



California Market Analysis Template

Regional competitive assessment framework

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A framework for California business owners to assess their competitive landscape, identify local search opportunities, and plan marketing budget allocation by region.

Part 1: Competitive Density Assessment

Your Business Profile

Field	Your Answer
Business name	
City/neighborhood	
California region (LA, SD, SF, Sacramento, OC, other)	
Primary industry	
Years in business	
Current monthly marketing budget	

Direct Competitor Audit

List your top 5 local competitors and assess their online presence.

Competitor	Website Quality (1-5)	Google Maps Rating	Estimated Monthly Traffic	SEO Investment (guess: low/med/high)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

Competitive Density Score

Answer each question:

- ☐ Are there more than 20 businesses offering your service in your city? (+2 points)
- ☐ Do your top competitors have 50+ Google reviews? (+2 points)
- ☐ Are competitors running Google Ads for your primary keywords? (+1 point)
- ☐ Do competitors publish regular blog content? (+1 point)
- ☐ Are you in a California metro area (LA, SF, SD, Sacramento, OC)? (+2 points)
- ☐ Is your industry service-based (legal, medical, home services)? (+1 point)
- ☐ Do national brands compete in your space locally? (+1 point)

Total score: <u> /10

Score	Competitive Level	What This Means
1-3	Low	Faster results possible. 3-5 months for meaningful rankings.
4-6	Medium	Standard California competition. 5-8 months for results.
7-10	High	Intense competition. 6-12 months. Need aggressive, focused strategy.

Part 2: Local Search Opportunity Mapping

Keyword Research Worksheet

For each category, search Google and note what you find.

Primary Service Keywords

Keyword	Your Current Rank (page 1/2/3/not found)	Top Competitor Ranking	Monthly Search Volume (use Google Keyword Planner)
[your service] + [your city]			
[your service] near me			
best [your service] [your city]			
[your service] [your neighborhood]			
[your industry] [your city]			

Long-Tail Opportunities

These are the specific searches your big competitors probably ignore.

Long-Tail Keyword Idea	Competition Level (check Google: many/few ads?)	Relevance to Your Business (high/med/low)
[service] for [specific customer type] [city]		
[service] cost [city]		
[service] [neighborhood] reviews		
how to find [service] in [city]		
[service] vs [alternative] [city]		

Google Business Profile Audit

- ☐ Is your GBP claimed and verified?
- ☐ Are your hours accurate?
- ☐ Do you have 20+ reviews?
- ☐ Is your primary category correct?
- ☐ Do you have photos uploaded in the last 3 months?
- ☐ Are you posting GBP updates at least monthly?
- ☐ Do you respond to all reviews (positive and negative)?

GBP completeness: <u> / 7 items checked

Part 3: Budget Allocation Framework

California Regional Benchmarks

Find your region and use these ranges as starting points.

Region	Minimum Viable SEO Budget	Competitive SEO Budget	Google Ads CPC Range
San Francisco / Bay Area	\$3,000/mo	\$7,500+/mo	\$5-15 per click
Los Angeles	\$2,500/mo	\$6,000+/mo	\$4-14 per click
San Diego	\$2,000/mo	\$5,000+/mo	\$3-10 per click
Orange County	\$2,000/mo	\$5,000+/mo	\$3-10 per click
Sacramento	\$1,500/mo	\$4,000+/mo	\$3-8 per click
Other CA markets	\$1,000/mo	\$3,000+/mo	\$2-7 per click

CPC ranges based on 2025 industry benchmarks (WordStream, LocaliQ) adjusted for California metro premiums. SEO budgets synthesized from First Page Sage agency pricing surveys and 2Marketing's California analysis. Legal and home services typically see CPCs at the top of these ranges or above. Data current as of early 2025.

Recommended Budget Split (Under \$5,000/mo)

Channel	% of Budget	Monthly Amount	Priority
SEO (organic search)	40%	\$	1 (build first)
Content creation	25%	\$	2 (supports SEO)
Google Business Profile	15%	\$	3 (free + paid features)
Paid ads (bridge)	15%	\$	4 (reduce over time)
Other (social, email)	5%	\$	5 (only if bandwidth allows)

ROI Projection Worksheet

Metric	Your Numbers
Average customer lifetime value	\$
Average monthly customers needed to break even on marketing	
Current monthly leads from online channels	
Target monthly leads (6 months from now)	
Required conversion rate to hit target	%

The ROI question: If SEO generates just 2 additional customers per month at your average lifetime value, does that cover the investment? For most California businesses, the answer is yes.

Part 4: Regional Comparison

How Your Market Compares

Rate your local market on each factor (1 = low, 5 = high).

Factor	Your Market	LA	SF	SD	Sacramento
Competition density		5	5	4	3
Search volume per capita		5	5	4	3
Average customer value		4	5	4	3
Agency pricing		5	5	4	3
Speed to results		1	1	2	3
Long-tail opportunity		3	3	4	4

Part 5: Action Plan

Based on your analysis, fill in your top priorities.

30-Day Actions

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

90-Day Goals

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

6-Month Targets

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Need Help With Your Analysis?

If you want a professional eye on your competitive position, I offer a free market analysis call for California businesses. I'll look at your specific market, show you where your competitors are investing, and identify the fastest path to visibility in your region.

No pitch. No pressure. Just an honest assessment of where you stand.

Get in touch: <https://kreative.design/contact/>

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