

City of Sacramento
Active Transportation Commission Report
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2026-00385

1/15/2026

SacAdapt Transportation Infrastructure Adaptation Plan

File ID: 2026-00385

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Sarah Kolarik, Sustainability Program Specialist, (916) 808-1421, skolarik@cityofsacramento.org; Rachel Patten, Sustainability Program Manager, (916) 808-5016, rpatten@cityofsacramento.org; Jennifer Donlon Wyant, Mobility and Sustainability Division Manager, (916) 808-5913 jdonlonwyant@cityofsacramento.org, Department of Public Works

Presenter: Sarah Kolarik, Sustainability Program Specialist, (916) 808-1421, skolarik@cityofsacramento.org

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Presentation

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The SacAdapt Transportation Infrastructure Adaptation Plan (SacAdapt) is a collaborative planning effort between the City of Sacramento (City) and Sacramento Regional Transit Agency (SacRT) to analyze current and anticipated future extreme weather risks to the City's transportation system, and to identify prioritized recommendations to improve resilience of the transportation system. SacAdapt is funded by a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Adaptation Planning Grant.

The SacAdapt planning process evaluated existing and projected climate hazards (e.g., flooding, heat, wind, fire) and critical transportation infrastructure (e.g., roadways, signals, bikeways, sidewalks, light rail lines, etc.) to perform a risk assessment, generate possible adaptation solutions, and develop a prioritized list of adaptation strategies.

The SacAdapt planning effort was kicked off in Fall of 2024 and the final plan needs to be approved by City Council by April 30, 2026 to meet the grant funding deadline.

SacAdapt is kicking off the third and final phase of engagement for public review of the Draft SacAdapt Plan. This phase invites public review of the proposed adaptation strategies and overall SacAdapt Plan, starting January 15, 2026 and ending February 12, 2026. The Draft SacAdapt Plan is available on the project website: cityofsacramento.gov/SacAdapt.

Phase 3 engagement strategies are described in the Background section below. Input received during Phase 3 engagement will inform finalization of the SacAdapt plan that will be presented to City Council for approval in April 2026.

SacAdapt recommends a total of 60 adaptation strategies for the City, which are broken out by four hazard types with ten total strategy categories. See the Background section for the category overview and Draft SacAdapt plan for full strategy list (once posted online starting January 15, 2026).

Many of the adaptation strategies are aligned previously adopted strategies in the 2040 General Plan, Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, Urban Forest Plan, Streets for People Plan, and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Within these previously adopted strategies, suggested additions are highlighted as relevant. Additional strategies are identified to address gaps in previously adopted strategies.

The purpose of this presentation is to hear input from the Commission on the recommended adaptation strategies and Phase 3 community engagement approach.

Policy Considerations: The SacAdapt Transportation Infrastructure Adaptation Plan is an implementing action of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Resolution No. 2024-0067) Measure A-1-3: Climate Informed Infrastructure Planning - “to establish guidance and procedures for the consideration of climate impacts in all City infrastructure and capital projects, including minimum levels of preparation as applicable” and Measure A-5-21: Resilient Transportation Infrastructure - “Conduct an assessment of infrastructure at risk from flooding and climate impacts and prioritize improvements to those facilities that are most critical and at greatest risk.”

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The action requested is review of a citywide planning study to be used as guidance for future engineering, design, and analysis. The informational update in this report is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because it is an administrative activity that does not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, as contemplated by Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15378(b)(5) and is, therefore, not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3). Projects consistent with the Plan will be subject to review

pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act during the project-specific Preliminary Design and Environmental phase.

Sustainability: This Plan will prepare the City to improve the adaptive capacity of the City's transportation network in the face of extreme weather events that will be exacerbated by climate change. These efforts will advance the City's commitment to prepare for the effects of climate change (Resolution No. 2019-0433), and support Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Resolution No. 2024-0067) Goal A-1-Strengthen City government capacity for integrated, holistic climate adaptive strategies and to reduce climate risks, and sub-strategies A-1-3-Climate-Informed Infrastructure Planning, A-1-4-Resilient City Facilities, and A-5-21-Resilient Transportation Infrastructure.

Additionally, the Plan will consider mobility for all modes of transportation to reduce dependence on the private automobile, even when the transportation network experiences the negative impacts of climate change. This will support CAAP Measure TR-1-Improve active transportation infrastructure to achieve 6% active transportation mode share by 2030 and 12% by 2045-and CAAP Measure TR-2-Support public transit improvements to achieve 11% public transit mode share by 2030 and maintain through 2045.

