

Draft narrative: Active Institutions

Economic and Financial

Population and land use - In 2050, nearly 60 million people live in California. Californians still locate to the Central Valley as well as the coastal counties. In the interior valleys, the large housing tracts have been curbed by compact development. The pattern has eased commuter travel as families now find work where they live. For the coastal communities, compact development has made some housing more affordable and lessened impacts on sensitive coastal habitat. This clustered urban development also increased our opportunities for open space, habitat restoration, and refuges that harbor protected and endangered species

Economy and Housing - California's economy experienced economic roller coasters in the early part of the century. Today, we experience even greater swings between boom and bust. Because of the high cost of living, more businesses have moved out of, than into the state. Construction and agricultural industries reshaped best business practices with the concepts of sustainability. Commercial success is largely due to consumers' embrace of the sustainability of resources, purchasing organically grown produce and supporting higher density, mass transit-based housing that is energy and water efficient.

Agriculture - Compact urban development and economic incentives have slowed the conversion of agricultural land to urban development. Most agricultural land conversion occurs for environmental restoration and flood protection purposes rather than residential development. Today, strong policies are in place to preserve prime agricultural lands.

Institutional and Political

Inspired by a series of legal decisions, California's legislature has enacted several comprehensive programs to protect and improve water quality and protect fish and wildlife. These new programs include both regulatory controls and economic incentives. Significant water quality improvement has been achieved with comprehensive nonpoint source water pollution programs. Improved and well maintained water infrastructure ensures that communities get water when they need it. Stable funding is in place that ensures State, regional, and local water conveyance systems, water treatment facilities, and levees meet current engineering and environmental performance standards.

Natural Systems

Climate – Global climate change has affected California's natural systems. However, new state investment, improved engineering design, and land use regulations have helped to minimize the effects of sea level rise and flooding on existing urban areas and infrastructure.

Water Quality – On a statewide basis there has been significant improvement in water quality due to strong state policies to reduce non point source pollution and improve conditions for fish and wildlife. In particular, water quality conditions have improved in the Delta. Some rural areas lack access to good quality water due to natural conditions or legacy pollution.

Technological

Same as Current Trends