

**COMMUNITY VOICES:
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC
COMMENTS AND
CHANGES**

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Summary of Public Comments and CAAP Changes

COMMUNITY VOICES: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) is a testament to the power of community collaboration, drawing from the voices of diverse residents, local leaders, and organizations who shared their visions for a sustainable Yolo County future. Through a series of engagement efforts—including surveys, community workshops, technical advisory committees, and community events—the initial Draft CAAP integrated over 1,000 voices into the descriptions of challenges and prioritization of actions.* During the public comment period—which ran from June 7 to July 10, 2024—staff conducted three (3) in-person and (3) virtual public comment workshop and four (4) community outreach events. During this process, Sustainability Division staff received comments on the Draft CAAP from Climate Action Commission members, other County Departments/Divisions, partners, and members of the public. This Appendix provides a summary of key themes from the public comments received, and well as a summary of the approximately 60 changes that were incorporated into the Final CAAP document to improve accuracy, provide clarify, and address questions.

* Community outreach results are reflective of voluntary County participants, and accordingly, may or may not represent the views of the community as a whole.

KEY THEMES FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS

Climate Change Mitigation

Community members emphasized the urgency of implementing bold strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors. Some feedback called for increasing the ambition of proposed measures, with specific emphasis on the following areas:

- **Electrification of Transportation and Buildings:** Many public comments strongly supported actions regarding the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and home electrification and advocated for targeted incentives and rebates that prioritize low-income households to ensure an equitable transition. Additionally, many comments called for clearer funding pathways and better information on available resources to facilitate these transitions. Staff are pursuing grant opportunities to expand funding opportunities in these sectors and will incorporate this input into the rollout of future programs in the Building Electrification and Transportation space. Staff area also working to develop online resources to help community members navigate this transition.
 - **Increased Renewable Energy Adoption:** There was broad support for expanding solar and wind energy projects, both at residential and community levels. However, participants stressed the importance of ensuring that these initiatives are sensitive to local ecosystems and agricultural land preservation to prevent unintended negative impacts.
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- **Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture:** Many public comments supported expansion of climate-smart agriculture practices such as cover cropping, conservation tillage, and wetland restoration.

Equity Concerns

Ensuring equitable outcomes was a recurring theme across community feedback. Residents called for targeted measures to ensure that climate actions do not disproportionately burden low-income or marginalized communities. Key equity concerns included:

- **Defining "Just Transition":** Participants urged for a clearer and more prominent definition of "Just Transition" that emphasizes empowerment for historically disadvantaged communities. They called for principles centered on equity, transparency, and active community participation to be integrated into all climate actions. Staff updated the definition of "Just Transition" throughout the CAAP to reflect these requests.
- **Targeted Support for Vulnerable Communities:** Residents emphasized the importance of providing increased subsidies for clean energy adoption, expanding affordable public transportation options, and offering educational resources to ensure that all community members can actively participate in and benefit from the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). Staff will incorporate this input into the rollout of future programs in the Building Electrification and Transportation space and are working to develop online resources and engagement programs—such as the Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach Program and the Home Weatherization Program—to help community members navigate this transition. Staff are also pursuing grant opportunities to expand incentives and other funding opportunities.
- **Incorporating Tribal Perspectives:** Specific recommendations were made to respect cultural practices and knowledge, such as removing references to "prescribed burns" where they conflict with tribal values. Participants stressed the importance of meaningful collaboration with tribal communities to align climate actions with traditional land stewardship practices. Staff updated text where requested and commit to continuing a collaborative partnership with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation through the Climate Action Commission, emerging Yolo County Regional Resilience Collaborative, and more.