Commission/Committee Action: The Plan and Phase II engagement approach were presented to the ATC at the October 16, 2025 meeting for review and comment. Key commissioner feedback included:

- Highlighting the importance of bicycle facility sweeping and debris removal, particularly after storm events.
- Implementing adaptation strategies in a way that address equity and achieves multiple benefits (e.g., flood and heat mitigation).
- Combining cool pavement applications with additional shade measures.

Rationale for Recommendation: None.

Financial Considerations: The planning level cost estimates to implement SacAdapt Transportation Infrastructure Adaptation Plan will be included in the public review draft.

SacAdapt is funded by a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Adaptation Planning Grant. No overall funding has been identified for SacAdapt implementation at this time. There will be an ongoing need to identify funding for implementation of the Plan recommendations. Costs associated with individual projects, policies and programs will be brought forward as those they are implemented.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

Background: The SacAdapt is a collaborative planning effort between the City and the SacRT, funded by a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant. The City and SacRT are working in partnership because of the interconnected nature of the transportation network assets each agency manages.

The City manages over 3,000 lane miles of streets, over 800 traffic signals, more than two dozen flood gates, and over 80 miles of shared-use walking and bicycling paths. As the largest transit provider in the Sacramento region, SacRT operates 53 light rail stations carrying approximately 14,600 passengers per day and manages 3,200 bus stops servicing approximately 21,000 bus passengers per day. Climate change impacts (e.g., extreme heat, flooding, wind, and fire/smoke) are already affecting these transportation assets, and the impacts are projected to worsen in the coming decades.

Through this planning effort, the two agencies have conducted a multi-hazard risk assessment of their transportation systems and generated recommended adaptation strategies. The resulting draft SacAdapt Plan provides a long-term implementation plan for adapting Sacramento's transportation network to the increasing impacts of climate change and ensuring the system's long-term resilience. SacAdapt will provide the City of Sacramento and SacRT with a prioritized list of policy, maintenance and operations strategies that help achieve the climate adaptation objectives of the City's General Plan 2040 and the City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. SacAdapt will help position the City and SacRT to secure future funding. By completing this plan together, the agencies can ensure consistency and shared priorities when applying for competitive funding to mitigate climate impacts.

The SacAdapt planning effort was kicked off in Fall of 2024 and the final plan needs to be approved by City Council by April 30, 2026, to meet the grant funding deadline. The SacAdapt planning effort includes five major tasks (Literature and Existing Conditions Review, Vulnerability Assessment, Resilience Strategy Identification and Prioritization, Community Engagement, and Final Plan Development). These five tasks are divided into three project phases, with each phase including a significant community engagement component. The three project phases are:

1. Understand current and future risks and needs. Phase 1 took place between late-2024 and mid-2025 and coincided with Task 1 (Literature and Existing Conditions Review) and Task 2 (Vulnerability Assessment). Phase 1 community engagement was conducted between January and February 2025 and focused on gaining insight from the community about how travel around Sacramento is impacted by extreme weather events. Input from the community helped the project team understand the needs and concerns of the community. Community feedback was used in conjunction with feedback from agency experts to identify the climate change impacts that are of highest concern to the transportation system.
2. Identify and prioritize recommendations. Phase 2 took place between mid-2025 and late-2025 and coincided with Task 3 (Resilience Strategy Identification and Prioritization). This phase identified and prioritized recommended adaptation strategies for both the City and SacRT.

Phase 2 community engagement was conducted between September and November 2025 and focused on community priorities related to transportation resilience as well as understanding where investments in person-scale comfort (e.g., to mitigate impacts of extreme heat or rain/flooding) can have the biggest impact on mode shift to active and public transportation. Community feedback was used to refine recommended transportation adaptation strategies and inform prioritization of the strategies.

3. Finalize the plan. Phase 3 is currently taking place between late-2025 and early-2026 and coincides with Task 5 (Final Plan Development). Phase 3 engagement began on January 15, 2026 and will conclude on February 12, 2026 and focuses on public review of the Draft SacAdapt Plan. Input received during Phase 3 engagement will inform finalization of the SacAdapt Plan that will be presented to City Council for approval in April 2026.

The primary tool for capturing public feedback during Phase 3 engagement is the online Konveio review platform, where individuals can review and comment on the Draft SacAdapt Plan. The plan review period begins on January 15, 2026 and will close on February 12, 2026. The link to the public review Draft SacAdapt Plan is available on the project website (cityofsacramento.gov/SacAdapt).

