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# Research at the Nexus of Climate Science, Energy System Planning, & Policy

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**Presenter: Susan Wilhelm, Ph.D., Sustainability & Health Research**  
**July 30, 2024**





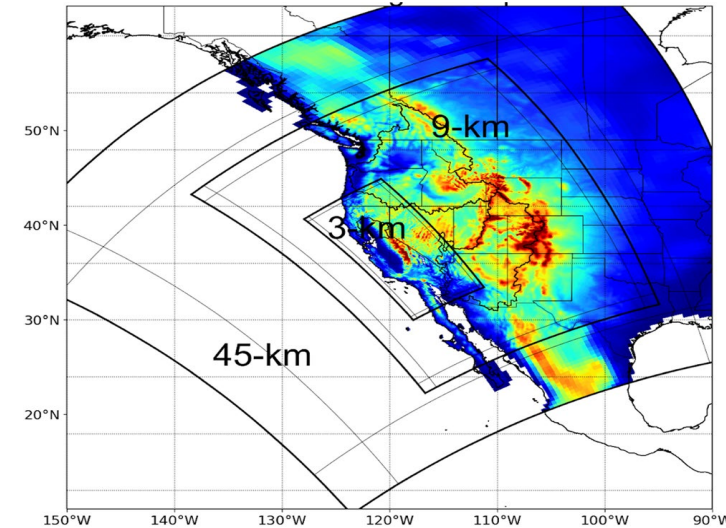
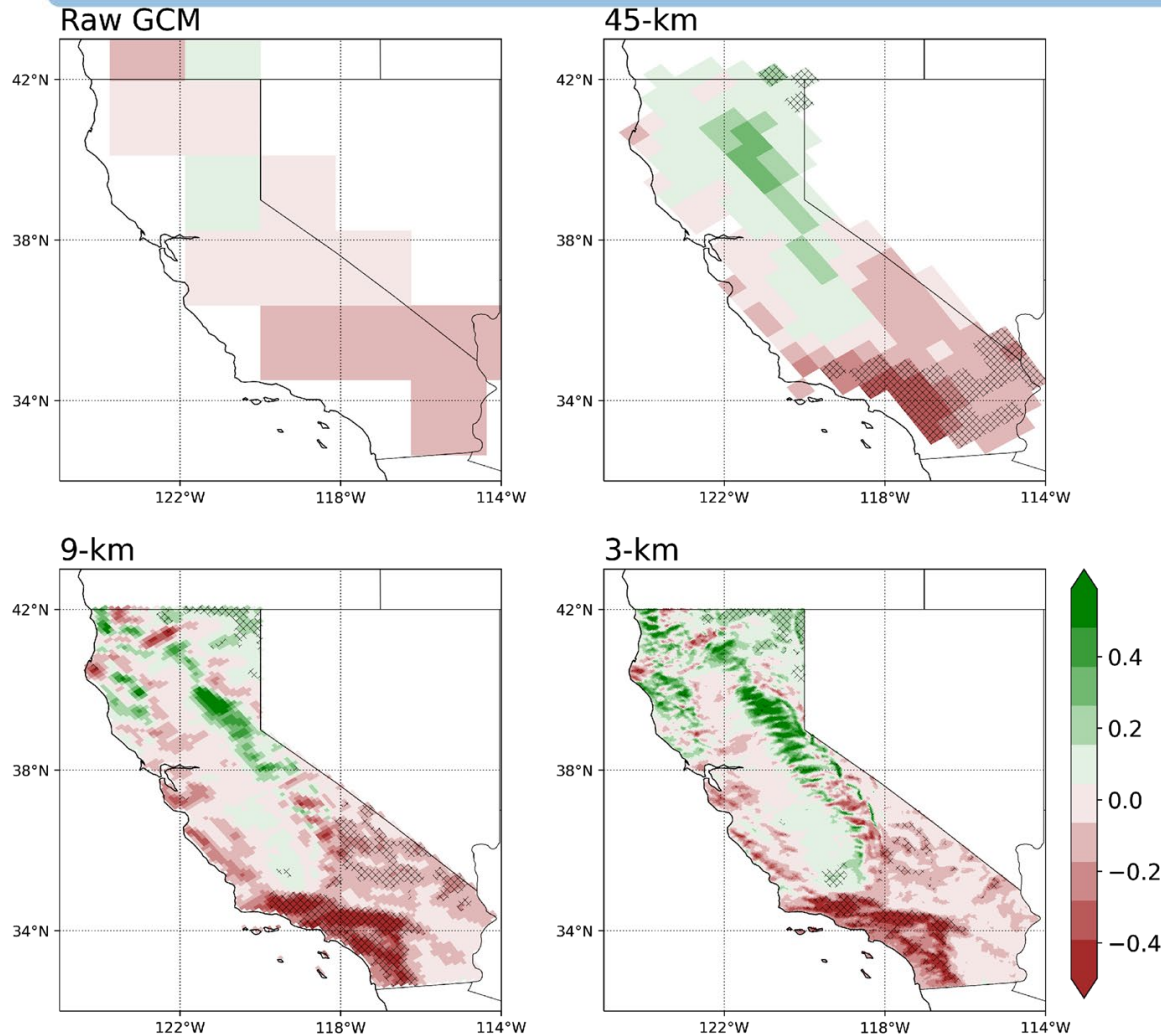
# Outline

