



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Director

Land Use and Natural Resources – Housing and Community Programs – Environmental Health – Building and Safety – Code Compliance

October 27, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Quincy Yaley, AICP, Director  
RE: Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan (TC19-001)

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## REQUESTED ACTION

Consideration of approving Resolution XX-22 to adopt of the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan, including the action items in the Workplan.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROJECT PROCESS

1. After the update to the General Plan in 2019, the County is required to prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP). Development of a CAP is driven by Policy 18.A.1 in the County's 2018 General Plan. The County's CAP will identify existing and projected GHG emissions, set GHG reduction targets, establish policies and actions to meet reduction targets, integrate climate adaptation and resilience strategies, engage the community, and provide an implementation program. The draft CAP, including recent revisions, is found on the project webpage: <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1332/Climate-Action-Plan>.
2. On March 31, 2020, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors directed Community Development Department (CDD) staff to prepare a Climate Action Plan with the assistance of Ascent Environmental. The Climate Action Plan before your Commission is the culmination of over 2 years of planning work involving the County, partner agencies, and the public, and included numerous local reports as references.
3. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on September 20, 2022 to consider adopting the final Climate Action Plan. After a presentation from County staff and receiving comments from the public, the Board of Supervisors sent the project back to CDD staff for further review. At that meeting, the Board directed the CDD Director to meet with each Supervisor to receive additional comments and feedback. The CDD Director met with Supervisor Haff two times, Supervisor Brandon once, Supervisor Kirk once, and received written comments from Supervisors Haff and Kirk. Supervisors Goldemberg and Campbell expressed that they had no further revisions to request to be made in the report.

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2022 BOARD ITEM AND CAP REVISIONS

4. The proposed plan has been modified in response to the comments from the Supervisors since the September public hearing, as well as in response to comments from the public. The final Workplan is Exhibit A of this report. The CAP, both a clean version and track changes version, can be found on the project website listed above. Revisions include:
  - a. Changing the Prioritization Matrix to be called the CAP Workplan
  - b. Revisions to Action Items and Strategies
  - c. Text changes throughout the document
  - d. Updates to the CAP implementation plan in Chapter 5

## **HOW THE CAP WOULD APPLY TO A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT?**

5. County-specific thresholds of significance for GHG analyses subject to CEQA are provided in Chapter 5. The use of these thresholds is voluntary to project applicants, in coordination with County staff. The benefits of having County-specific thresholds available for use by project applicants is it ensures that new development is consistent with the County's CAP, helps the County meet its GHG reduction goals, and provides flexibility for individual projects to select mitigation measures to meet the thresholds. Without the availability of these thresholds, there are no other relevant and substantiated thresholds for use by new development projects in Tuolumne County.

For example, if a new 150-room hotel was proposed in Pinecrest, the project would be able to derive project-specific thresholds using the County's thresholds provided in the CAP. If the hotel was expecting to employ 100 people and would be fully operational by 2030, the project application could use the efficiency threshold for 2030 of 20.70 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/employee. The total emissions this project could generate once operational, and remain consistent with the CAP, would be 2,070 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/year, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

If the project's GHG analysis showed that more than 2,070 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/year would be emitted once the hotel was fully operational, the project would need to mitigate its emissions below this threshold to remain consistent with the CAP.

The CEQA Guidelines, the environmental regulations that are applied to development projects, have two GHG-related questions that must be evaluated during review to the project. Use of local GHG thresholds it allows the project applicant to both determine if the project would generate a significant amount of GHGs, and whether it conflicts with a plan adopted for the purpose of reducing GHGs (i.e., the County's CAP). By having local thresholds, the County can use a straightforward and simple way to evaluate GHG emissions from a project.

## **HOW DOES THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN RELATE TO BIOMASS?**

6. Biomass projects, such as the TBI, LLC project recently approved by the County that will be located on Camage Avenue in Sonora, provide an additional market for low-value forest products generated by forest fuels treatments and thinning activities. The pace and scale of forest treatments both regionally and statewide are increasing, and multiple initiatives to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health and resiliency are in place or are underway and will generate millions of tons of biomass regionally in future years that will necessitate management of this material.

Much of the unmarketable material from these forest treatments will be burned in-situ in slash piles, which will contribute to reduced air quality in the short term and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions in the long term. A beneficial use of this biomass material is to utilize it in industries and products that would otherwise consume raw material from other markets. Biomass projects create a market for otherwise unmarketable biomass, removing it as a source of fuel from vulnerable forests, and offsetting future greenhouse gas emissions generated by the burning of this material. Therefore, biomass projects can be a component of the County's overall GHG reduction strategy.

