

# Monterey County Community Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

Alternative Energy and Environment  
Committee

February 29, 2024

# Agenda

- CCAAP and MCAP 2030 Status Update
- CEQA-Qualified CAPs
- CCAAP and MCAP 2030 Strategy Analysis
- Staff Recommendation





**CCAAP and MCAP 2030 Status  
Update**

# Why is the County preparing a CCAAP and MCAP?

## CCAAP

- General Plan Policy OS-10.11 calls for development of the CCAAP

## MCAP 2030

- Previous MCAP evaluated 2020, needs to be updated



# Progress to Date

## Completed

- ▷ 2019 GHG and carbon stock inventories
- ▷ emissions forecasts through 2045
- ▷ climate vulnerability assessment
- ▷ 2 public workshops (166 participants)
- ▷ 3 presentations to AEEC
- ▷ 3 focus group meetings
- ▷ 9 sector working group meetings
- ▷ launched online platform (Konveio)
- ▷ launched feedback platform (Consider.it)

## In Process

- ▷ climate adaptation strategies
- ▷ GHG reduction strategies

## Upcoming

- ▷ community engagement
- ▷ draft CCAAP and MCAP 2030
- ▷ CEQA compliance determination



# **CEQA-Qualified CAPs**

## **Staff Recommendation to AEE**

**Determine the option that would work best for the County's needs:**

**Option 1 (Non-Qualified CCAAP with Thresholds of Significance)  
or Option 2 (CEQA-Qualified CCAAP)**

**Staff recommends Option 1 (Non-Qualified CCAAP with  
Thresholds of Significance)**



# What is a CEQA-Qualified CAP?

- CAP that meets the requirements CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5
- Project-level GHG analysis can be streamlined if:
  - ▷ project is consistent with a “plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases” that contains certain “plan elements,” and
  - ▷ All applicable measures in the CAP are incorporated as project design features or included as mitigation measures
- Key incentive for many local agencies in developing a CAP or GHG reduction plan
- Must undergo environmental review (not necessarily an EIR)





# Who Adopts CEQA-Qualified CAPs?

Jurisdiction	Adopted CAP?	CEQA-Qualified?
San Benito County	No	N/A
San Luis Obispo County	Yes (2011)	No
Santa Barbara County	Yes (2023)	Yes
Santa Cruz County	Yes (2022)	No
Ventura County	Yes (2020)	No
City of Carmel-by-the-Sea	Yes (2022)	No
City of Marina	No	N/A
City of Monterey	Yes (2016)	Yes
City of Pacific Grove	No	N/A
City of Salinas	In Progress	TBD
City of Seaside	In Progress	TBD
City of Soledad	No	N/A



# What are the Considerations for Adopting a CEQA-Qualified CAP? (Option 2)

## Pros:

- ▷ Adopted plan to reduce GHG emissions
- ▷ Realization of co-benefits
- ▷ Position for grant funding
- ▷ CEQA tiering/streamlining (legally defensible project-level analysis approach)
- ▷ Consistent approach to project-level analysis and mitigation
- ▷ Compliance with CARB and OPR recommendations, limited guidance from MBARD

## Cons:

- ▷ Risk of litigation associated with CEQA process
- ▷ Extended timeline for adoption (anticipated in mid-2025)
- ▷ Limited time for implementation to meet 2030 target (less than 5 years)
- ▷ Limited time of streamlining benefits (through year 2030)
- ▷ Less flexibility in GHG reduction pathways to achieve targets, more reliance on building energy strategies
- ▷ Meeting the County's GHG reduction target will result in unfavorable requirements for existing and new development

# What are the Considerations for Adopting a Non-Qualified CAP? (Option 1)

## Pros:

- ▷ Adopted plan to reduce GHG emissions
- ▷ Realization of co-benefits
- ▷ Position for grant funding
- ▷ Quicker and cheaper (adoption anticipated for mid-2024)
- ▷ More reflective of community feedback (e.g., accounting of carbon sequestration)
- ▷ Thresholds provide guidance to discretionary development (most unincorporated county needs)

## Cons:

- ▷ Limited policy prescriptiveness
- ▷ No tiering/streamlining for CEQA



# County-Specific Thresholds of Significance (Option 1)

## Pros:

- ▶ Helps the County meet its GHG reduction target
- ▶ Allows development to determine how to mitigate GHG emissions
- ▶ Thresholds can be developed for multiple operational years (e.g., 2030, 2045)
- ▶ Process is parallel to CCAAP adoption