The Project Team is leveraging multiple strategies to encourage community participation in the Phase III outreach survey including a project webpage (cityofsacramento.gov/SacAdapt); a City Express post; City and SacRT social media posts; emails to community partners; digital toolkit; and multiple in-person pop-up events, workshops, and presentations, including:

- January 15: SacRT Mobility Advisory Council Presentation
- January 15: Active Transportation Commission Presentation
- January 15: City Connect Mixer
- January 28: Light Rail Station Outreach
- February 3: Online Workshop #1
- February 4: Disabilities Advisory Commission Presentation
- February 5: Online Workshop #2

Additional engagement events will be added to the project website as they are confirmed.

The adaptation strategies for the City are broken out into four hazards with ten total strategy categories:

- Heat:
 - Create built environments that reduce exposure to extreme heat and mitigate urban heat island effect.
 - Create built environments that are resilient to the impacts of extreme heat.
- Flooding:
 - Increase stormwater drainage capacity.
 - Invest in infrastructure maintenance.

- All-Hazard:
 - Increase community resilience to prepare for climate impacts.
 - Reduce the risk of power outages.
 - Strengthen City government capacity for climate resilience.
 - Support resilience of transit facilities.
- Disaster preparedness:
 - Strengthen City government disaster preparedness and capacity for emergency response.
 - Consider evacuation needs in planning.

Many of the adaptation strategies are aligned previously adopted strategies in the 2040 General Plan, Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, Urban Forest Plan, Streets for People Plan, and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Within these previously adopted strategies, suggested additions are highlighted as relevant. Additional strategies are identified to address gaps in previously adopted strategies.

The SacAdapt Plan also includes a list of adaptation strategies for SacRT to increase resilience of the public transportation system. These strategies are included in the public review Draft SacAdapt Plan.