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FUND (CERF) FUNDING**

7. The purpose of the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) funding is to build an equitable and sustainable economy across California's diverse regions and foster long-term economic resilience in the overall transition to a carbon-neutral economy. The goal for the Eastern Sierra CERF Region is to develop a regional economic recovery plan and prioritized investment schedule that will generate sustainable high-road jobs. A high-road economy favors businesses that invest in their

workforces, pay living wages, and engage in environmentally sustainable business practices. The Eastern Sierra CERF Region was awarded \$5 million to develop the region's roadmaps. One of the first steps of the CERF planning process is to identify other ongoing planning processes or projects across the region to ensure the alignment between these processes and CERF, and to ensure a joint and coordinated response to reaching the State's goals. Examples of such efforts include: CEDS, Climate Plans, High Road Training Partnerships, General Plans, and Regional Transportation Plans. By having a Climate Action Plan, Tuolumne County is well-prepared for the first phase of the CERF funding.

### **WHAT DOES EVACUATIONS HAVE TO DO WITH THE CAP?**

8. During a wildfire event, evacuation is an important to consider for climate resiliency, as climate change is affecting both the frequency and magnitude of emergency evacuation events. Increased frequency and intensity of wildfires will directly affect the safety of all residents and visitors of the county, with the potential to result in physical injury or death. Transportation on smaller roads, which are often narrow and wind through rugged topography, may become difficult with higher levels of congestion. Traffic could be made worse by additional hazards, such as fallen trees and power lines or abandoned vehicles. Transportation networks are susceptible to flood impacts and may be impassable during flood events, which may disrupt evacuation routes or emergency response routes. As a component of the project's compliance with SB 379, the Climate Action Plan discusses evacuations and proposes strategies and action items to adapt for climate events that may impact evacuations. There are two proposed action items related to evacuations under the "Infrastructure" strategy:
  - Action 1.1.2. Use the Residential Areas Emergency Access Improvements document included in Tuolumne County Transportation Council's (TCTC's) Regional Transportation Plan to prioritize roadway improvement projects for large residential areas with poor ingress and egress options during evacuation scenarios. Prioritize conducting outreach to residents in these areas regarding evacuation scenario information and resources.
  - Action 1.1.3. Work with TCTC to update the County's General Plan Safety Element to fully assess evacuation route capacity consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 99 of 2021 (Community Energy Resilience Act) and Assembly Bill (AB) 747 of 2019.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

9. Community involvement in the Climate Action Plan process was integral to the development and prioritization of GHG reduction and climate adaptation measures. Between January 2021 and May 2021, the County conducted the following community engagement activities:
  - Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Planning Committee Presentations
    - January 28, 2021, March 18, 2021, May 20, 2021
  - Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Natural Resources Committee Presentations
    - February 10, 2021, March 10, 2021, May 12, 2021
  - Virtual Community Workshops
    - February 25, 2021, April 8, 2021, May 25, 2021
10. The Board of Supervisors Committee meetings served as an opportunity for the County to present and solicit input on CAP developments prior to sharing with the broader community. The content was largely similar for both the Committee meetings and community workshops, with the workshops including a variety of virtual tools to help facilitate discussion and encourage input. The virtual tools included polling questions, breakout rooms, and a virtual whiteboard platform.
11. In addition, the County hosted an online engagement platform (Konveio) that was available through the County's website in 2021 and promoted at the Board of Supervisors Committee meetings and

community workshops. The online engagement platform included project information, previous presentations, draft climate strategies for comment, and surveys to prioritize draft climate strategies.

12. On July 20, 2021, CDD staff presented a project update to the Board of Supervisors and held a discussion regarding the benefits and considerations of developing the Climate Action Plan in a way that is qualified under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183.5. This provision of the CEQA Guidelines allows for future discretionary projects to tier from the CAP for GHG analyses. During this Board of Supervisors meeting, your Board decided to not pursue CEQA qualification for the Climate Action Plan. However, to provide future discretionary projects with assistance for GHG analyses, your Board directed staff to provide project-level GHG thresholds that could be used by future discretionary projects using the GHG inventory and targets included in the Climate Action Plan. These thresholds can be found in Chapter 5 of the Climate Action Plan.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