Support for Renewable Energy

Many residents expressed strong support for transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, but also raised concerns about the potential impacts of large-scale renewable projects on local land use, habitats, and visual aesthetics. Key points included:

- **Addressing Extreme Weather:** Participants highlighted the need for measures to protect residents from extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires. Suggestions included increasing urban canopy cover, implementing flood management projects, and enhancing emergency response systems to protect vulnerable populations. Staff incorporated language regarding increasing urban canopy cover into Strategy 10: Resilient Infrastructure and Healthy Communities, Action HC 7g. Likewise, many Phase I actions in Strategy 10 focus on improving

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neighborhood disaster response and supporting/preparing vulnerable communities (including HC 2b, HC 3a, HC 3b, HC 3d). Sustainability Division staff commit to working with the Office of Emergency Services and other community partners to make progress on these actions.

- **Natural Resource Management:** Residents supported initiatives aimed at restoring ecosystems and protecting biodiversity, such as expanding native grasslands, conserving wetlands, and restoring degraded areas. They called for more transparency regarding data on carbon sequestration rates to better understand the benefits of these initiatives. Staff cross-referenced Appendix C. Natural and Working Lands to ensure all sequestration sources were identified and consistent with existing State and Federal guidance.
- **Integration with Water Management:** Water conservation emerged as a critical adaptation priority, with strong support for collaboration with local agencies, farmers, and communities to implement sustainable irrigation practices and improve drought resilience. Participants recognized the need to integrate water management into broader climate adaptation efforts. Sustainability Division Staff commit to continue collaboration with the Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District on CAAP implementation moving forward.

Transportation and Mobility

Transportation was a major focus for residents, with strong calls for enhancing sustainable mobility options and reducing reliance on private vehicles. Feedback emphasized the importance of accessible, affordable, and efficient transportation options:

- **Expanding Public Transit and Active Transportation:** Participants emphasized improving public transit routes, frequency, and affordability, alongside better infrastructure for biking and walking. Strategy 2: Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled, Action VMT 1d was updated to include partnerships with Yolo Unified to promote bike usage among students, with a focus on middle schools, with the goal of reducing future vehicle dependency and promoting active transportation.
- **Equitable Access to Sustainable Mobility:** There were calls for subsidies and rebates for e-bikes, EVs, and public transit passes, particularly for low-income residents. Participants highlighted the need to make sustainable transportation options accessible to all, ensuring that transportation solutions are inclusive and equitable. Sustainability Division Staff commit to continue collaboration with the Yolo Transportation District on CAAP implementation moving forward.

Community Engagement

Ongoing community engagement was highlighted as critical to the successful implementation of the CAAP. Residents emphasized the importance of transparency, education, and inclusivity in the process:

- **Continuous Feedback Mechanisms:** Residents expressed a desire for regular updates, transparent communication about progress, and more opportunities for public input as measures are rolled out. They called for additional community workshops, informational sessions,

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and bilingual educational materials to ensure widespread community understanding and participation. Sustainability Division Staff are working with the Climate Action Commission to identify the best structure for the Commission and Technical Advisory Committees as the CAAP moves into implementation and will continue conducting in-person and online community engagement both in support of specific projects and of Sustainability efforts more broadly. Staff are also in the process of developing an interactive, multi-lingual, public-facing dashboard to track progress on CAAP actions.

- **Visual and User-Friendly Content:** Feedback recommended improving the document's readability by incorporating personal stories, local imagery, and relatable content. Several adjustments were made to ensure recognizable local images were used throughout the document, and the Farmworker Voices section was reformatted to include images of handwritten notes from farmworkers to better represent the voices and experiences of those directly impacted by climate change. Additionally, Sustainability Division Staff commit to developing a series of one-pagers to distill the various plan components into visually appealing and easy-to-digest handouts. These will be available shortly following the CAAP adoption.

Data Transparency and Clarity

Community members highlighted the need for clear, accurate data to ensure informed decision-making and trust in the CAAP:

- **Clarification of Emissions Calculations:** Residents sought clarification on projected emissions reductions, particularly in relation to the low reduction potential of switching VCE customers to the 100% renewable UltraGreen program. Staff investigated the claim of potential calculation error and have confirmed that there was no error. Since this reduction is associated with transitioning PG&E customers to VCE and PG&E has a very low greenhouse (GHG) intensity value, the GHG reduction potential of switching utilities is low. The GHG intensity value of PG&E and VCE is explained in greater detail in Appendix B, page B-52.