## Cons:

- ▶ All development could have different mitigation
- ▶ Lead agencies can set threshold on a project-by-project basis, or they can adopt thresholds to be consistently applied to all projects
- ▶ Thresholds established for general use by a Lead Agency must be:
  - Adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulation
  - Be subjected to public review
  - Be supported by substantial evidence



# **CCAAP Strategy Analysis Results**

# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures

- Building Energy
- On-Road Transportation
- Off-Road Vehicles and Equipment
- Solid Waste
- Water and Wastewater
- Agriculture and Conservation



# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Building Energy

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Residential Buildings	5% of existing buildings fully electric	Modest retrofit target for existing buildings
	100% of new buildings fully electric (starting in 2026)	New buildings regulated by building code with reach code possible
Nonresidential Buildings	5% of existing buildings fully electric	Modest retrofit target for existing buildings
	100% of new buildings fully electric (starting in 2026)	New buildings regulated by building code with reach code possible
Electric Supply	100% carbon-free electricity for all end users	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030



# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: On-Road Transportation

Focus Area	Performance Indicator	Justification
Passenger Vehicles	6% reduction in annual passenger VMT by 2035 from a 2005 baseline	VMT reduction consistent with AMBAG's 2045 MTP/SCS
	25% of light-duty vehicles are electric or hybrid by 2030	7% increase in EVs over current state projections
	EV charging needs met with 100% carbon-free energy by 2030	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030
Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles	Increase in medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles of 26% by 2030	EV target consistent with state projections
	EV charging needs met with 100% carbon-free energy by 2030	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030
Electric Supply	100% carbon-free electricity for all end users by 2030	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030





# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Off-Road Vehicles and Equipment

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Construction Equipment	50% of construction equipment will use renewable diesel	Renewable diesel is readily available, can be required through CEQA process
	2% of construction equipment is electric powered	Modest electrification based on equipment availability
Landscaping Equipment	12% of landscaping equipment is electrified	Consistent with state regulations
Recreational Boats	12% of recreational boats are electrified	Consistent with state Mobile Source Strategy



# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Solid Waste and Water

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Solid Waste	75% of organic waste is diverted from landfills	Consistent with SB 1383 targets
Residential Water Consumption	25% reduction in residential water consumption	Gains from ultra-low-flow fixtures, consistent with statewide guidance
Nonresidential Water Consumption	31% reduction in nonresidential water consumption	Gains from ultra-low-flow fixtures, consistent with statewide guidance
Recycled Water	25% reduction in existing water consumption for irrigation 60% reduction in new irrigation	Ambitious targets working with agricultural partners as 93% of water consumption is used for agricultural operations