13. This Climate Action Plan provides the County with a comprehensive guiding document to address the challenges of climate change. The CAP serves to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from local sources, strengthen resilience to prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts, and implement solutions to better manage natural resources within the county. The CAP is consistent with and complementary to statewide legislation and regulatory mandates. It establishes locally based strategies, measures, and actions that will not only reduce GHG emissions and enhance climate resilience, but will also improve the livability and quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors of the county.
14. The County initiated a scoping phase for the project in early 2020. For the second phase of the project, which began in October 2020, the County prepared GHG emissions inventories and forecasts, set GHG reduction targets, and conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment. After completing these tasks in June 2021, the County developed GHG emissions reduction and adaptation strategies, measures, and actions to be included in the CAP. These efforts created the foundation for developing the CAP document, which occurred between September 2021 and March 2022.
15. The CAP is divided into five main chapters. Chapter 1 introduces the county, outlines the objectives and organization of the CAP, and describes existing legislation and efforts aimed at addressing climate change. Chapter 2 summarizes the county's baseline GHG emissions, presents a forecast of future emissions, and identifies the County's emissions reduction targets. An overview of the climate adaptation planning process and a summary of the county's climate change vulnerability assessment are included in Chapter 3. The core of the CAP – the GHG reduction and adaptation strategies and measures – are included in Chapter 4, organized into five focus areas: Health and Safety, Conservation and Recreation, Buildings, Infrastructure, and Agriculture and Forestry. Each focus area contains strategies and measures that the County will implement to reduce GHG emissions and strengthen community resilience to climate change impacts. Chapter 5 provides a framework for implementing, monitoring, and updating the CAP in the future.
16. Each focus area in Chapter 4 presents strategies that serve as the foundation to help the County achieve its climate change goals. Within each strategy are one or more measures that represent specific expressions of the broad strategies. Climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives are intertwined throughout the strategies and measures. Chapter 5 includes actions associated with each measure that define the activities, projects, programs, or policies that the County can implement or support to advance its GHG reduction and adaptation goals.
17. Each action was evaluated qualitatively for its GHG reduction potential and climate resilience benefit. Actions were assigned a score of 1, 2, or 3 for each metric, which correspond to a low, medium, or high GHG reduction potential and low, medium, or high climate resilience benefit. The icons shown

below are used throughout the CAP to indicate the score for GHG reduction potential and climate resilience benefit. Additional information regarding the scoring can be found in Chapter 5.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSES**

18. The Draft CAP was available for public review from May 2, 2022 to June 15, 2022. Staff presented the Draft CAP to the Board of Supervisors Planning Committee on May 19, 2022, and the Board of Supervisors Natural Resources Committee on June 1, 2022, both of which were open to the public. At the conclusion of the 45-day comment period, letters were received from 1 public agency, 5 organizations, and 42 individuals. These comments can be reviewed on the project webpage at: <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1332/Climate-Action-Plan>.
19. Common themes were found throughout the comments received on the Draft CAP. CDD staff prepared a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) document addressing comments received on the Draft CAP and published the document on July 19, 2022. The FAQ document can be found on the project website: <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1332/Climate-Action-Plan>. The FAQ document addresses the following topic, among others:
  - Scope of the climate action plan in terms of planning jurisdiction, geography, and requirements
  - Cost and feasibility of climate action strategies, measures, and actions
  - Implementation and prioritization of climate action strategies, measures, and actions
  - Forest health initiatives
20. The Natural Resources Committee discussed the role of forest health in the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and raised concerns that the important work of the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) organization was not recognized in the CAP. Healthy forests provide direct benefits to the community, including wildfire and drought resilience, and they also play a role in mitigating climate change. Building the long-term resilience of forests in the county boosts public safety, improves local air quality, enhances water quality and supply, and increases carbon sequestration. The CAP identifies the importance of forest health in Strategy 6, Forest Resilience in under the “Agricultural and Forestry” strategies in Chapter 4. The YSS is specifically identified in Section 2.3.3, “Adaptive Efforts Related to Increased Wildfire Risk” which recognizes the important and collaborative work that YSS is leading by enhancing forest management actions that aggressively reduce forest fuels and restore forests to conditions that are resilient to wildfire.