Financial Transparency and Budget Allocation

Residents emphasized the need for transparent and realistic financial planning to support CAAP goals. Feedback called for:

- **Realistic Cost Estimates:** Concerns over cost projections, particularly for fleet electrification and other major investments, led to revisions to ensure accurate representation of expected expenses. Text was added to clarify that the costs in Chapter 7 are just estimated totals for the first year of implementation and that “[f]uture budget years will include expanded implementation including greater expenditures for municipal and community capital investments and incentives for community programs.” The identified budgets are just the first year of many multi-year projects, and for this reason, some expenses may seem smaller than expected. For many actions, the labor costs are just to set up/begin program development, as opposed to bringing a measure to completion. Staff will work with the Green Team to identify strategies for budgeting CAAP implementation across different Departments/Divisions.

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- **Prioritization of High-Impact Investments:** There was a desire to see funds directed toward actions that offer the greatest co-benefits, such as public health improvements, significant emissions reductions, and enhanced economic resilience. Participants stressed the importance of prioritizing investments that deliver measurable outcomes for both climate mitigation and community well-being.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE

The chart below shows the changes made by staff in response to public comments received. This is not the only way that public comments are incorporated into the CAAP process; as described above, CAAP comments also inform future action prioritization, program development, and implementation efforts more broadly. The page numbers below refer to the page number in the Final CAAP document and may not align with the page number in the Draft CAAP.

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Track Changes					
Section	Page	Figure	Table	Updates to Public Draft	Reason for Update
Acknowledgements	iv			Added names under the "CAAP Team - Sustainability Division Staff" and "De Colores" in the acknowledgments section.	
Yolo County CAAP at a Glance				Renamed references to 'Yolo County Climate Action Sustainability staff' to 'Sustainability Division'.	To maintain consistent terminology when referring to the team throughout the document.
	viii			Added 'ensuring' before 'a Just Transition'; added a new paragraph defining 'Just Transition'.	To center the definition of 'Just Transition' and update definition based on feedback as described above.
	viii	ES-1		Replaced 'Local Food' with 'Climate-Smart Agriculture' in the Venn Diagram.	To align with the plan's language and accurately represent agricultural sequestration as a key mitigation strategy.
	ix			Added clarification in the text under the section 'How Yolo County Impacts Climate Change' to define "municipal."	To clarify that "municipal" refers to County operations, not those of incorporated cities, and prevent reader confusion.
	ix			Removed the last two sentences of the first paragraph about 'Just Transition'.	Definition was moved earlier in the section to respond to feedback.
	xi	ES-2		Corrected Figure ES-2 for accurate bar heights and proportions.	To ensure clear and accurate data representation.
	xiii			Fixed minor typos.	
	xvi	ES-5		Added note that the figure about Emission Reduction and Carbon Sequestration is conceptual.	The footnote clarifies that the figure depicts the two main strategy approaches to reach the net zero goal, not the only pathways.
Chapter 1	4			Removed quotation marks from the heading "Just Transition".	
				Replaced second paragraph with an updated definition of 'Just Transition'.	Revised definition to better reflect the equity aspect of 'Just Transition', in response to public comments as described above.
				Revised text under 'Unincorporated Yolo County' to clarify that the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation is the only sovereign	