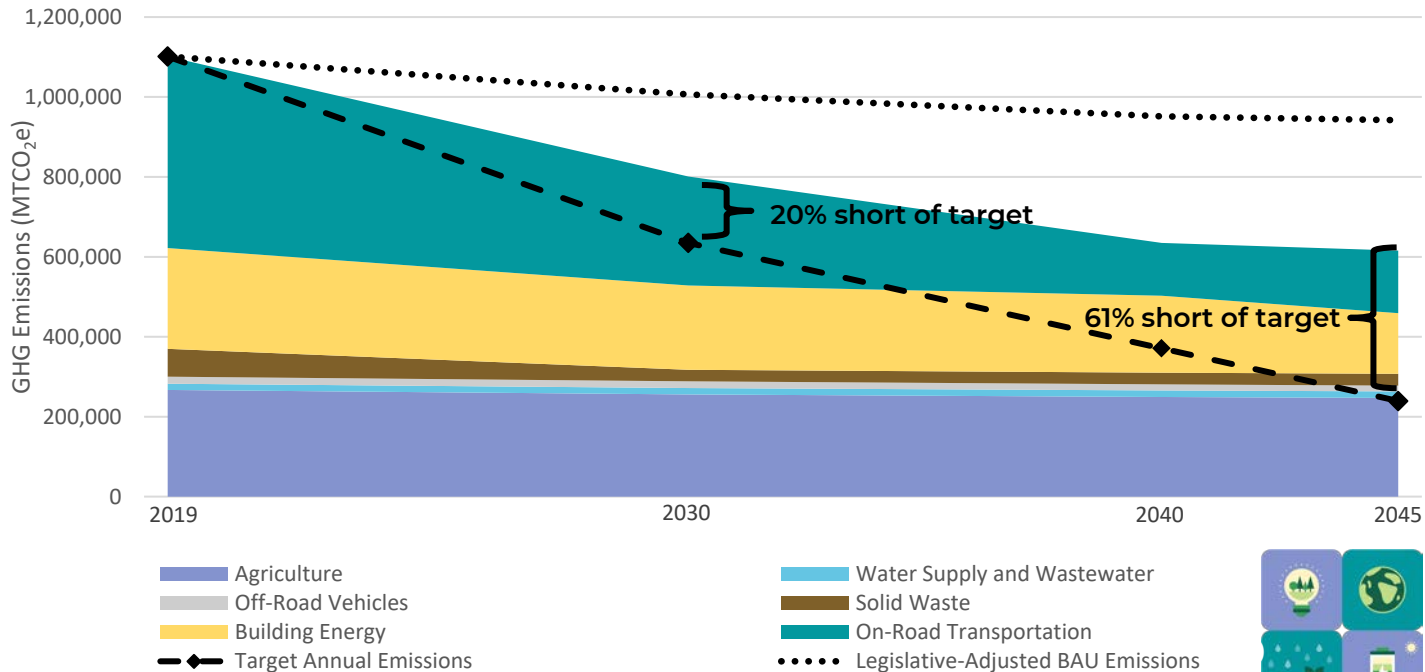


# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Agriculture

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Agricultural Equipment	40% of agricultural equipment is Tier 4 Final-rated	Assumes fleet turnover, excluding irrigation pumps
	5% of agricultural equipment is electrified	Modest electrification based on equipment availability
	5% of irrigation pumps are electric powered	Modest electrification based on equipment availability



# Communitywide Emissions Gap with GHG Reduction Measures





**MCAP 2030 Strategy  
Analysis Results**

# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Municipal Buildings and Facilities

Focus Area	Performance Indicator	Justification
New Municipal Buildings/Facilities	100% of new buildings are all electric starting in 2026	Demonstrate leadership, align with building code cycle
	New backup power supplies are carbon-free starting in 2026	Demonstrate leadership, align with building code cycle
Existing Municipal Buildings/Facilities	5% of existing buildings fully electric by 2030	Same target as CCAAP
Electric Supply	100% of purchased electricity is carbon-free by 2030	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030



# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Municipal Fleet and Commute

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Municipal Vehicles	225 vehicles are replaced with electric alternatives	Consistent with County fleet analysis for turnover
	EV charging needs met with 100% carbon-free energy	3CE committed to 100% renewable supply by 2030
Municipal Employee Commute	4% reduction in employee commute VMT	Consistent with statewide guidance
	6% conversion to EVs for employee commutes	Consistent with statewide guidance