## **CAP WORKPLAN**

21. Effective implementation of this CAP will require ongoing management and oversight of measure implementation. Ensuring that the measures identified in the CAP result in emissions reductions and resilience improvements is central to the success of this CAP. Achieving these goals will require investments and long-term commitments from the County as well as participation from County staff. The success of CAP implementation will also depend on the participation of residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in the county.
22. To help guide the implementation of CAP measures and actions, the County developed a Prioritization Matrix, now referred to as the CAP Workplan, located in Chapter 5 of the CAP. This involved evaluating each action considering a variety of factors, including GHG reduction potential, climate resilience benefit, jurisdictional control, timeframe of implementation, technological feasibility, public and private cost-effectiveness, and associated co-benefits, to generate a prioritization score. By directing staff to implement the CAP Workplan, it narrows the scope of work and focuses the future review of the CAP.
23. The CAP Workplan is attached in Exhibit A to this report, and the initial implementation of the CAP would be limited to these actions. The remaining actions identified in Appendix C of the CAP would to be included for future phases or implementation, if the prioritization score improved (due to a change

in a scoring factor). The Board of Supervisors would be responsible for approving any changes to the CAP Workplan

### **PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW**

24. The Tuolumne County Planning Commission reviewed the project on August 17, 2022. The Commission voted 4-2-0 to approve the CAP, including the proposed changes by the staff that were presented during the meeting, with Commissioners Jordan and Biel voting against the project and Commissioner Bechtel absent.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

25. After reviewing the project and its setting, the Environmental Coordinator for the County of Tuolumne has determined that the Climate Action Plan is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the project entails an action taken by a regulatory agency for protection of the environment. None of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption found in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines apply to this project.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is requested that the Board of Supervisors approve Resolution XX-22 to adopt Climate Action Plan with the recommended revisions identified in Exhibit A, including the CAP Workplan in Exhibit A of this report.

**Exhibit A. Proposed Climate Action Plan**  
**Workplan**

## Workplan

Based on the assessment approach described above, the maximum prioritization score for each action was 25. To enable the County to focus on and feasibly implement high-priority actions, a minimum score of 15 was chosen as the threshold for the inclusion of an action in the CAP. The 30 actions with prioritization scores greater than 15 are included in the summarized workplan below, which presents each action's overall prioritization score, the agency responsible for implementation, and the recommended timing for implementation (i.e., ongoing – already occurring, near-term – within three to five years, or mid-term – within 10 years), which is based on the two previous factors above as well as additional considerations such as community values and priorities that may not be reflected elsewhere. The full workplan with all factor scores can be found in Appendix C. Details regarding monitoring, ongoing engagement, potential funding sources, and GHG emissions thresholds are included in the sections following the workplan.

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>				
<b>STRATEGY 4. FIRE-ADAPTED COMMUNITY</b>				
<p><b>Measure 4.2:</b> Increase the use of defensible space strategies to reduce wildfire property damage for properties located in high-wildfire risk zones in the county using guidance and requirements pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 3074 of 2020 (Fire Prevention).</p>	<p>Action 4.2.1. Continue to support the Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) Fire Safety Inspection Program and the Tuolumne FireSafe Council's fuel break projects and education and outreach efforts regarding defensible space strategies.</p>	Ongoing	Fire Department, Office of Emergency Services	15



# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
<b>CONSERVATION AND RECREATION</b>				
<b>STRATEGY 1. ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION</b>				
<b>Measure 1.1:</b> Enhance the protection of the county's natural assets and ecosystems and expand natural capital throughout the county, while building climate resilience in the environment.	Action 1.1.1. Support Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions, Tuolumne River Trust, and other stakeholder organizations in their efforts to protect and enhance the county's natural environment and improve climate resilience.	Ongoing	County Administration Office, Office of Emergency Services	17
	Action 1.1.2. Protect and restore river basins, watersheds, and ecosystems.	Ongoing	Community Development Department	15
<b>Measure 1.3:</b> Conserve areas, such as wildlife habitat and corridors, wetlands, and watersheds that provide carbon sequestration benefits.	Action 1.3.1. Within identified communities, retain oak woodland habitat as much as practical. Efforts could include incorporating oak woodland into landscaped or public spaces to enhance project site aesthetics, using oak woodlands as visual buffers between land uses, and using oak woodland habitat to maintain slopes and reduce onsite runoff.	Ongoing	Community Development Department	17
<b>BUILDINGS</b>				
<b>STRATEGY 1. ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDINGS AND RESILIENT NEW BUILDINGS</b>				
<b>Measure 1.1:</b> Increase energy efficiency and climate resiliency in all new buildings.	Action 1.1.1. Explore building "reach" codes that include energy efficiency measures that go beyond State requirements for new construction.	Near-term	Community Development Department	15
<b>Measure 1.2:</b> Require all new County-owned buildings and facilities to be energy efficient and climate resilient.	Action 1.2.1. Establish a policy to require new County buildings to be constructed to meet a high energy efficiency standard such as the California Green Building Standards Code (CalGREEN).	Near-term	County Administration Office, Community Development Department	16

# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
<b>STRATEGY 2. ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND RESILIENT EXISTING BUILDINGS</b>				
<b>Measure 2.1:</b> Increase energy efficiency and climate resiliency in existing residential and nonresidential buildings.	Action 2.1.1. Partner with energy utility providers, building contractors, and other stakeholders to implement an Energy-Resilient Buildings Program modeled after a Regional Energy Network program that focuses on energy efficiency retrofits, improving climate-control (cooling), wildfire smoke and ventilation systems, and energy independence in existing buildings.	Near-term	Community Development Department, Innovation and Business Assistance Department	19
	Action 2.1.2. Facilitate conversations with homeowners, landlords, and tenants about energy conservation, energy efficiency best practices, green infrastructure, and anticipated monetary savings associated with retrofitting buildings.	Near-term	Community Development Department	15
	Action 2.1.3. Work with non-profit and community action groups to prioritize low-income homeowners and renters as part of the Energy-Resilient Buildings Program and provide information and educational materials to residents focused on cost-effective strategies to keep homes cool during extreme heat events (i.e., four or more consecutive days when the maximum temperature is above 88.6 °F).	Near-term	Community Development Department, Office of Emergency Services	15
<b>Measure 2.2:</b> Require all existing County-owned buildings and facilities to be energy efficient and climate resilient.	Action 2.2.1. Conduct detailed assessments and develop retrofit plans specific to each existing County-owned building based on the age, type, energy consumed, and climate-related risks. Prioritize buildings and facilities with the highest energy use per area. Seek grant funding for energy efficiency upgrade projects in order to significantly upgrade the energy efficiency of at least 25 percent of County facilities within 10 years.	Mid-term	Community Development Department, County Administration Office	15

# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>				
<b>STRATEGY 4. RESILIENT AND CLEAN ELECTRICAL GRID</b>				
Measure 4.1: Incorporate the development and use of clean electricity into the electrical grid.	Action 4.1.1. Where feasible, develop renewable energy generation capacity at County-owned buildings and facilities.	Mid-term	County Administrative Office, Community Development Department	15
	Action 4.1.2. Encourage development of alternative energy-producing facilities that conserve the county's natural resources such as rooftop solar and wind turbines, as well as emerging battery technologies and the use of green hydrogen.	Near-term	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	16
	Action 4.1.3. Adopt a community solar program to help realize economies of scale and help residents without appropriate rooftop space to participate in green energy generation.	Near-term	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	17
	Action 4.1.4. Encourage energy development and transmission systems planning that prioritizes climate resilience, efficiency, and local benefit.	Mid-term	Community Development Department, County Administration Office	15
	Action 4.1.5. Seek incentives for clean energy infrastructure and community-based energy projects, prioritizing local renewable energy production.	Mid-term	Community Development Department, County Administration Office	17
	Action 4.1.6. The County will coordinate with regional economic partners, such as the Sierra Business Council, to pursue grant funding to analyze and identify a minimum of four potential cost-effective and feasible sites for the establishment of new solar farms, wind farms, or similar clean power energy sites on County-owned property.	Mid-term	County Administrative Office, Community Development Department	16

# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
Measure 4.2: Reduce electricity grid demand through load reduction strategies.	Action 4.2.1. Encourage installation of battery storage in conjunction with renewable energy generation projects through engagement campaigns and partner agency incentives.	Near-term	Community Development Department, Office of Emergency Services	16
	Action 4.2.2. Work with Pacific Gas & Electric Company to assess the feasibility and cost effectiveness of microgrid technologies to increase energy independence for County operations, businesses, and residents during Public Safety Power Shutoff events.	Near-term	County Administration Office, Office of Emergency Services	15

## STRATEGY 6. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Measure 6.1: Increase the use of green infrastructure in County projects.	Action 6.1.1. As feasible, integrate green infrastructure into all new County-owned buildings and facilities.	Mid-term	County Administration Office, Public Works Department	15
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## AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

### STRATEGY 1. LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Measure 1.1: Implement best practices for livestock management.	Action 1.1.1. Work with the County Agricultural Commissioner's office to facilitate forums, training sessions, and capacity-building activities for local farms to continue to implement reasonable manure management best practices.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner	15
	Action 1.1.2. Uphold traditional livestock grazing rights to manage vegetation, protect soil and water, and protect the stability of the communities that depend on range resources.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor	16

