2020 Annual Planning Survey Report

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

MAY 2021

State of California
Gavin Newsom, Governor

Governor's Office of Planning and Research
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Agency Information

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Letter from the Director

Dear Reader:

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is pleased to announce the release of the 2020 Annual Planning Survey results. OPR's Annual Planning Survey is distributed to all cities and counties across California and provides the latest information on local planning activities, the status of city and county General Plans, and other issues of statewide concern.

We sent out the survey as 2020 was coming to a close, which offered the chance to use this year's survey as an opportunity to reflect on this unprecedented time and set goals for the future. Many of the survey questions are centered around the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and local capacity to address topics of statewide concern. The insights and perspectives provided in this report will enable OPR, and our partners, to better support Californians in 2021 and beyond.

We very much appreciate the time and effort that each local jurisdiction put into completing their survey. Moreover, we would like to thank city and county staff for all for the amazing work they do every day to ensure a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive California for all. These communities are on the front lines, leading the way toward an equitable recovery.

We are grateful that many jurisdictions have continued to participate in this statewide effort, and we hope that the survey will continue to be a valuable tool for our local partners. OPR welcomes comments and suggestions on how the survey can be more effective and informative in the future.

Sincerely,

Kate Gordon

Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research

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Introduction to the Survey

Each year the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) distributes the Annual Planning Survey (APS) to every city and county in the state of California to gain information about the status of each jurisdiction's planning efforts and explore, in greater depth, the policies that jurisdictions are implementing to address issues of statewide concern. These public survey responses allow OPR and the larger planning community to identify areas of local leadership and develop tools and guidance for jurisdictions.

OPR distributed the APS electronically in November 2020 and accepted responses through early January 2021. During the survey period, staff followed up with 177 jurisdictions through direct phone outreach. In addition, two reminder emails were sent to each city and county. This report provides an overview of the 2020 results and highlights key themes and insights.

2020 Survey Responses

The following section provides an overview of questions and responses from the 2020 APS. For access to the full set of survey data, please refer to the companion Excel document which has been made available on OPR's website at https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/.
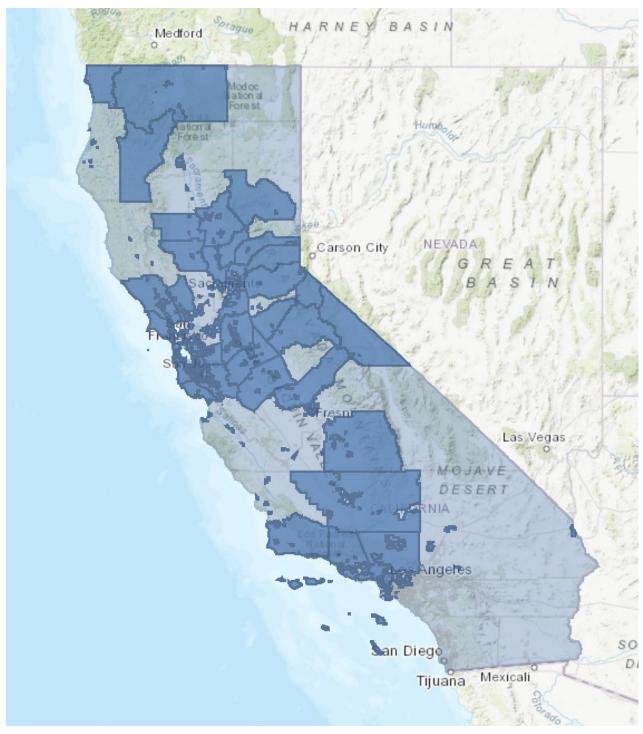
Section 1: Jurisdiction Information

This year, 319 of the 540 cities and counties (59%) in California completed the 2020 APS. This includes 284 of the 482 cities (59%) and 36 of the 58 counties (62%). Approximately 71% percent of California's population is represented by the jurisdictions who responded to the 2020 survey[1]. Figure 1 highlights the geographic distribution of respondents. For added granularity, please view this zoom-enabled version of the map.

Fewer communities responded to this year's survey as compared to prior years. The response rate was 68% and 63% in 2019 and 2018 respectively, versus 59% completion rate in 2020. This lower rate of response was partly due to the strain on capacity caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. When interpreting the 2020 APS data and results, please keep in mind these constraints.

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[1] This figure is based on the 2020 population estimates released by the California Department of Finance demographic research unit on May 1, 2020.

Figure 1: Geographic Distribution of Respondents

Map Legend

■ Cities and counties that completed the 2020 APS

□ Cities and counties that did not complete the 2020 APS

Section 2: Agency Information

Questions and answers from this section are general information questions that are used to update the Directory of Planning Agencies. The 2021 directory may be found on OPR's website at https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/.

Section 3: General Plan Updates

3.1 When did your jurisdiction last update the following required elements?

On average, cities and counties updated the housing and environmental justice elements of their general plans most recently. Meanwhile, conservation, noise, and open space elements were updated less regularly. Table 1 provides summary statistics highlighting when cities and counties reported that they last updated the required elements of their general plan, as well as those who indicated that they are currently updating certain general plan elements.

Table 1: Time Since Last General Plan Element Update (n=319)

Required Element	Average (years)	Median (years)	Mode (years)	Currently Updating (%)
Land Use	9.5	8	0	16.6
Circulation	10.1	8	0	14.7
Conservation	12.7	10	0	13.5
Housing	4.9	5	5	29.8
Noise	12.9	10	0	12.9
Open Space	12.5	10	0	13.5
Safety	10.8	8	0	23.5
Air Quality*	10.9	10	10	0.3
Environmental Justice**	3.8	1	0	3.4

*An air quality element is only required in the San Joaquin Valley.

** An environmental justice element became a required element in 2018 with the passage of SB 1000. The legislation amended Government Code 65302(h) to require that all jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities include this element in their General Plan upon the next update or revision to two or more elements concurrently. 252 survey respondents answered NA to this question. This could indicate that either they have not yet incorporated this element into their general plan, or that they made a determination that this requirement does not apply to their community.

3.2 When does your jurisdiction plan to update the following required elements?

Looking toward the future, many cities and counties are getting ready to update the housing, safety, and environmental justice elements of their general plans. Many of these updates are in response to legislation. Government Code § 65588 mandates that jurisdictions update their housing element at least once every 8 years. In addition, there are several new safety element update requirements pursuant to recent legislation:

- SB 379 and SB 1035 require jurisdictions to update their safety element to address climate vulnerability and adaptation, and to update fire, flooding and climate adaptation portions of the safety element every 8 years upon the next housing element update.
- SB 1241 requires that jurisdictions in the State Responsibility Area and the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone address specific wildfire requirements in their safety elements.
- AB 747 and SB 99 added specific evacuation route requirements to the safety element.