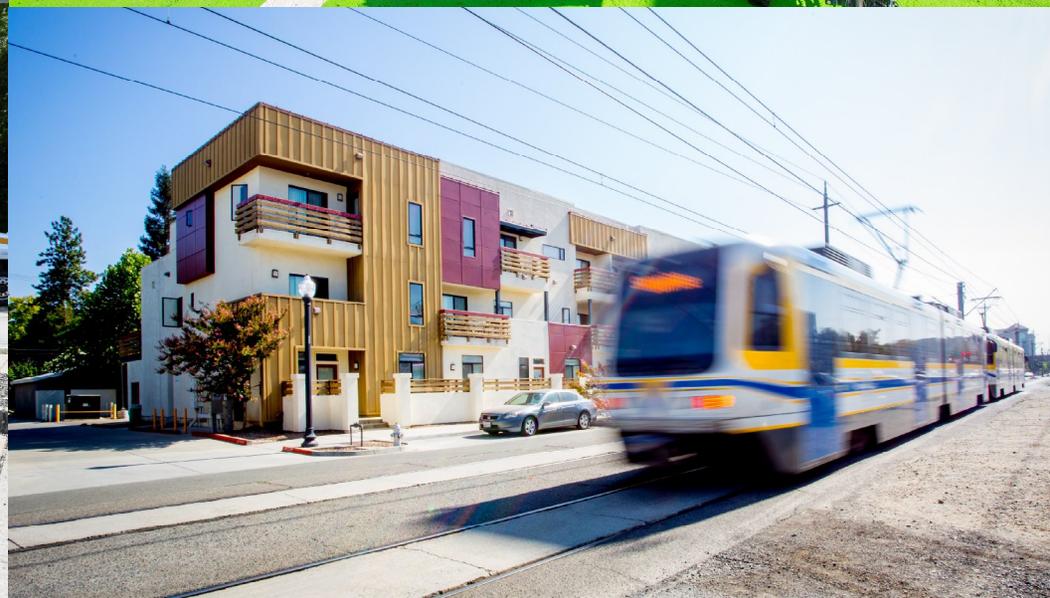


Sac Adapt

Transportation Adaptation Plan

Active Transportation Commission
January 15, 2026

Funded by a Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant



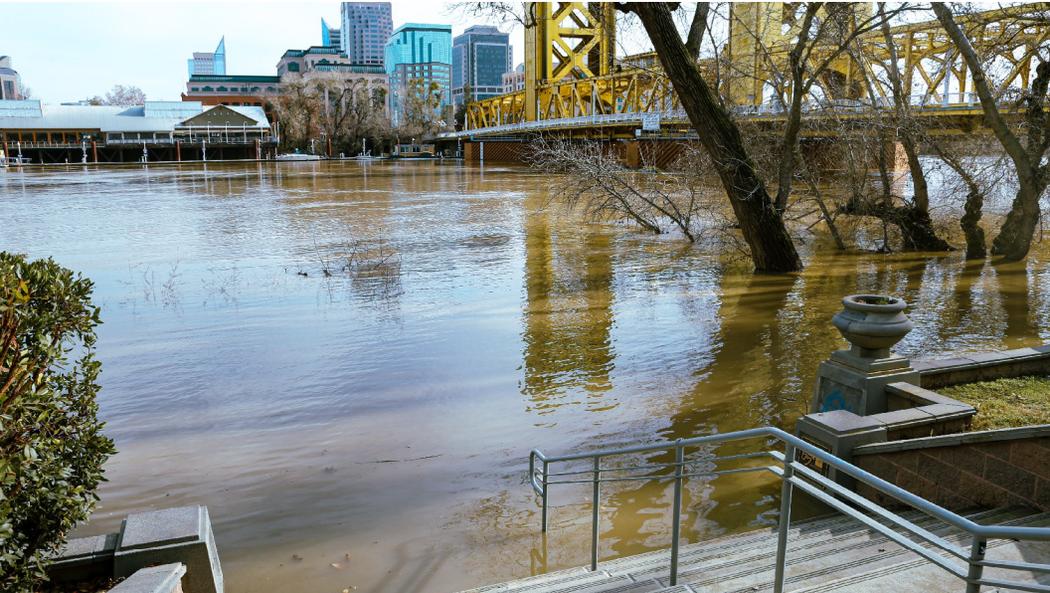


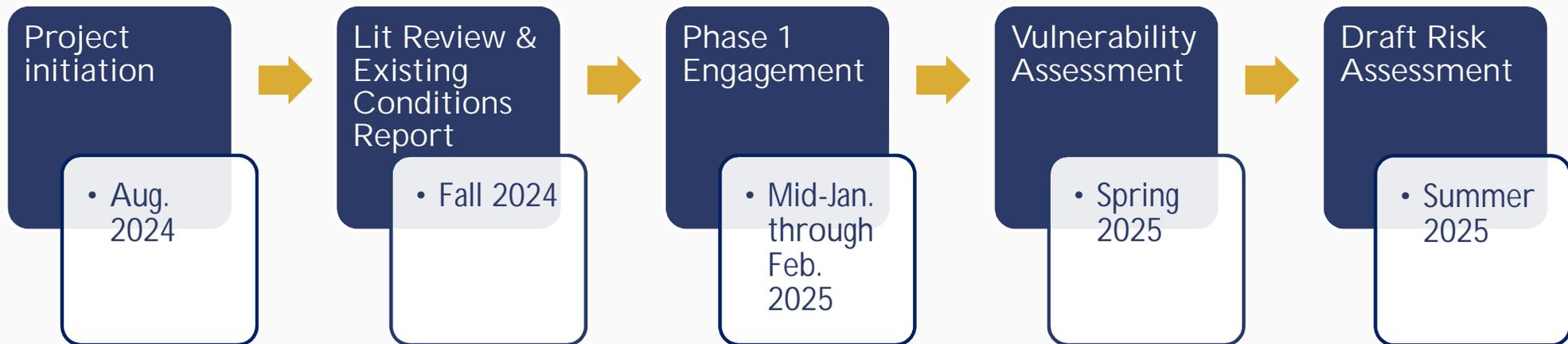
Photo credit: Paul Kitagaki Jr., Sac Bee