### STRATEGY 2. ENERGY-EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE

Measure 2.2: Implement agricultural best practices that improve energy efficiency.	Action 2.2.1. Promote energy conservation; increased energy and water use efficiency; and on-farm solar, wind, and other renewable energy production.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner, Community Development Department	16
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# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
<b>STRATEGY 3. CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRICULTURE</b>				
<b>Measure 3.1:</b> Implement agricultural best practices that improve resilience to climate impacts and increase the amount of locally produced food.	Action 3.1.1. Encourage mapping of existing crop varieties against future climate projections such as extreme heat, drought, and flood risk. Adjust varieties to address those future conditions, selecting species that are native, drought-tolerant, and adapted to extreme heat.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor	16
	Action 3.1.2. Encourage networking among <u>local</u> agriculture producers to share resources, tools, and knowledge about sustainable, efficient, and resilient agricultural practices.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner, Innovation and Business Assistance Department	17
<b>Measure 3.2:</b> Increase soil organic matter and carbon content.	Action 3.2.1. Develop programs to encourage compost application to enhance soil for carbon sequestration and healthy farms. Utilize existing programs and resources from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program.	Mid-term	Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor	17
	Action 3.2.2. Support regenerative farming systems that use perennial groundcover, rotational grazing systems, and other natural approaches to increase crop diversity and improve soil health and soil organic matter, while ensuring fair incomes for farmers.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner, County Administration Office	18
	Action 3.2.3. Encourage farmers and other key stakeholders to pursue innovative agricultural practices that increase the amount of carbon that is removed from the air and stored in soils and working lands.	Near-term	Agricultural Commissioner	16
<b>STRATEGY 6. FOREST RESILIENCE</b>				
<b>Measure 6.1:</b> Improve long-term forest resilience.	Action 6.1.1. Continue to support existing projects and organizations including Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions to ensure the long-term health of forests in areas under the County's jurisdiction, as well as	Ongoing	Fire Department, Community Development Department	17

# Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

Measure	Action	Timing	Implementing Agency	Prioritization Score
	areas managed by State and federal agencies. Balance and integrate fuel modification efforts with habitat and open space management, vegetative soil cover/erosion management, and urban greening to reduce the potential for conflicts between safety and environmental goals.			
Measure 6.3: Manage vegetation and reduce wildfire risk to promote sequestration.	Action 6.3.1. Implement a vegetation management program to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health.	Mid-term	Fire Department, Community Development Department	15
	Action 6.3.2. Develop vegetation management programs that support enhanced carbon storage in forests, use of durable wood products, and use of wood biomass for energy, while maintaining healthy forest ecosystems.	Mid-term	Fire Department, Community Development Department	15

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Filed \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**RESOLUTION**  
**OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

- WHEREAS,** Tuolumne County Climate Action plan meets the requirements of the 2019 General Plan and SB 379; and
- WHEREAS,** the Climate Action Plan establishes a GHG reduction target consistent with the Senate Bill 32 goal to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; identifies specific measures to reduce countywide emissions consistent with the established target; and includes adaptation strategies for the County to appropriately adjust to the environmental effects of climate change;
- WHEREAS,** the Climate Action Plan provides the County with a comprehensive guiding document to address the challenges of climate change while supporting future development, all while promoting solutions to better manage natural resources within the county; and
- WHEREAS,** the Climate Action Plan is consistent with and complementary to statewide legislation and regulatory mandates, and establishes locally based action items that will not only reduce GHG emissions and enhance climate resilience, but will also improve the livability and quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors of the county; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that climate related events such as extreme heat and catastrophic wildfire significantly impact the residents and visitors of Tuolumne County; and
- WHEREAS,** a GHG emissions inventory from catastrophic wildfire has been drafted by the California Air Resources Control Board, who estimated that GHG emissions from wildfires in 2020, (which was the worst fire year on record (by acres burned) for the State of California), were approximately 112 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (MMTCO<sub>2</sub>), which is equivalent to the amount of carbon contained in the structural lumber of 6.3 million average California homes, or over 75 percent of the emissions from all homes in California; and
- WHEREAS,** a new analysis led by researchers with the University of California (*Env. Pollution*, Vol 310, 1 October 2022, 119888) has found the 2020 wildfires in the state put twice as much greenhouse gas emissions into the Earth's atmosphere as the total reduction in such pollutants in California between 2003-2019; and
- WHEREAS,** the Climate Action Plan contains a Workplan in Chapter 5 of action items that shall serve as a workplan, and any new action items proposed by County staff in the future to be included in the workplan shall require approval from the Board of Supervisors; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that many residents in the County rely on woodstoves as a primary heat source and the County shall ensure that any future action items that are County-initiated do not require the removal of existing new stoves; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that many residents utilize backyard burning as a method to manage vegetation on their property which assists in maintaining required fire clearances and that any future action County-initiated items do not limit the ability for residents to clear their property; and
- WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that reliance on the electrical grid can be challenging for local residents and that any future action items will consider the concerns of relying on an unpredictable electrical grid; and

