

## NOAA'S RESPONSE TO THE SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD, CLIMATE WORKING GROUP'S REVIEW OF THE NOAA CLIMATE PROGRAM OFFICE STRATEGIC PLAN

### Background:

The development of the Climate Program Office's (CPO's) new Strategic Plan drew heavily on the recommendations of the CPO Program Review and Report (May 2022), led by an external panel, and followed OAR CIRCULAR NUMBER: 216-8. Over the June to September 2023 period, CPO completed a review and revision of its draft Strategic Plan. This included the SAB CWG Review and feedback from CPO's Federal and non-Federal communities that spanned representatives across disciplines and academia, non-governmental organizations, industry, and Federal members in the U.S. Global Change Research Program. The SAB CWG Review and 143 individual comments were received and taken into account in revising the final draft CPO Strategic Plan. The plan is currently under review by OAR senior leadership.

### Response to the SAB CWG:

CPO appreciated that the SAB CWG review is "very supportive of the directions suggested in the Strategic Plan" and considered its overarching and goal-specific feedback as follows:

1. SAB CWG recommended CPO to consider more specific **"moonshot' level goals** in service of the nation are required for our citizens". CPO agrees moonshot-level goals are critical and aligned its strategic plan to contribute to the agency-level, moon-shot level goals that have been set by NOAA that require intensive resourcing and cross-NOAA as well as interagency coordination (Precipitation Prediction Grand Challenge, Climate Ecosystem Fisheries Initiative, Climate at the Coasts, etc.). Still, CPO does not describe any of its own objectives as "moonshot" goals; we think the goals remain at the appropriate level for a program office that resides within OAR within NOAA. CPO views its vision statement as aspirational: "All peoples, economies, and environments are resilient to climate impacts and society works together to sustainably mitigate climate change."
2. SAB CWG recommended that, "The Strategic Plan **better highlight CPO's contributions to the climate enterprise**". CPO has updated text throughout the plan to clarify and emphasize its contribution and role to the larger climate enterprise, as a program office in NOAA's OAR.
3. SAB CWG recommended that CPO **"engage key audiences** by adding examples of broadly relevant initiatives under each goal" and highlight the value of specific partnerships under Goal 2. CPO engaged key audiences through its review process and incorporated their feedback into the plan. CPO incorporated CWG's suggested alternative language that clarifies our major goals to make them more accessible to a broader audience. And, CPO emphasized the value of partnerships in each Goal. Initiative or programmatic examples for each goal were not added because specific initiatives, for

example in drought, heat, marine ecosystems, precipitation and flooding, cross-cut all the goals.

4. SAB CWG recommended that CPO increase the accessibility of language in the goal statements and CPO adopted SAB CWG's suggested language.

CPO is actively working on an implementation plan. It held a two-day in person planning meeting in September 2023, and took the CWG comments into consideration as part of that process.

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