SacAdapt: Transportation Adaptation Plan

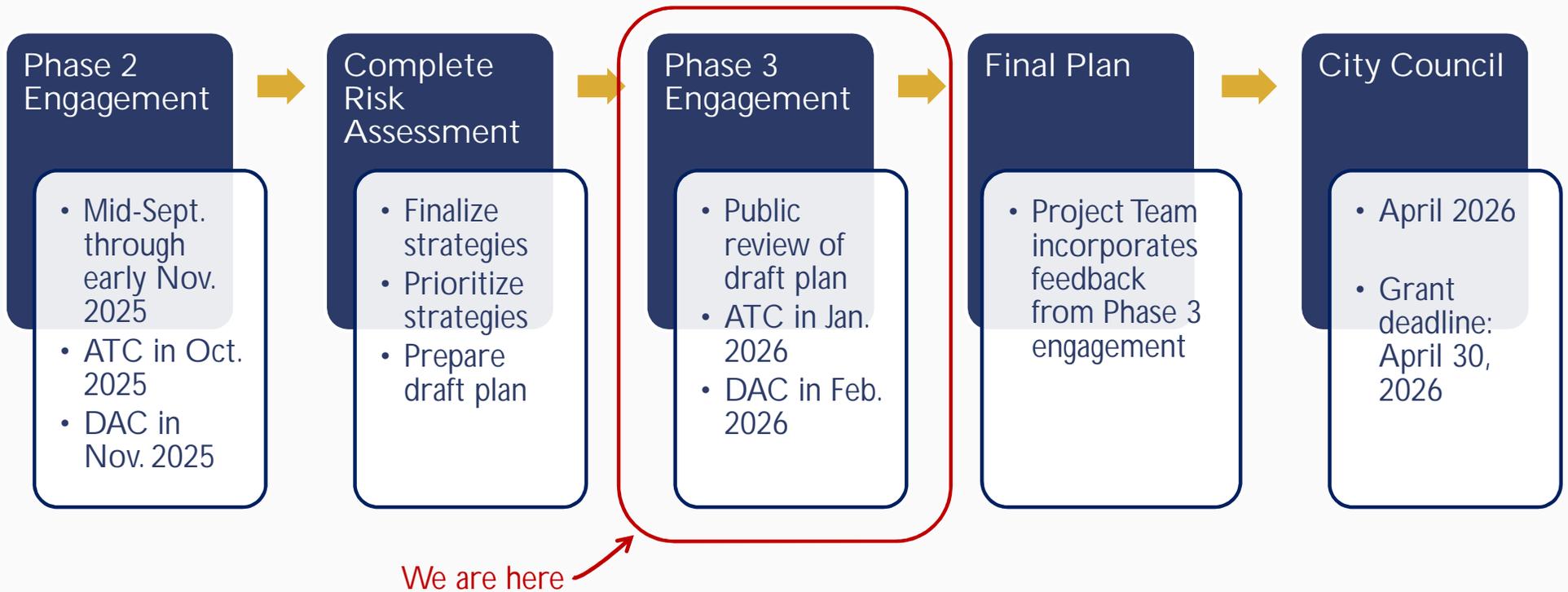
- Analyze extreme weather impacts on Sacramento's transportation system
- Identify actionable recommendations
- Secure future funding for impactful projects



Project Timeline



Project Timeline (cont.)



Adaptation Strategies & Implementing Actions

- City: 10 strategies with 59 implementing actions
 - Heat: 12 actions
 - Flooding: 16 actions
 - All Hazard: 19 actions
 - Disaster Preparedness: 12 actions
- SacRT: 12 strategies with 23 implementing actions

Recommendations - Heat

- Create built environments that reduce exposure to extreme heat and mitigate urban heat island effect.
 - Implement the Urban Forest Plan (GP; CAAP; UFP)
 - Heat reduction in the public realm (GP; CAAP)
 - Expand drinking water access (GP)
 - Create a wayfinding program (S4P)
 - Improve noticing for bicycle/pedestrian facility closures (New)
- Create built environments that are resilient to the impacts of extreme heat.

Recommendations - Flooding

- **Increase stormwater drainage capacity.**
 - *Many actions identified in the LHMP and CAAP to increase capacity*
 - Integrate stormwater mitigation strategies into City infrastructure (CAAP)
- **Invest in infrastructure maintenance.**
 - Increase capacity for bicycle facility maintenance (New)

Recommendations - All Hazard

- Increase community resilience to prepare for climate impacts.
- Reduce the risk of power outages.
 - Tree trimming & debris removal (LHMP)
- **Strengthen City government capacity for climate resilience.**
 - Align Transportation Priorities Plan climate scoring with climate resilience (New)
- Support resilience of transit facilities.

Recommendations - Disaster preparedness

- **Strengthen City government disaster preparedness and capacity for emergency response.**
 - Incorporate resilience strategies into end-of-life traffic equipment replacements (New)
 - Emergency and disaster preparedness exercises (LHMP; CAAP)
- **Consider evacuation needs in planning.**
 - Align roadway safety improvements with emergency response functions (New)

Community Engagement Pathways

1. Draft Plan review available online (Konveio) through February 12
 - sacramento.konveio.com
 - Project website: cityofsacramento.gov/SacAdapt
2. Events and targeted engagement:
 - Online workshops: Feb. 3 and Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.

Item Recommendation: Review and comment

- Does the Commission have feedback about Phase III engagement?
- Does the Commission have feedback on the summarized adaptation strategies?

Thank you!

Sarah Kolarik

Office of Climate Action &
Sustainability

SKolarik@cityofsacramento.org

cityofsacramento.gov/SacAdapt

City of
SACRAMENTO

**sustainability
starts with us**