**WHEREAS,** the Board of Supervisors recognizes that the County should consider the potential environmental impacts and challenges associated with implementing action items identified in the Climate Action Plan (e.g., increased use of lithium for battery production, battery recycling and disposal, technology availability).

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE ON \_\_\_\_\_.

AYES:	1st Dist. _____	NOES:	_____ Dist.
	2nd Dist. _____		_____ Dist.
	3rd Dist. _____	ABSENT:	_____ Dist.
	4th Dist. _____		_____ Dist.
	5th Dist. _____	ABSTAIN:	_____ Dist.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors





# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Environmental Coordinator

48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora  
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Sonora, CA 95370  
209 533-5633  
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## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE:** TC 19-001 Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan (CAP)

**PROJECT PROponent:** Tuolumne County  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

**LOCATION:** Unincorporated Tuolumne County

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** TC 19-001 – Approval of Resolution XX-22 to adopt the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan.

**APPROVING AGENCY:** Tuolumne County

**EXEMPT STATUS** (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21083, 21084; 15303(d))
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15308)
- Exemption (Sec.21083, 21084; 15303(d), 15304(a); 15304(b))

**RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION:** The CAP is a comprehensive guiding document to address the challenges of climate change and serves to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from local sources, strengthen resiliency to prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts, and implement solutions to better manage natural resources within the county. The CAP is consistent with and complementary to statewide legislation and regulatory mandates. It establishes locally-based strategies, measures, and actions that will not only reduce GHG emissions and enhance climate resiliency, but will also improve the livability and quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors of the county. The project is consistent with the Tuolumne County General Plan, Climate Change Element, Goal 18A and Policy 18.A.1.

After reviewing the project and its setting, the Environmental Coordinator for the County of Tuolumne has determined that TC 19-001 is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15308 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* because the project entails an action taken by a regulatory agency for protection of the environment. None of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption found in Section 15300.2 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* apply to this project.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT:** Quincy Yaley

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (209) 533-5633

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Environmental Coordinator

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tuolumne will hold a public hearing on November 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in its Chambers, County Administration Center, 2 South Green Street, Sonora, California, to consider the following:

**Public Hearing: Consideration of approving Resolution XX-22 to adopt the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan, including the action items in the Prioritization Matrix Workplan.**

During the Board meeting, citizens physically present who wish to provide public comment will be invited to do so by the Board Chair. Citizens who are not present and wish to comment should be prepared to use our call-in line at (209) 533-6581 to queue for verbal public comment.

**Options for Public Access Audio and Video Livestreaming:**

The public will not have access for public comments via these media options, they are available for audio and visual only.

**Access Tuolumne County** at:

[www.accesstuolumne.org](http://www.accesstuolumne.org) and click watch live and/or Comcast Cable 8

**OR**

**Zoom Webinar** via computer at <https://zoom.us/j/98737385155> and/or

Call in at: (1) (669) 900-9128 with Webinar ID: 987 3738 5155

Note: Zoom Webinar Services tends to have a reduced broadcasting delay in comparison to the Access Tuolumne livestream and is suggested for the closest to real time viewing and listening. Granicus livestreaming through the County website is currently unavailable and pending a scheduled maintenance.

You also may submit written comments by U.S. mail at the above address or email for retention as part of the administrative record, they will not be read during the meeting.

To submit written comments by email at [boardclerk@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:boardclerk@co.tuolumne.ca.us)

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE:** Pursuant to AB361 members of the Board of Supervisors can participate by teleconference. Accessibility Requirements, if you need swift special assistance during the Board meeting, please call (209) 533-6581.