Moreover, SB 1000 requires all jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice within their general plan upon the next update of two or more general plan elements concurrently (see OPR guidance for more detail). Table 2 provides summary statistics highlighting when cities and counties plan to update certain general plan elements and lists the percentage of jurisdictions that are currently updating their plans.

Table 2: Time Until Next General Plan Element Update (n=319)

Required Element	Average (years)	Median (years)	Mode (years)	Currently Updating (%)
Land Use	5.7	3	0	16.6
Circulation	6.0	4	10	14.7
Conservation	6.9	5	10	13.5
Housing	2.2	1	0	29.8
Noise	6.8	5	10	12.9
Open Space	6.9	5	10	13.5
Safety	4.5	2	0	23.5
Air Quality*	6.3	5	1	0.3
Environmental Justice**	4.2	2	1	3.4

*An air quality element is only required in the San Joaquin Valley.

** An environmental justice element became a required element in 2018 with the passage of SB 1000. 102 survey respondents answered NA to this question. This could indicate that either they do not yet have plans to incorporate this element into their general plan, or that they made a determination that this requirement does not apply to their community.

Section 4: COVID-19 Impacts

4.1 How has your jurisdiction responded to COVID-19 related impacts on fixed route transit service?

Nearly one-third of city and one-fifth of county respondents reported no impact to fixed-route transit service due to COVID-19. For the agencies that were affected, respondents usually reported a temporary reduction in service hours or routes. Looking ahead, very few jurisdictions anticipate long-term impacts to transit.

Approximately 40% of respondents marked "other". These jurisdictions commonly reported that fixed-route transit services are either not provided or are operated by a separate entity.
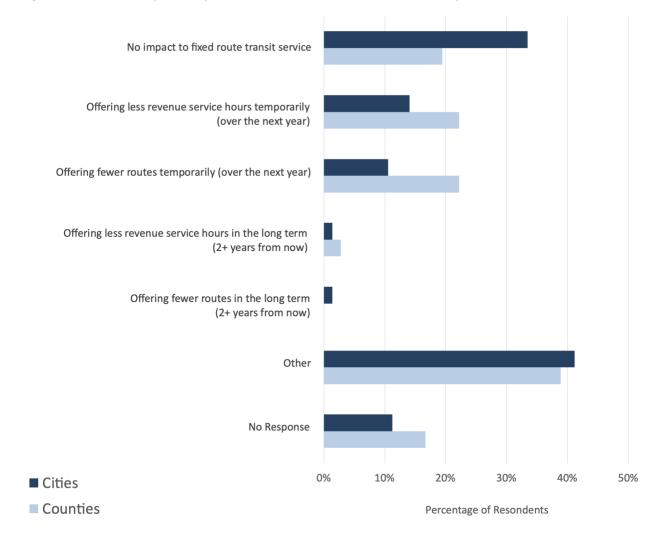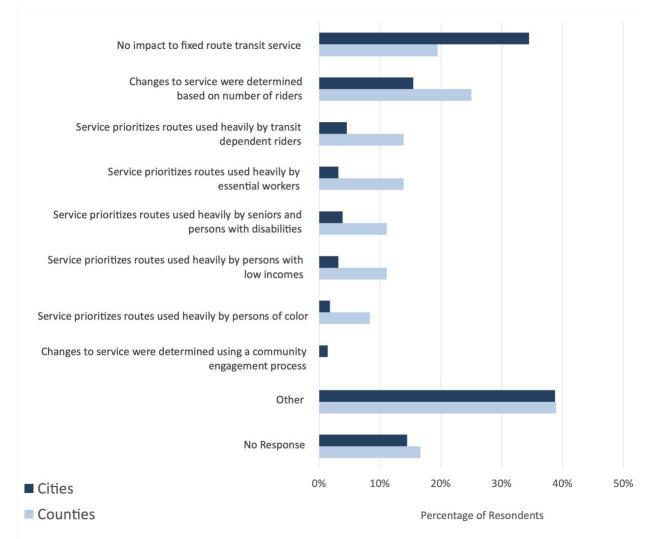
Figure 2: COVID-19 impacts to fixed-route transit service. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

4.2 How were changes to fixed route transit service determined?

As noted above, nearly one-third of city and one-fifth of county respondents reported no impact to fixed-route transit service due to COVID-19. For the agencies that did alter transit service, changes were most commonly determined by number of riders. A total of 24 agencies prioritized routes taken by transit dependent riders, essential workers, or marginalized populations. Moreover, four agencies engaged community members to determine changes to service.
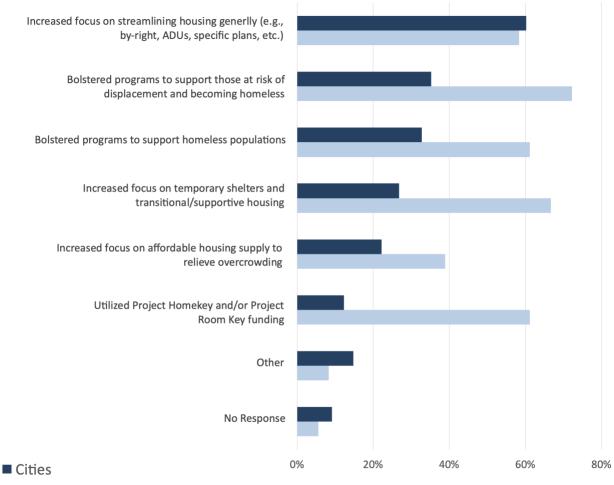
Nearly 38% of respondents marked "other". These jurisdictions commonly reported that fixed-route transit services are either not provided or are operated by a separate entity.

