



# County of Santa Cruz

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## COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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November 28, 2022

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz CA, 95060

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Commission on the Environment, I am conveying the commission's general comments on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

The commission reviewed the Draft CAAP and wishes to recognize the depth and breadth of the CAAP analysis, and how it has been supported by thoughtful community engagement. County staff across departments, especially those from the recently created Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience, are to be commended for their work on this forward-looking document, especially at a time when so much effort has been needed to address the flood, fire, and the pandemic impacts of the recent past.

The Commission would like to acknowledge that this CAAP provides a foundation intended to be regularly updated. It is a living, flexible, and forward-thinking structure – itself an example of adaptability and flexibility in the face of rapidly evolving circumstances. Nonetheless, the Commission would like to specifically identify areas of the CAAP needing further support:

- Energy Systems (22.8% of GHG Emissions)
  - Implementation of solar and other renewable energies, microgrids/battery backups, energy self-reliance, efficiency programs, code electrification ordinances, retrofitting, reporting, education, and continued collaboration with Central Coast Community Energy
- Transportation (72.3% of GHG Emissions)
  - Housing/transportation coordination, EV transitions and charging stations, multi-modal transit, broadband access, Active Transportation Plan, rebates, education
- Waste (4.5% of GHG Emissions)
  - Education, food waste, food recovery, non-reusable/single-use plastics, waste handling facilities, recycling organic waste
- Wastewater (0.4% of GHG Emissions)
  - Food waste, composting, education, solid waste reduction, water reclamation.

Additions forthcoming will include metrics to document attainment of State of California objectives:

- AB 32: 80% GHG reduction by 2050 from 1990 levels
- SB 32: 40% reduction by 2030 from 1990 levels (9% reduction 1990 to 2020).

Importantly, the Commission recognizes that mitigating climate impacts and building resilience is not a “one size fits all” effort, nor is it simple, or easy. The CAAP skillfully takes on complex economic, governance, communications, advocacy, infrastructure, transportation, and land use issues, and presents measurable actions to reduce climate changing emissions while improving resilience to anticipated climate crises. The Commission understands, and hopes the Board and public will recognize, that not every action envisioned in this plan will lead to success, nor does the plan yet contain all possible actions. It is far more important to be ambitious and to lead bravely and collaboratively than to get preoccupied with perfection.

Please understand that executing and accomplishing the tasks outlined in the CAAP will require substantial additional funding and support over the long term. We ask that, in the future, you take into consideration additional funding measures that will be necessary to continue this planning effort and to assure the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation measures it proposes.

Thank you for considering these comments.



John Hunt, Chair  
Commission on the Environment