S/Heather Ryan

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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To Be Published

# **Saturday, October 29, 2022**

Contact Person:

**Submitted to the Union Democrat on Thursday, October 26, 2022, by Taryn Vanderpan, 533-5635, 533-5571, 533-5633**

Bill To:

**Tuolumne County Community Development Department**

# Approved

EXCERPT FROM  
TUOLUMNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 17, 2022

**PRESENT:** Chair Jerry Morrow, Vice-Chair Linda Emerson and Commissioners Mike Gustafson, Jim Jordan, Catherine Santa Maria, and Larry Beil

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Kara Bechtle

**STAFF:** Quincy Yaley, CDD Director; Dave Ruby, Planning Manager; Natalie Rizzi, Senior Planner

- 1. Consideration of providing direction to the Board of Supervisors on the adoption of the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan, including the action items in the Prioritization Matrix Workplan.**

Quincy Yaley, Community Development Department Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Climate Action Plan.

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/22516/Tuolumne-PC-CAP-Hearing>

Vice-Chair Emerson closed the public hearing for a 5-minute break.

Vice-Chair Emerson opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Vice-Chair Emerson asked if the Commission had any questions of staff.

Commissioner Beil asked for clarification on exceeding minimum state required energy efficiency by 15%.

Hannah Kornfeld, Ascent consultant, noted that the State is no longer recommending the 15% target due to the changes in the California building codes.

Commissioner Beil noted that reading through the Plan, that there are a lot of recommendations and provided incentives, but very little that can be measured.

Vice-Chair Emerson asked if the Commission had any more questions. Seeing no one, she opened the public comment period and asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on the proposed project.

Members of the public discussed the need for a more sustainable environment but felt that this Plan had no viable actions. They raised concerns regarding the waste and environmental destruction due to the push for battery operated vehicles. They noted the County needed to be better versed in what this plan could be capable of and understanding the repercussions of shifting from one product to another. They suggested modifying the language to make more clear measurable goals for each of the implementation measures. They discussed the adoption of the CAP helping the County to secure grant funding that would benefit our economy, environment and community.

# Approved

They raised concerns that the CAP is coming from the State and is focused more on the urban and suburban environments and not really tuned into the rural community. They noted that the proposed mitigation measures for fuel reductions are negated by forest fires. They raised concerns that there are no real policies on how to address the major forest fires in the County.

Vice-Chair Emerson asked if there was anyone else who wished to speak on the proposed project. Seeing no one, she closed the public comment period and referred the item back to the Commission.

Commissioner Jordan raised concerns that the plan did not adequately address mitigation measures for wildfires or water conservation. He suggested that presenting a CAP with no economic element and no cost benefit analysis was a disservice to the community. He stated that until he sees those issues addressed, he could not recommend sending this plan forward.

Commissioner Beil raised concerns that the Plan needed stronger language that would require these proposed mitigation measures.

A discussion ensued on the proposed timelines for the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner Jordan asked what would happen if the county did not adopt a Climate Action Plan.

Ms. Yaley explained that the county would need to reopen the General Plan EIR to search for and adopt an alternative mitigation measure, which is outlined in the California Environmental Quality Action (CEQA).

Commissioner Jordan asked how the County would enforce the mitigation measures.

Ms. Yaley noted that the County uses the local ordinance code as the enforcement tool.

She noted that the Board of Supervisors could require an ordinance change to facilitate the enforcement of the adopted mitigation measures.

It was moved by Commissioner Gustafson and seconded by Commission Santa Maria to recommend the adoption of the Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan, including the action items in the Prioritization Matrix Workplan to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff roll called for the vote:

Chair Morrow: Aye  
Vice-Chair Emerson: Aye  
Commissioner Gustafson: Aye  
Commissioner Santa Maria: Aye  
Commissioner Bechtle: Absent  
Commission Jordan: No  
Commissioner Beil: No

Vice-Chair Emerson called for the vote. 4; Ayes, 2; Noes, 0; Abstain

# *Approved*

Motion carried: 4 – 0 – 2 With Commissioner Beil and Jordan voting No and Commissioner Bechtle being absent.

To view the meeting please use the links below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/\\_mWgzmiMRGxQZg0RsaJmPwizF5OiVwkhayNlaGNoisCJ9IBUmyxDXkuL9mMT\\_wec.0wndOwm\\_ZLn2aTQ7](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/_mWgzmiMRGxQZg0RsaJmPwizF5OiVwkhayNlaGNoisCJ9IBUmyxDXkuL9mMT_wec.0wndOwm_ZLn2aTQ7)

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