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- **High resolution climate projections** in support of energy sector resilience
- **Data attributes** germane to climate-informed planning
- Types of **analyses** enabled by these data
- CEC's research **portfolio at the nexus of climate, energy system planning, & policy**
- Two efforts that are working with demand forecast unit
  - **Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine**: Localized climate projections
  - **Lumen**: Detrended weather variants



# High-resolution climate projections in support of energy resilience



**Figures:** (left) Raw Global Climate Model (GCM) outputs with resolution of 100 km to 250 km are downscaled to provide 3 km spatial resolution over California.

(above) Limited model runs are available with 45 km and 9 km resolution for much larger domains that include the vast majority of WECC.

**Source:** Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UCLA, EPC-20-006.



# Data attributes and climate-informed planning

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Data products portray **evolution of weather-related extremes, variability, uncertainty.**

- Duration of extreme events
- Spatial coverage of extreme events
- Intensity of extreme events
- Evolution of temporal and synoptic variability
- Multiple possible futures



# Support for climate-informed planning

Downscaled climate data enable a **variety of analyses that can support many use cases:**

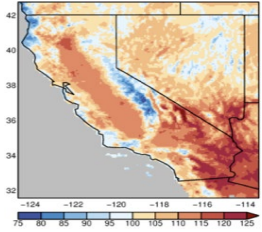
- ✓ **Median conditions** as well as **1-in-x** extremes
- ✓ **Stochastic** analyses
- ✓ **Anticipating novel extremes** without analogues in the historical record (duration, magnitude, frequency, timing/seasonality, spatial extent)
- ✓ **Uncertainty analyses** that account for multiple possible futures
- ✓ Identification of **stress conditions** and support for **scenario-driven** “stress tests”
- ✓ Analyses of **correlated extremes**
- ✓ Both **long-term** (e.g., drought) and **short-term** (e.g., heat waves, cold snaps) extremes



# Portfolio of energy-related climate research

Two EPIC Recipients are working directly with CEC's demand forecast team...

Climate Projections



Next generation climate data analytics for California

Cal-Adapt Analytics Engine



Research to Support Resilient Energy Transition

Climate-Informed Zero-Carbon Generation Capacity Modeling (Eagle Rock Analytics)

Climate-Informed Load Forecasting & Electric Grid Modeling (E3)

Advancing California's Electricity Resource Planning Tools to Assess & Improve Climate Resilience (Lumen)



# Continuing evolution in climate readiness

● Description,  
data availability

● Integration  
of improved  
data

● Revamping  
frameworks for  
climate resilience