Figure 3: Determination of COVID-19 related changes to fixed-route transit service.
(Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

4.3 How has your jurisdiction responded to COVID-19 related impacts on housing?

The majority of jurisdictions responded to COVID-19 by taking action to streamline housing. A significant percentage of communities reported additional actions as well. 149 city and 30 county respondents bolstered programs to support persons at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness. Moreover, 99 jurisdictions increased focus on temporary shelters and supportive housing, 76 focused on affordable housing supply to relieve overcrowding, and 57 jurisdictions utilized project Home Key and Room Key funding.
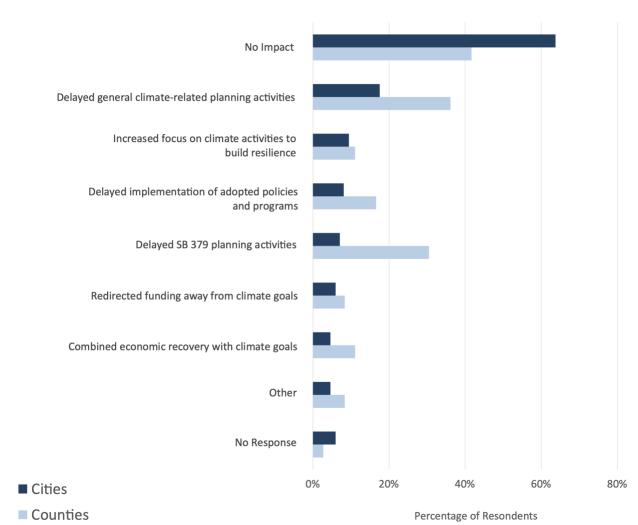
Figure 4: COVID-19 related impacts on housing. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

Figure 4: COVID-19 related impacts on housing. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

4.4 How has COVID-19 impacted climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in your jurisdiction?

65% of city and 42% of county respondents reported no impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation activities due to COVID-19. For those that were impacted, 66 cities and 18 counties reported delays and/or loss of funding for climate mitigation and adaptation activities; this represents 23% and 50% of city and county respondents, respectively. Furthermore, 30 agencies reported increased focus on climate activities and 16 respondents combined economic recovery with climate goals.
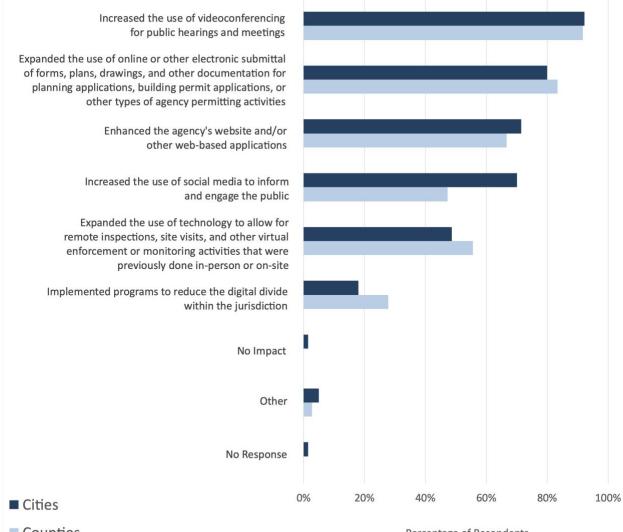
Figure 5: COVID-19 related impacts on climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

4.5 How has COVID-19 impacted digital government services related to planning in your jurisdiction?

The vast majority of cities and counties increased digital government services due to COVID-19. Respondents most commonly increased the use of videoconferencing for public hearings, enhanced their website, and expanded the use of electronic forms, plans, drawings, applications, or other documentation. A higher percentage of cities turned to social media for public engagement while a larger percentage of counties reported using technology for remote inspections or site visits. A total of 61 respondents implemented programs to reduce the digital divide within their community.

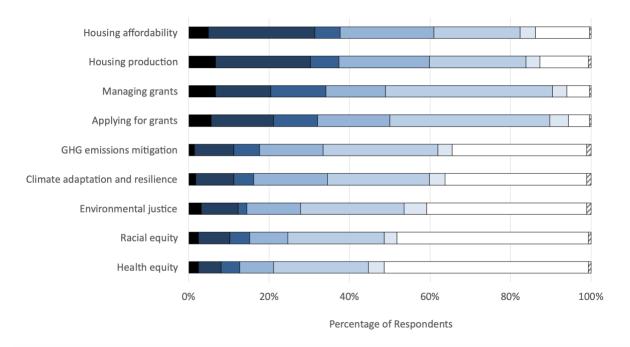*Figure 6: COVID-19 related impacts on digital government services. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)*

Section 5: Staffing Capacity

5.1 What level of staffing does your agency currently have to address the following planning topics?

Cities and counties generally reported higher staff capacity to apply for and manage grants as well as address housing affordability and production. Meanwhile, there was a moderate amount of capacity to address climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental justice. Both types of respondents had the least amount of capacity to dive into health and racial equity related planning topics.
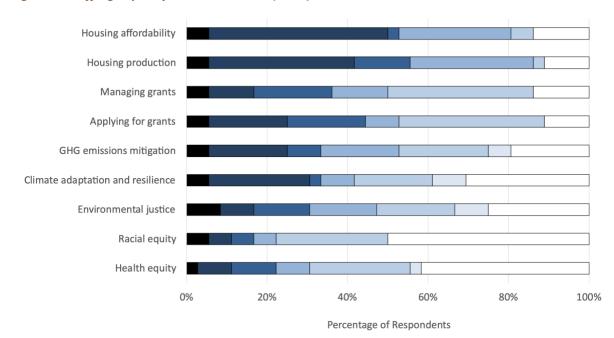
Figure 7: Staffing capacity within cities. (n=284)

- ■ Adequate staff capacity, no consultants needed
- ■ Some staff with funding for consultants
- ■ Some staff and no funding for consultants
- ☐ Very limited staff with funding for consultants
- ☐ Very limited staff and no funding for consultants
- ☐ No staff with funding for consultants
- ☐ No staff and no funding for consultants
- ▨ No Resopnse

Figure 8: Staffing capacity within counties. (n=36)

Legend:
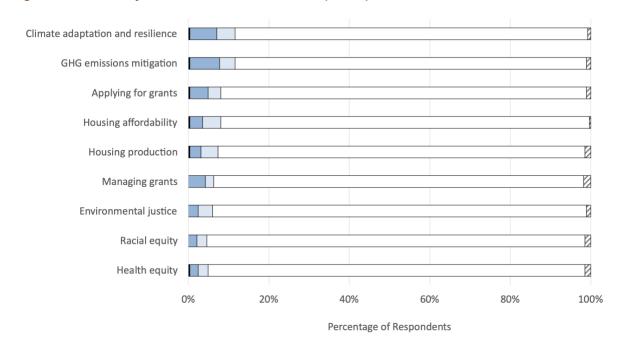- ■ Adequate staff capacity, no consultants needed
- ■ Some staff with funding for consultants
- ■ Some staff and no funding for consultants
- □ Very limited staff with funding for consultants
- □ Very limited staff and no funding for consultants
- □ No staff with funding for consultants
- □ No staff and no funding for consultants
- ▨ No Resopnse