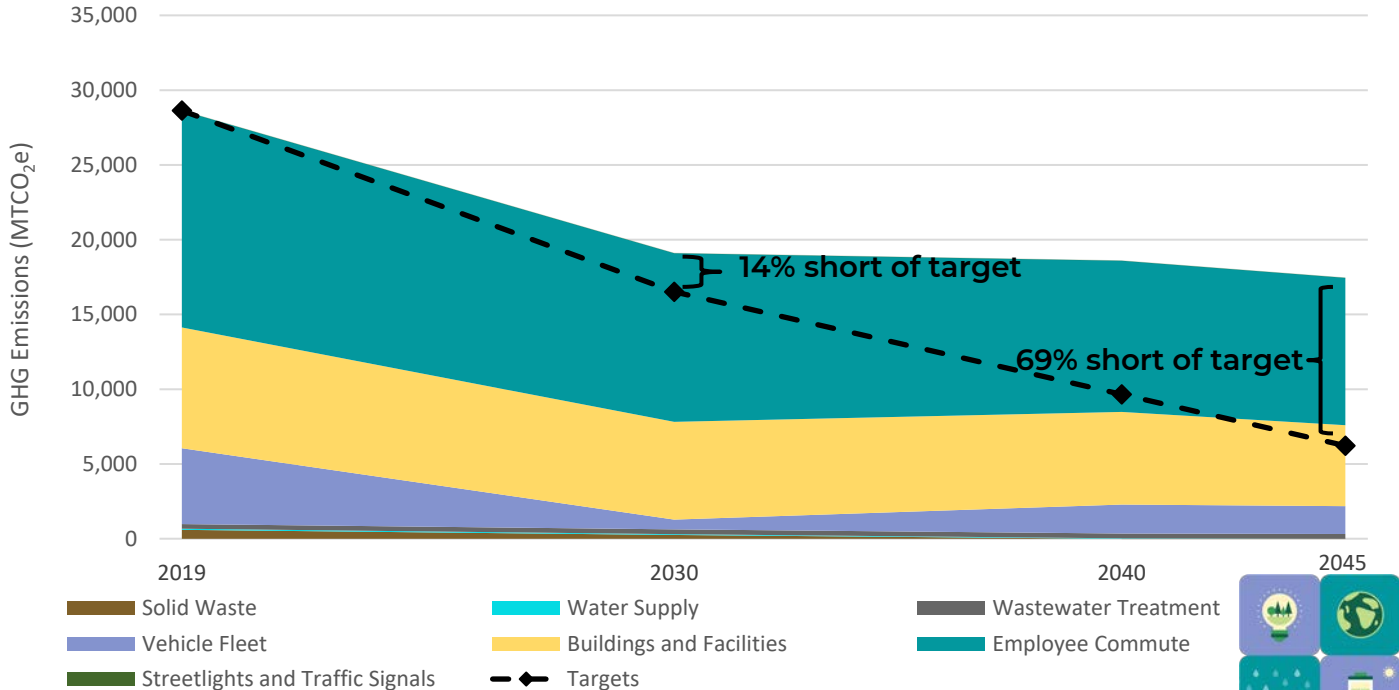
# Quantified GHG Reduction Measures: Municipal Solid Waste and Water

Focus Area	Performance Indicator (by 2030)	Justification
Municipal Solid Waste	75% of waste is diverted from landfills	Consistent with SB 1383 targets
Municipal Indoor Water Consumption	17% reduction in water consumption	Gains from ultra-low-flow fixtures, consistent with statewide guidance
Municipal Outdoor Water Consumption	6% reduction in water consumption	Gains from ultra-low-flow fixtures, consistent with statewide guidance





# Municipal Emissions Gap with GHG Reduction Measures



## **Staff Recommendation to AEE**

**Determine the option that would work best for the County's needs:**

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or Option 2 (CEQA-Qualified CCAAP)**

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Thresholds of Significance)**



**Thank you!**



**End of Deck**



# **Development Scenarios with CCAAP Options**

# Development Scenario

- 150-room hotel proposed in unincorporated area, subject to environmental review
- What does the project's CEQA review process look like, specific to the greenhouse gas analysis?



# Scenario 1: County-Specific Thresholds of Significance

*CCAAP Option 1 – Staff Recommended*

- Project would be required to meet the GHG threshold of significance based on the County's reduction target from the CCAAP (numeric threshold)
- Project would have flexibility in mitigation to reduce GHG emissions (if exceeding threshold)




## Scenario 2: Tiering from CEQA-Qualified CCAAP

### *CCAAP Option 2*

- Project's GHG analysis would tier from the CCAAP, including all applicable CCAAP measures in project design
- Examples of project design features could include:
  - ▷ All-electric building designs with clean power backup (e.g., batteries)
  - ▷ EV charging above current building standards
  - ▷ Use renewable diesel in construction equipment







**Non-Qualified  
Scenario – No  
Thresholds**

## Scenario 3: Business-as-Usual

*CCAAP Option 1 without Thresholds*

- Project would be required to address GHG emissions in accordance with CEQA Guidelines and guidance from MBARD



# Scenario 3: Business-as-Usual

*CCAAP Option 1 without Thresholds*

## Pros:

- ▷ No change to how development is currently analyzed
- ▷ Allows development to determine how to mitigate GHG emissions
- ▷ CAP is developed more quickly and cheaper

## Cons:

- ▷ Unclear guidance on how to address GHG emissions for jurisdictions without CAPs
- ▷ No streamlining/tiering from CAP