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				Native American nation in Yolo County and acknowledged the ancestral ties of other tribes to the area.	
	5			Updated text to clarify that the demographic data includes both unincorporated areas and incorporated cities of Yolo County.	To ensure clarity on the scope of the demographic data.
				Changed "Esparto Almond Festival" to "Capay Valley Almond Festival".	To correct the name of the festival for accuracy.
Chapter 3				In reference to nature-based actions, replaced land "management" with land "stewardship" throughout the document, including changes to "stewarded" and "stewardship/enhancement" where applicable.	Land stewardship encompasses land management but also emphasizes a sense of responsibility and care for the land. This is a more accurate representation of the intent of nature-based solutions included in the CAAP.
	14			Re-wrote the first paragraph to emphasize the importance of equity and Just Transition in the CAAP development process.	Long-term success of CAAP implementation requires ongoing commitment to equity and 'Just Transition' and ensuring that vulnerable populations play a central role in decision-making.
	15			Replaced text with an updated definition of 'Just Transition' in the blue box.	To ensure consistency with the updated definition informed by public comment.
	24			Reformatted the Farmworker Voices section. Updated photo and included images of hand-written input from farmworkers; adjusted spacing of quotes.	To improve readability and better represent farmworker perspectives.
	29	3-1		Corrected values to align with the actual pie chart totals.	To ensure the text matches the data presented in the pie chart for accuracy and consistency.
	31			Added context about year-to-year agricultural variability in the text under the 'Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory' section.	To clarify the impact of the 2022 drought on agricultural emissions, address concerns about potential underestimation in the GHG inventory.
	35	3-3		Added the following context to the description of changes in the Community-wide GHG Inventory between 2016 and 2022: "There was also a substantial decrease in agriculture sector emissions between 2016 and 2022. It is important to note that agricultural production was down in 2022 due to lack of water stemming from a multi-year	

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				drought. In 2022, production was down 14.5% from the previous year in Yolo County, and rice cultivation was at a 60-year low statewide."	
	35		3-3	Changed column header "summary of life cycle emissions" to "2022 Baseline (MT CO2e)."	Clarifying take-away of the chart for reader.
	43			Replaced existing image with a photo of Yolo County beef cattle.	Ensuring local imagery is used throughout CAAP document.
	44		3-10	Updated Table 3-10 and labeled section under 'Project Emissions MT CO2e'.	Column was previously missing some labels.
	44	3-9		Table 3-9 was reformatted.	Ensured formatting was consistent with other tables throughout document.
	48	3-8		Combined Figures 3-8 (1/2) and (2/2) onto the same page and added clarifying text under headers of both charts.	To address confusion in distinguishing between the charts, clarify the presence and absence of solid waste data, and improve interpretability.
Chapter 4	53	4-1		Removed the word 'Natural' from the upper left box in Figure 4-1.	To respond to comments that "burning fossil fuels" is not a "natural" action.
	55			Removed 'into the future' from the first line for clarity.	To streamline the language and avoid the implication that all sequestered carbon remains so in perpetuity.
	57		4-1	Provided clarification under Table 4-1 that 57% intensive agriculture land cover as noted in the chart is different from the 85% agricultural land use referenced throughout the CAAP.	To clarify the difference between land use and land cover.
Chapter 5	65	5-1		Updated figure and accompanying text for Figure 5-1.	To improve clarity and make graphic easier to understand.
	73			Updated the threat status of Swainson's hawk from "federally endangered" to "state-threatened".	
	75			Replaced 'Conclusion and Recommendations' with 'Summary' in Chapter 5.	To maintain consistency in section headings across all chapters.
	75			Replaced the final two sentences with an updated definition of 'Just Transition'.	To emphasize urgency of changes balanced with sustainable and just realignments.
	78			Rephrased the final paragraph regarding the Strategy-Measure-Action framework to read: 'This framework, like	To adopt a more positive tone while remaining realistic about the challenges of achieving the framework's goals.