5.2 Does your agency have intern/fellow assistance to address the following planning topics?
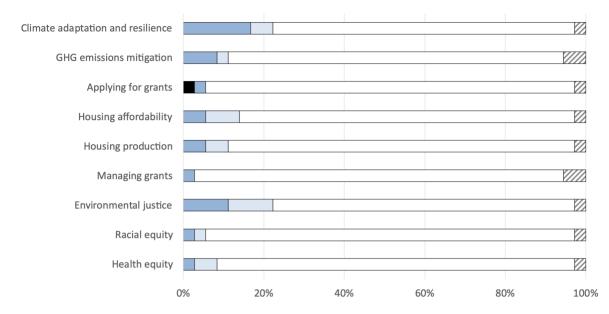
On the whole, very few local agencies worked with interns or fellows to address the planning topics asked about in the 2020 APS. Approximately 75% of city and 64% of county respondents had no support for any of the topics asked about in the APS.

By partnering with educational institutions or fellowship programs, such as CivicSpark, communities can not only bolster their staffing capacity but also empower the next generation of planners by providing students and young professionals with valuable learn-by-doing experiences.

Figure 9: Intern and fellow assistance within cities. (n=284)

Percentage of Respondents

Figure 10: Intern and fellow assistance within counties. (n=36)

Percentage of Respondents

■ Both intern and fellow support
■ Fellow support only
☐ Intern support only
☐ No intern or fellow support
▨ No Resopnse

Section 6: Technical Assistance

6.1 Since January 2020, has your jurisdiction received technical assistance—in the form of grant writing, grant management, or trainings— to address the following planning topics?

The majority of respondents received at least some technical assistance to apply for grants and address housing affordability and production. A moderate amount of support was also received to manage grants, address climate change mitigation and adaptation, and bolster environmental justice efforts. Only 11 and 12% of respondents received assistance to address health and racial equity in their planning, respectively.

6.2 Does your jurisdiction have an interest in receiving technical assistance— in the form of grant writing, grant management, or trainings— to address the following planning topics?

Across the board, local agencies are very interested in receiving technical assistance (TA) to address the planning topics listed in the 2020 APS. Overall interest was above 70% for each topic. Respondents were most interested in receiving housing-related assistance followed by climate change mitigation and adaptation assistance. Interest in equity and environmental justice was the lower than other topics, yet still notable with 27 to 29% of local agencies indicating a strong interest.

By combining information from questions 6.1 and 6.2, OPR was able to estimate the amount of unmet interest and need for TA. The greatest gaps in assistance were present for equity-focused topics followed by environmental justice, GHG mitigation, and climate adaptation. Moreover, the data highlighted a gap in grants management support. Despite nearly identical levels of interest, a lower percentage of respondents received TA for managing grants as opposed to applying for grants.

Table 3: Technical Assistance Received vs. Interest in TA for Cities & Counties. (n=319)

Topic	Overall Interest	Strong Interest	Received TA	Unmet Interest*	Unmet Need**
Applying for Grants	85%	48%	62%	23%	--
Managing Grants	84%	46%	36%	48%	10%
Housing Affordability	87%	50%	54%	34%	--
Housing Production	84%	47%	56%	28%	--
GHG Emissions Mitigation	81%	32%	24%	58%	9%

Topic	Overall Interest	Strong Interest	Received TA	Unmet Interest*	Unmet Need**
Climate Adaptation	80%	36%	28%	52%	8%
Health Equity	75%	27%	11%	64%	16%
Environmental Justice	74%	29%	19%	54%	10%
Racial Equity	71%	29%	12%	59%	17%

*For the purposes of this publication, unmet interest is defined as the difference between the percentage of respondents who reported some or strong interest in receiving technical assistance and the percentage that received some or adequate technical assistance.

** For the purposes of this publication, unmet need is defined as the difference between the percentage of jurisdictions who reported a strong interest in receiving technical assistance and the percentage that received some or adequate technical assistance.

6.3 Please indicate whether your jurisdiction has any other technical assistance need that could be provided by the State that is not currently being provided or addressed.

55 local agencies cited additional technical assistance needs they felt could be provided by the State. Their comments are summarized below. For access to the full set of survey data, please refer to the companion Excel document which has been made available on OPR's website at https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/.

Summary of Additional Technical Assistance Need

In general, cities and counties felt the State could provide further assistance with interpreting new laws and determining local implications. One respondent suggested the State "provide annual training on changes to State law that affect local jurisdictions", further mentioning that "many of these new regulations go into effect without notification of potential impacts to cities."

Timely guidance is another key area where respondents felt the State could better support local agencies. This would, in-particular, benefit the under-resourced communities who reported feeling overwhelmed by the volume of new regulation. One respondent noted how they "[small jurisdictions] have a difficult time keeping up with the constant flow and change in regulation." Another added "there are more requirements than we have bodies to keep up with". These challenges, in some cases, have been exacerbated by the pandemic. For instance, one city reported that their budget was "cut by approximately 20% as a result of loss of hotel tax. In return, [their city eliminated] 100 positions", significantly reducing staff capacity. One respondent suggested that there is a need to support jurisdictions beyond providing technical assistance, observing that "while on-time or short-term technical assistance is helpful, if we

don't have the ongoing staff and financial resources to continue to work on these issues, it is of little long-term value".

To implement mandated programs and requirements, jurisdictions felt additional grant funding, support, and/or tools to update required general plan elements and complete technical studies would be helpful. In particular, twelve jurisdictions wanted assistance with their housing elements. Some of these respondents specifically called out challenges with addressing homelessness, housing affordability, and accessory dwelling units. Five other agencies wanted help complying with SB 743, which updates the way transportation impacts are measured for projects undergoing environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Safety element updates were also a common area of interest along with developing more effective ways to engage communities in the planning process.

