

**Meeting Summary**  
**Fresno County Heat Vulnerability Analysis and Shade Adaptation Plan**  
Extreme Heat Working Group Meeting #1  
05-14-25

Matthew Shimizu, Fresno COG, introduced the Fresno County Heat Vulnerability Analysis and Shade Adaptation Plan (Extreme Heat Plan), emphasizing its importance in addressing the growing impacts of extreme heat on transportation users in Fresno County. The project, in collaboration with Dudek and VRPA Technologies, aims to gather data and community input to develop effective adaptation strategies for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders that use local transportation facilities in the Fresno region. Participants were informed about the expected rise in temperatures and the need for practical solutions to protect vulnerable populations.

**Extreme Heat Vulnerability Assessment and Planning**

Rose Newberry, Dudek, discussed the importance of gathering local plans related to extreme heat to create a comprehensive policy overview for addressing extreme heat in Fresno County. The planning effort will cover vulnerability assessments, local needs, and adaptation strategies, with an emphasis on collaboration and community engagement. Participants will also review existing data and identify best practices for addressing extreme heat.

**Public Outreach and Engagement Strategy**

Carolina Ilic, VRPA Technologies, presented the public outreach strategy for the project, emphasizing the importance of engaging with the community through various activities. The outreach will kick off with pop-up events at local markets and fairs in May and June 2025, and various virtual workshops, with the first one scheduled on June 17, 2025. Carolina also mentioned additional rounds of Working Group meetings, public workshops, and the use of social media and email communications to keep stakeholders and the public informed throughout the process.

**Extreme Heat Policy Review and Data Collection**

Rose Newberry discussed the upcoming distribution of an Excel sheet for participants to document their community policies addressing extreme heat. She emphasized the importance of categorizing these policies by heat planning strategies, such as urban greening and emergency preparedness, as well as by policy tools like funding and

ordinances. Participants are encouraged to reference their housing elements and other relevant plans when completing the sheet.

### **Vulnerability Indicators for Extreme Heat Assessment**

Rose Newberry discussed various vulnerability indicators for assessing extreme heat, including exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. She highlighted factors such as urban heat island severity, demographics, and community resources and demographics that influence how different populations are affected by extreme heat. Rose invited feedback on the relevance and data availability of these indicators.

### **Outreach Strategies for Unincorporated Communities**

Mohammad Khorsand, County of Fresno, raised concerns about ensuring that unincorporated county communities, often with lower income residents, are included in outreach efforts. Carolina stated that the outreach approach also involves collaborating with organizations like the Fresno Council of Governments and Fresno County Transportation Authority to disseminate Extreme Heat information at multiple places around the county where they are already scheduled to attend community events, including the unincorporated areas, such as in Auberry. She also noted that we will encourage Working Group members and others to disseminate the project information and workshop invitations widely to their networks and to others that might be interested. Rose added that previous engagement efforts, such as the FUERTE project, are being leveraged to pull in people that are interested.

### **Discussion on Shade Projects and Community Engagement**

Rose Newberry from Dudek initiated a conversation soliciting ideas for shade projects and discussing challenges of implementing shade projects. Rowena Bush, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, recommended using walk studies to prioritize shade along school routes, similar to in Sacramento, and Laura Gromis, US Green Building Council, discussed challenges related to tree-planting and shade cover maintenance and funding, emphasizing the need for collaboration between jurisdictions and the private sector. Matthew Shimizu referenced the California Green Building Code and the importance of tree cover ordinances.

### **Community Engagement and Input for Extreme Heat Planning**

Carolina Ilic from VRPA Technologies reiterated the significance of involving the community in the planning process to address extreme heat issues. She urged working group members to forward information to others who might be interested in the study. Rose acknowledged the critical role of community leaders in engaging the public and stressed the importance

of understanding transportation patterns to better support those affected by extreme heat as they travel in the region.

**Action Items**

- Carolina Ilic will email information about the upcoming public workshop scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th at 10 a.m.
- Matthew Shimizu will ensure that today's presentation and the Excel sheet are sent to all participants after the meeting.