Consequence/Likelihood Matrix to show the degree of impact each risk would have on the region:

- **53** red risks — those of highest consequence and likelihood — fell in the matrix's upper-right third;
- **41** yellow risks — those of lesser consequence and likelihood — fell in the matrix's middle third;
- **32** green risks — those of lowest consequence and likelihood — fell in the matrix's lower-left third.

Strategy Selection: On Jan. 26 (*Meeting 6*), the SAC chose a strategy for the 53 red risks of highest impact:

- **47** red risks received a "Take Action" strategy. This means choosing to reduce the risk's impact by evaluating and prioritizing actions (*new and continuing*), as well as selecting leads and partners.
- **6** red risks received an "Accept" strategy. This means continuing business as usual, monitoring, and reassessing the risk if and when impacts occur.

Action Evaluation: In early February, the project team consolidated and/or reworded about two-dozen risks to eliminate redundancy and enhance clarity. Next, the team drafted a list of 129 actions to address all red risks with a "Take Action" strategy. The team then developed four criteria to serve as a quick screening tool for evaluating and prioritizing actions. The criteria are as follows:

- **Magnitude:** How many risks does this action address? *(One, Few, or Many)*
- **Effectiveness:**
 - Is this action a long-term solution (i.e., durable)? *(Yes or No)*
 - To what degree would this action reduce the risk(s)? *(High, Medium or Low)*
- **Side-effects:** Would this action have negative effects on other goals? *(Yes or No)*
- **Equity:** Would the costs and benefits of this action be shared equally? *(Yes or No)*

Next Steps:

Today (*Meeting 7*), the SAC will review the evaluation criteria and revise as necessary. The SAC will then split into small groups to review and revise the list of actions. The SAC should consider whether this is the right suite of actions to sufficiently address the risks. If not, what other actions are needed to fill gaps?

On March 23 (*Meeting 8*) and April 27 (*Meeting 9*), the SAC will use the criteria to continue evaluating actions — including new ones recommended during the project's April 17 public forum. The project team will then assign numerical values to the evaluation criteria, which will help the SAC to prioritize actions.

On May 11 (*Meeting 10*), the SAC will select 2-3 strategy/action packages for Benefit-Cost Analyses.