OPR and SGC Technical Assistance Programs

OPR and SGC are committed to supporting communities across California by publishing guidance, providing technical assistance, and facilitating connections across and between agencies to chart a coordinated path forward. Existing resources include:

- Federal Grant Assistance - The Federal Grant Administrator at OPR provides technical assistance to state agencies, local governments, institutions of higher learning, and nonprofit organizations, on how to find, apply for, and manage federal grants. As part of their role, they identify new funding opportunities and facilitate trainings to encourage and improve the ability of interested parties to pursue and manage federal grants.
- Community Assistance for Climate Equity - The California Climate Investments Technical Assistance Program supports local communities with direct application assistance, partnership development, and capacity building activities with the goal of facilitating access to California Climate Investments (CCI) funding programs. Local agencies can join SGC's Technical Assistance Listserv to receive information and updates about the program.
- Planning Guidance and Assistance - OPR staff are available to answer questions regarding CEQA as well as state planning and zoning regulations. OPR regularly publishes technical advisories and hosts webinars to address questions that jurisdictions may have regarding new legislative requirements.
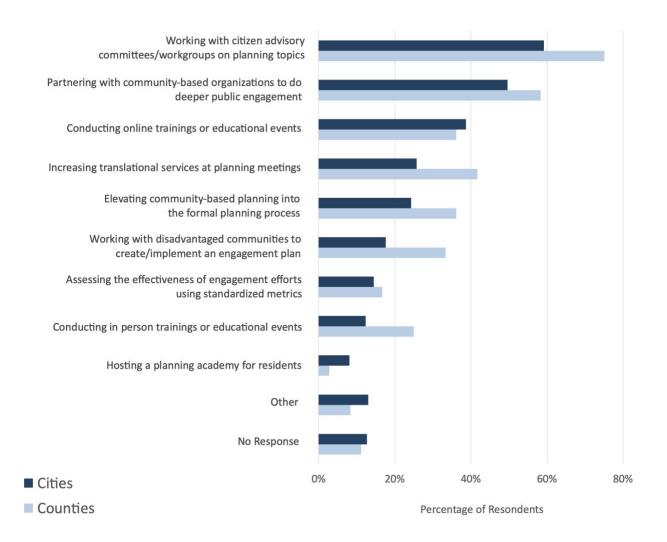
Both OPR and SGC remain focused on improving our programs and expanding our capability to support jurisdictions across California in order meet the unique needs of each community.

Section 7: Local and Regional Collaboration

7.1 What is your jurisdiction doing to build relationships with and empower residents to meaningfully engage in the planning process?

The majority of local agencies are working with citizen advisory committees/workgroups and partnering with community-based organizations to engage the public more deeply in planning topics. As expected, due to the pandemic, many activities have shifted online. More than a third of jurisdictions are conducting online trainings and educational events while 13% of cities and 25% of counties are hosting in-person events.
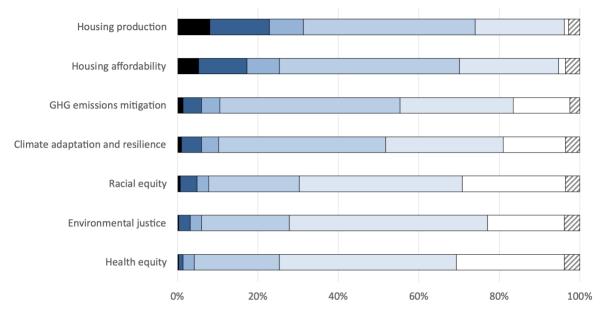
Figure 11: Jurisdictions engaging in activities to build relationships and empower residents to meaningfully engage in the planning process. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

7.2 How often does your planning department hold collaborative meetings with other departments within your agency to address the following planning topics?

Cities and counties interface on housing topics most frequently, followed by climate-change related topics. A sizeable number of planning departments do not address environmental justice (62), racial equity (85), or health equity (88) in their planning.

Figure 12: Frequency of collaborative meetings with other departments in city agencies to address planning topics. (n=284)

Housing production
Housing affordability
GHG emissions mitigation
Climate adaptation and resilience
Racial equity
Environmental justice
Health equity

Percentage of Respondents

■ Weekly collaborative meetings
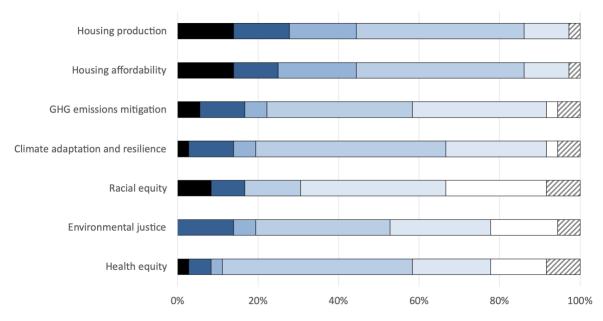■ Monthly collaborative meetings
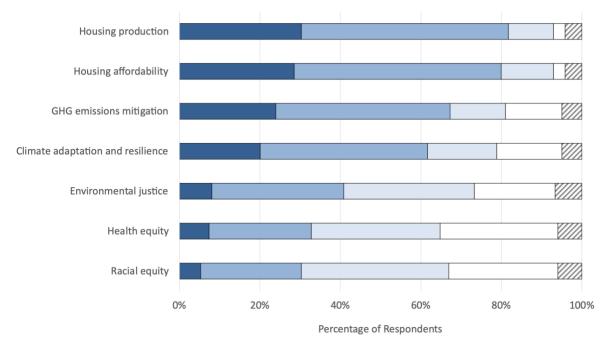■ Quarterly collaborative meetings
■ Irregular collaborative meetings
□ No collaborative meetings
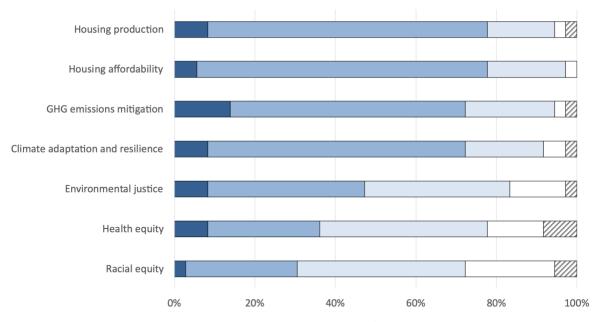□ We are not addressing this planning topic
▨ No Response

7.3 Since January 2020, has your jurisdiction aligned the following planning topics with larger regional plans or efforts?

Cities most commonly reported having their housing plans in alignment while counties most commonly reported that their GHG emissions mitigation plans/efforts are in alignment. The majority of jurisdictions are working to align housing and climate topics, less than half reported efforts to align environmental justice topics, while 30-35% reported efforts to align racial and health equity topics since January 2020.