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				the goal itself, is ambitious and will require significant coordination and effort to achieve.'	
Chapter 6	Pg.86, pg.97, pg.106, pg.136, pg.145, pg.159, pg.187	6-3, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-10, 6-11, 6-12,		Added the following footnote under 'Relevant Community Outreach' sections to clarify limitations of survey data representation: "Community outreach results are reflective of voluntary County participants, and accordingly, may or may not represent the views of the community as a whole."	To address concerns about potential bias in the survey data and prevent misinterpretation of community support.
	99			Added coordination with Yolo Unified School District to encourage e-bike use with a focus on middle schools within Strategy 2, VMT 1D.	To promote bike use among middle school students, reducing the need for vehicle ownership and its associated costs and impacts.
	104			Corrected text to read: 'PACE programs provide unique financing options for environmentally beneficial improvements.'	To fix an error.
	118		6-4	Corrected the text under 'Summary' for the "Knights Landing Flood Management Project" to ensure it accurately describes the project.	
	122			Updated the text of Strategy 4: Optimize Water Use, Action W 2c to include Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD) as a collaborating partner.	
	128		6-5	Fixed typo.	
	142			Revised third sentence to focus solely on methane emissions related to rice cultivation, removing reference to livestock.	To align with the methane-reducing actions being referenced, which are focused on rice cultivation.
	142			Replaced 'rice' with 'crop' in the first sentence below the header.	To broaden the context of crop-related emissions reduction, as it applies to more than just rice cultivation.
	142 & 148			Replaced the image for Strategy 7 with a local agricultural image to avoid using an image from a different region.	To use a more relevant image reflecting local context.

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	154			Removed reference to prescribed burns.	To respond to public comment and ensure cultural considerations are respected.
	155		6-9	Replaced "Putah Creek" with "Cache Creek" under the "Cache Creek Resource Management Plan" section and corrected the text under "Lower Putah Creek Watershed" in the "Implications for CAAP" section.	
	155		6-9	Updated the title of Table 6-9 to 'Current Planning Efforts Related to Natural and Working Lands' to differentiate it from Table 6-7 and address duplicative entries.	To correct an error in chart labeling and ensure clear distinction between related planning efforts.
	55, 164, 165			Replaced 'manipulation' with 'alteration' in the first description.	Responding to comments regarding perceptions of the word "manipulation."
	168			Changed title of action NWL 4c to 'Support Willing Landowners'.	Corrected to align with the overall document's language and focus.
	177			Updated Strategy 9: Reduce Carbon Footprint of Consumption and Production (RCP) action numbers to "RCP 3a, RCP 3b, RCP 3c."	To eliminate redundancy and accurately represent the distinct actions for each RCP scenario.
	178			Updated RCP 4a to reflect the correct action from the spreadsheet, removing duplication with RCP 2a.	
	200			Revised text of Strategy 10: Resilient Infrastructure and Healthy Communities, Action HC 7g to read: 'Develop community canopy program to expand tree planting, prioritizing areas experiencing the urban heat island effect and ensuring tree species diversity to increase resilience to pest, disease, and drought.'	To align with County priorities for increasing tree canopy and enhancing resilience to climate impacts.
	202			Added a header to separate individual strategies from summary comments.	To provide clear separation between Strategy 10 and the subsequent section addressing concerns about continuity.
Chapter 7	212		7-3	Removed duplicate text under the measure "Decarbonize and Increase..."	
	214		7-3	Updated the last for the measure "Encourage Climate-Smart..." by removing incomplete sentence.	
	210- 214			Department/Division assignments were corrected, budget allocations were re-assigned to correct Departments/Divisions, and a clarification was added to	Assignments were adjusted to align with the Department/Division assignments agreed upon by the Yolo County Green

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				address that "Future budget years will include expanded implementation including greater expenditures for municipal and community capital investments and incentives for community programs." Language of some Measures/Actions updated to align with the exact language of Measures/Actions in Chapter 6.	Team. Accurate expenditure estimates by Division makes this a more helpful tool for budget discussions. It is critical to clarify that the identified budgets are just the first year of many multi-year projects. For many actions, the labor costs are just to set up/begin program development, as opposed to bringing to completion. For this reason, some expenses may seem smaller than expected.
	217			Removed dash between "More" and "expensive".	
	235			Replaced the first sentence with an updated definition of 'Just Transition'.	To clarify the concept of 'Just Transition' in terms of principles, processes, and practices.

Notes: CBO = Community-Based Organization; CBP = Community-Based Partner; E&E TAC = Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Committee; CAAP = Climate Action and Adaptation Plan; ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act.

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