



April 1, 2026

CalEnviroScreen 5.0

State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Public Comment on CalEnviroScreen 5.0

To whom it may concern,

In partnership with the Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP), Sierra Business Council welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the new version of CalEnviroScreen 5.0 (CES).

Sierra Business Council (SBC) is a triple-bottom-line nonprofit organization serving the economic, environmental, and social needs of the Sierra Nevada region. SBC works closely with many state agencies, local governments, and small businesses to promote sustainable rural economies, support businesses with technical assistance and development strategies, enhance energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and build climate resilience. Additionally, SBC facilitates a regional climate collaborative, Sierra Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP). Some Sierra CAMP members, acting in their individual capacities, have reviewed and provided feedback on CES 5.0.

As a nonprofit organization, SBC is glad to see the Co-Design Report and inclusion of community-based organizations (CBOs) in the drafting stage of CES 5.0. CBOs are the most knowledgeable sources of information on community needs and impacts. Having the perspectives and lived experiences of vulnerable communities inform the tool leads to ground-truthing of the models and indicators used in CES 5.0. However, we are concerned that there were zero CBOs from forested and rural regions of the Sierra Nevada or Northern California in the co-design process. This omission limits perspectives from communities on the front lines of climate hazards like wildfire, snow drought, and excludes perspectives from the most rural and remote residents of the state, who are often left out of climate planning and investment at the state level. In the next round of CES, we urge increased geographical representation across the next round of CBOs invited to participate in the co-design process. SBC can help facilitate the co-design process by connecting OEHHA with CBOs in our region.

We are encouraged to see two new indicators for diabetes prevalence and small air toxic sites, along with improvements to existing indicators, such as examining days with and without wildfire smoke when evaluating PM 2.5. We are encouraged that the CES team plans to include climate hazards as additional indicators in future versions of the tool. Based on the research and findings in the [Sierra](#)



[Nevada Climate Vulnerability Assessment](#), published by SBC in 2022, we advocate for the inclusion of the following:

Individual Indicators

Consider adding population data for each of these climate-vulnerable populations:

- Households in mobile homes
- Homeless persons
- Persons in overcrowded households
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with limited English proficiency
- High energy burden (if you're spending more than 6% of your income on your energy bills)
- Seniors ages 65 and over living alone

Climate Hazard Indicators

Considering adding these climate data indicators in CES 6.0 and future versions of the tool:

- Incorporate a severe winter weather layer to capture above-average snowstorms, winter flood risks, and infrastructure damage (e.g., road closures, power outages, snowload on aging infrastructure)
- Incorporate a layer for landslides/mudslides – especially important in high wildfire risk areas
- Consider adding extreme heat and drought as indicators of climate hazards

Thank you for considering these recommendations. We welcome the opportunity for further discussion and look forward to working with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to prioritize climate resilience planning for vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Frisch".

President
Sierra Business Council