Figure 14: City alignment of planning topics with larger regional plans or efforts. (n=284)

Percentage of Respondents

Figure 15: County alignment of planning topics with larger regional plans or efforts. (n=36)

Percentage of Respondents

- ■ Yes, in alignment
- ■ In progress, working on alignment
- □ No, not connected to regional plans or efforts
- □ We are not addressing this planning topic
- ▨ No Response

7.4 How are regional plans or frameworks helpful for planning in your community (if at all)?

One hundred and twenty-one local agencies provided insight into the helpfulness of regional plans or frameworks. Their comments are summarized below. For access to the full set of survey data, please refer to the companion Excel document which has been made available on OPR's website at https://opr.ca.gov/planning/general-plan/.
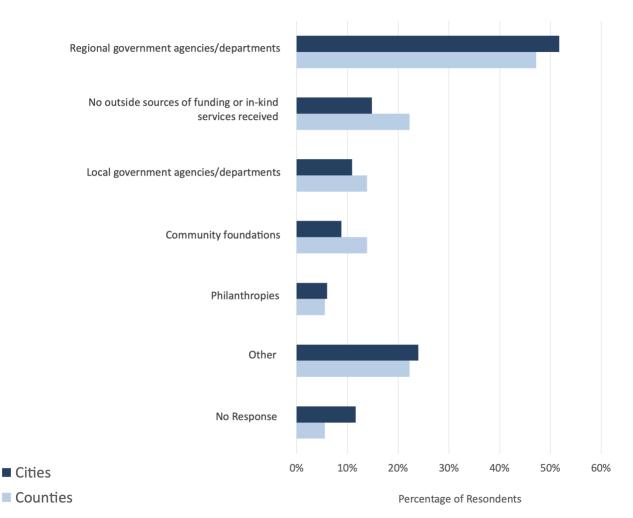
Summary Regarding the Value of Regional Plans or Frameworks

A majority of 2020 APS respondents find value in regional plans or frameworks. According to the input received, these efforts often serve as a valuable reference when cities and counties create more localized plans. Moreover, they can bolster community capacity by providing baseline data and funding opportunities. One jurisdiction noted that their regional partnerships "provide funding pools for planning projects" while another mentioned that "partnering with nearby jurisdictions or preparing county-wide plans can reduce costs, reduce necessary staff time, attract more consultants to bid on work, and ensure greater inter-agency collaboration on issues that are not confined to the City's boundaries". Several others also mentioned how the process of developing regional plans and frameworks provided a needed forum in which communities are able to discuss topics "that do not lend themselves to local agency focus" and coordinate approaches.

However, 15 jurisdictions felt that regional plans or frameworks were not always effective, responding along the lines of "it depends". Moreover, nine others stated that regional frameworks are "not helpful" at all. One jurisdiction noted how a previous regional effort did not adequately engage all jurisdictions involved, this ultimately limited the value of the plan. Another echoed that "resources are often stretched too thin for meaningful participation in all of the regional planning efforts going on in the area." Additional communities noted that, for specific topics, regional plans aren't useful because they don't take into account their unique circumstances and needs.

7.5 Since January 2020, has your jurisdiction received funding, including matching funds or in-kind services, from the following entities?

Local agencies most often receive matching funding or in-kind services from regional government agencies/departments. Approximately 23% of county and 15% of city respondents did not receive any outside support in 2020. About one-fifth of local agencies noted that they received funding or services from other sources. Most often these agencies cited state grant programs, particularly SB 2 and LEAP funding. A few respondents also reported support from the federal government, COGs, and energy-focused groups.
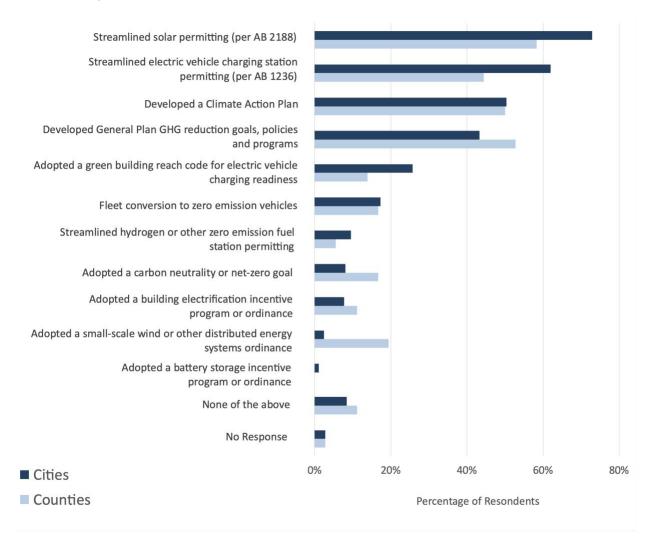
Figure 16: Jurisdictions receiving matching funds or in-kind services. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

Section 8: GHG Emissions Reduction

8.1 Has your jurisdiction adopted plans, programs, policies, ordinances or other measures to help meet local or State GHG reduction goals?

Many local agencies have streamlined permitting for solar and electric vehicle charging stations. Moreover, nearly half of all respondents developed a climate action plan or included GHG reduction measures in their general plan. Communities are now beginning to take next steps by converting their fleets to zero-emission vehicles or adopting carbon neutrality or net-zero goals.

Figure 17: Jurisdictions that have taken certain measures to meet GHG reduction goals.
(Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

8.2 If your jurisdiction adopted a climate action plan or equivalent, does your agency track the implementation of your GHG emissions reduction targets or strategies?

Approximately 36% of all jurisdictions track the implementation of their GHG emissions targets or strategies while 27% and 19% of city and county respondents do not, respectively. In addition, 78 cities and 12 counties marked "NA" to this question, implying that their jurisdiction has not adopted a climate action plan or something equivalent. For additional information, see Figure 18.
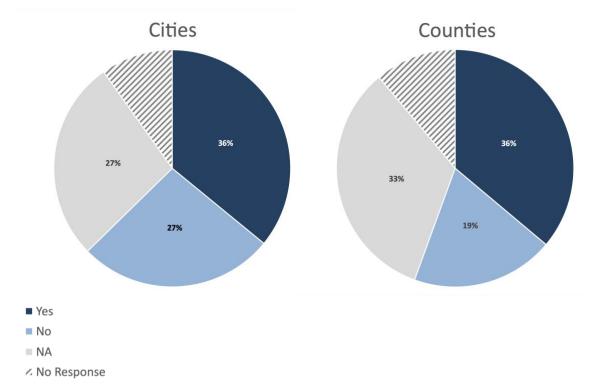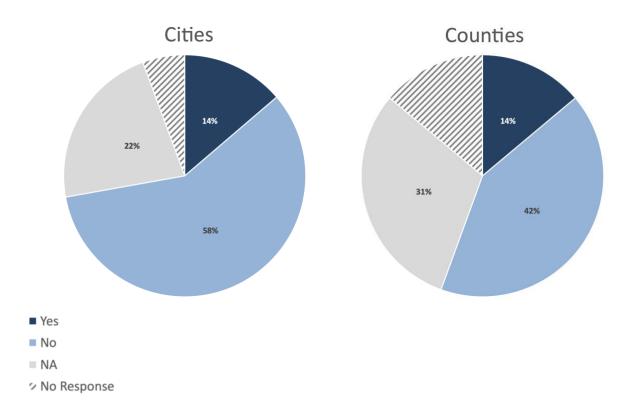
Figure 18: Jurisdictions that track GHG emissions reduction targets or strategies.
(Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

Cities

36%
27%
27%

Counties

36%
33%
19%

■ Yes
■ No
■ NA
⧄ No Response

8.3 Has your jurisdiction updated your GHG emissions reduction targets or strategies since January 2020?

Approximately 14% of jurisdictions updated their GHG emissions targets or strategies in 2020. In addition, 63 cities and 11 counties marked "NA" to this question, implying that their jurisdiction does not have reduction targets or strategies in place. For additional information, see Figure 19.
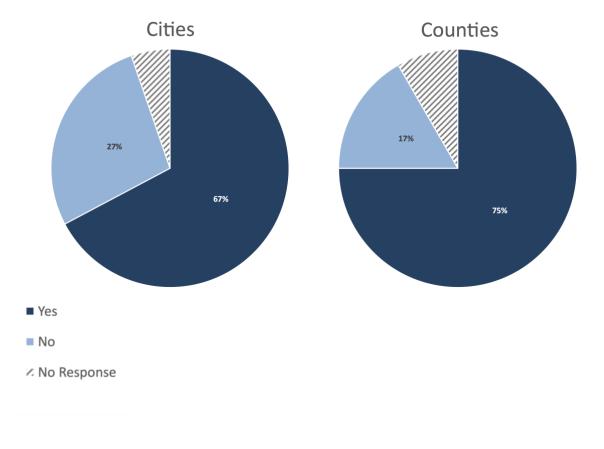
Figure 19: Jurisdictions that updated their GHG emissions reduction targets or strategies in 2020. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

Cities

Counties

- Yes
- No
- NA
- No Response

8.4 Has your jurisdiction shifted to VMT from LOS as its primary metric of transportation impact?

A total of 217 jurisdictions indicated they made the shift to VMT as their primary metric of transportation[2]. This represents 75% of county and 67% of city respondents. These changes have largely occurred in the past few years. In 2018, only 8% of city and 7% of county APS respondents used VMT as their primary metric. On the whole, these trends indicate that the shift to using VMT metrics is now well underway across California. For additional information, see Figure 20.

Figure 20: Jurisdictions that shifted to VMT from LOS as its primary metric of transportation impact. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)
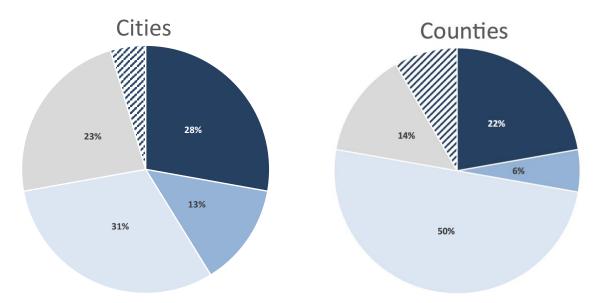

Cities

27%

67%

Counties

17%

75%

- Yes
- No
- No Response

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[2] Note that July 1, 2020, was the statutory deadline to begin using VMT as the metric for transportation analysis in CEQA.

8.5 Has/will your jurisdiction formally adopt* CEQA thresholds of significance for transportation based on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metrics, pursuant to SB 743 updates to the CEQA Guidelines that took effect on July 1, 2020? *Note: Formal adoption of CEQA thresholds of significance is not required by statute.

A total of 232 agencies indicated "yes" when asked if they will formally adopt CEQA thresholds of significance for transportation based on VMT metrics. Thus far, 28% of cities and 22% of county respondents have already adopted thresholds and another 40 jurisdictions are currently in the process of adoption. For additional information, see Figure 21.

Figure 21: Jurisdictions that plan to formally adopt CEQA thresholds of significance for transportation based on VMT metrics. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)
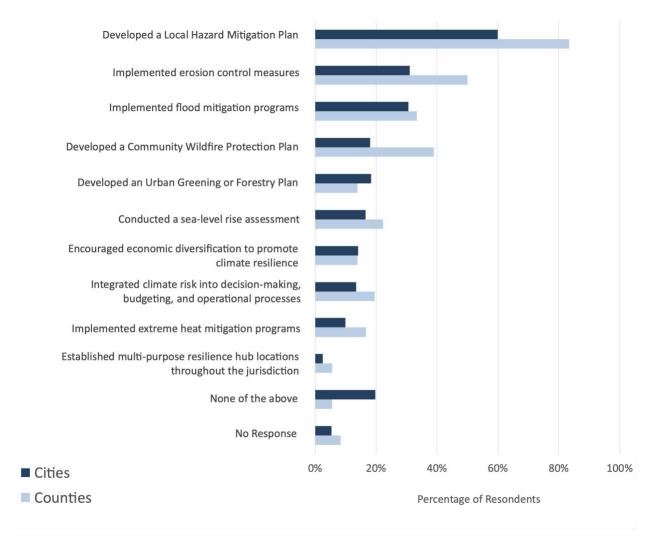

- Yes, we already formally adopted a significance threshold
- Yes, in the process of formally adopting a significance threshold(s)
- Yes, planning to formally adopt a significance threshold(s)
- No
- No Response

Section 9: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Efforts

9.1 Has your jurisdiction taken the following actions or measures to promote climate adaptation and resilience?

The majority of respondents developed a local hazard mitigation plan to promote climate adaptation and resilience. In addition, more than a third of local agencies have taken action to address flooding and erosion. Approximately 65 respondents developed a community wildfire protection plan. This type of plan enables these jurisdictions to be prioritized for federal funding per the Healthy Forests and Restoration Act of 2003. Meanwhile, 58 communities have not taken any of the mentioned actions.
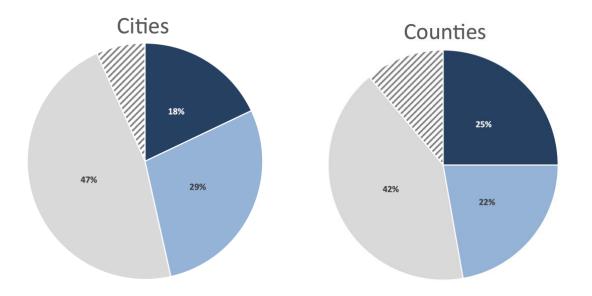
Figure 22: Jurisdictions that have taken action or adopted measures to promote climate adaptation and resilience. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

9.2 Does your general plan, or other plans, currently address climate vulnerability and adaptation?

Approximately 47% of respondents currently address climate vulnerability and adaptation in their planning. Of this percentage, 51 cities and 9 counties reported having documents in compliance with SB 379 requirements. For additional information, see Figure 23.

Figure 23: Jurisdictions that address climate vulnerability and adaptation in their general plan or other plans. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)
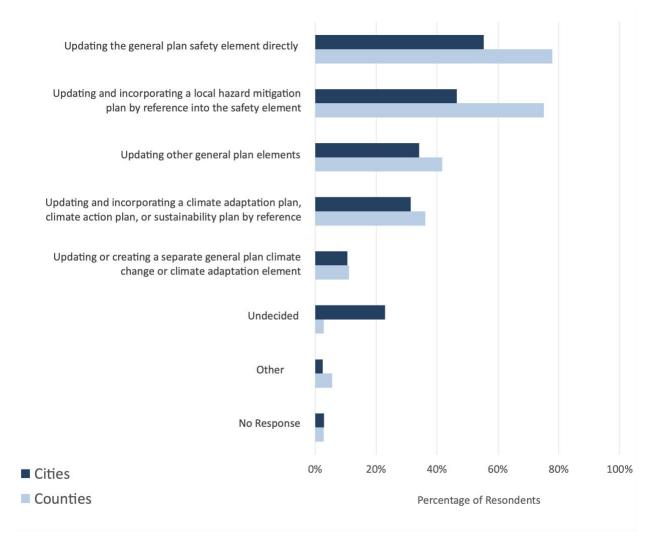

- Yes, and our plan(s) is SB 379-compliant
- Yes, but the plan(s) is not SB 379-compliant
- No
- No Response

9.3 How has/will your jurisdiction integrate climate vulnerability and adaptation in the general plan per SB 379?

Most jurisdictions plan to address SB 379 requirements by updating their safety element directly and/or incorporating their local hazard mitigation plan by reference into their general plan. Approximately one-third of respondents plan to address vulnerability and adaptation in other general plan elements or plans. Fewer cities and counties plan to create a separate climate-focused element of their general plan.
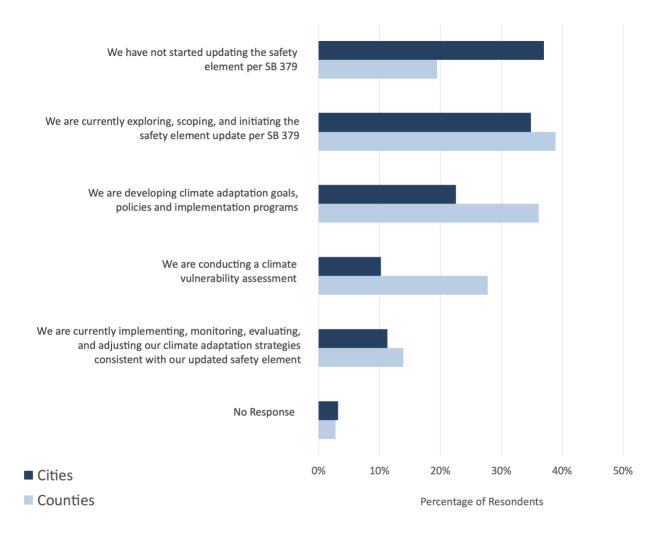
Figure 24: How jurisdictions plan to integrate climate vulnerability and adaptation in the general plan per SB 379. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

9.4 How far along is your jurisdiction in the process of integrating climate vulnerability and adaptation in the safety element per SB 379?

Many city respondents have not yet started updated the safety element per SB 379 or are in the early phases of scoping out an update. Counties, meanwhile, tend to be further along in the process, with the majority at the scoping stage or starting to develop goals, policies, and programs. Approximately 10% of local agencies have updated their plans and are in the implementation or monitoring stage of the process.
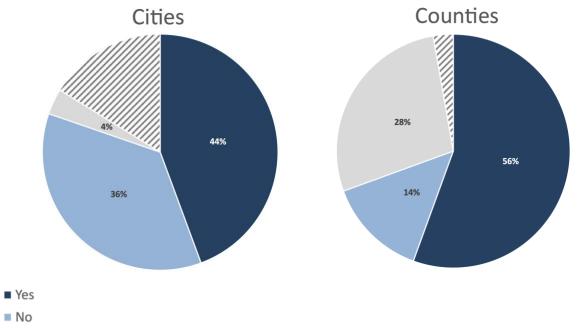
Figure 25: Where jurisdictions are in the process of integrating climate vulnerability and adaptation strategies in the safety element per SB 379. (Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

9.5 Is your jurisdiction connecting requirements to address environmental justice in the general plan (per SB 1000) with requirements to address climate vulnerability and adaptation in the safety element (per SB 379 and/or SB 1035)?

A total of 126 city and 20 county respondents plan to connect environmental justice considerations with the climate vulnerability goals in their general plan safety element. A significantly higher proportion of counties (28%) were undecided on their approach as opposed to cities (4%). For additional information, see Figure 26.

Figure 26: Jurisdictions planning to connect SB 379 and SB 1000 requirements.
(Cities, n=284 | Counties, n= 36)

- ■ Yes
- ■ No
- ▦ Undecided
- ▨ No Response

Conclusion

In conclusion, many cities and counties were substantially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; a sizeable number of agencies experienced reductions in staff capacity and/or delayed planning and implementation activities. Despite these hardships, communities made great efforts to adapt to the situation. A majority of jurisdictions updated and expanded their digital services. In addition, many have been able to utilize funding and technical assistance support.

Currently, jurisdictions are gearing up to address legislative requirements pertaining to housing, safety, and environmental justice. Several respondents noted that the State could better support them by providing timely guidance, funding, and tools to meet these legislative requirements. In particular, there are substantial gaps in agencies' capacity to address racial and health equity. Moving forward, there is great opportunity to integrate these topics into planning guidance and support equity-oriented action.

Overall, OPR and SGC value the insights of our city and county partners. We are thankful for the time and effort agencies put into completing the 2020 Annual Planning Survey. The information provided in this document will inform our efforts as we work to support California's communities in 2021 and beyond.