# Contra Costa County
# Climate Action & Adaptation Plan
## 2024 Update

Sustainability Committee
February 10, 2025

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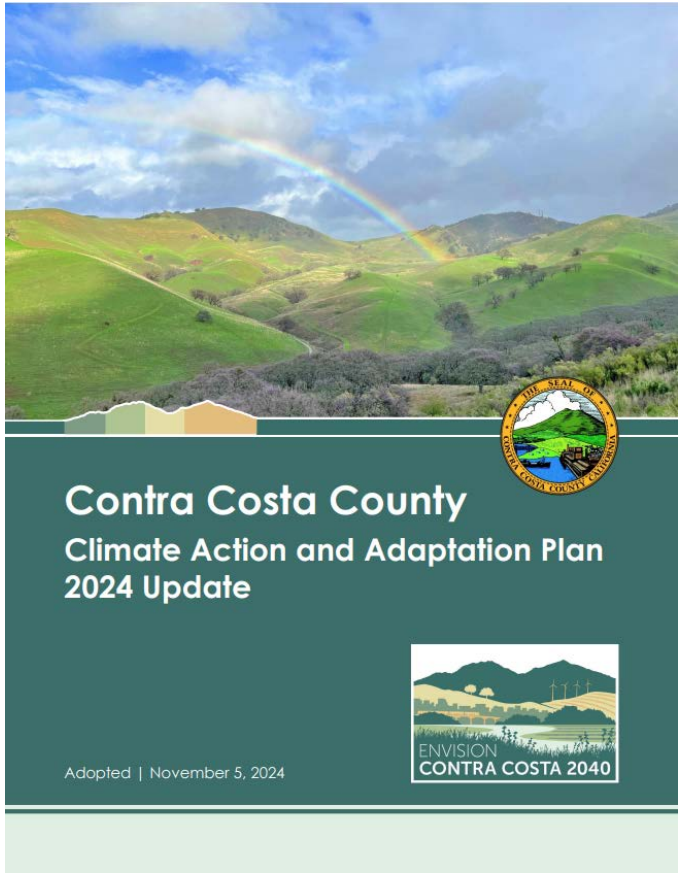
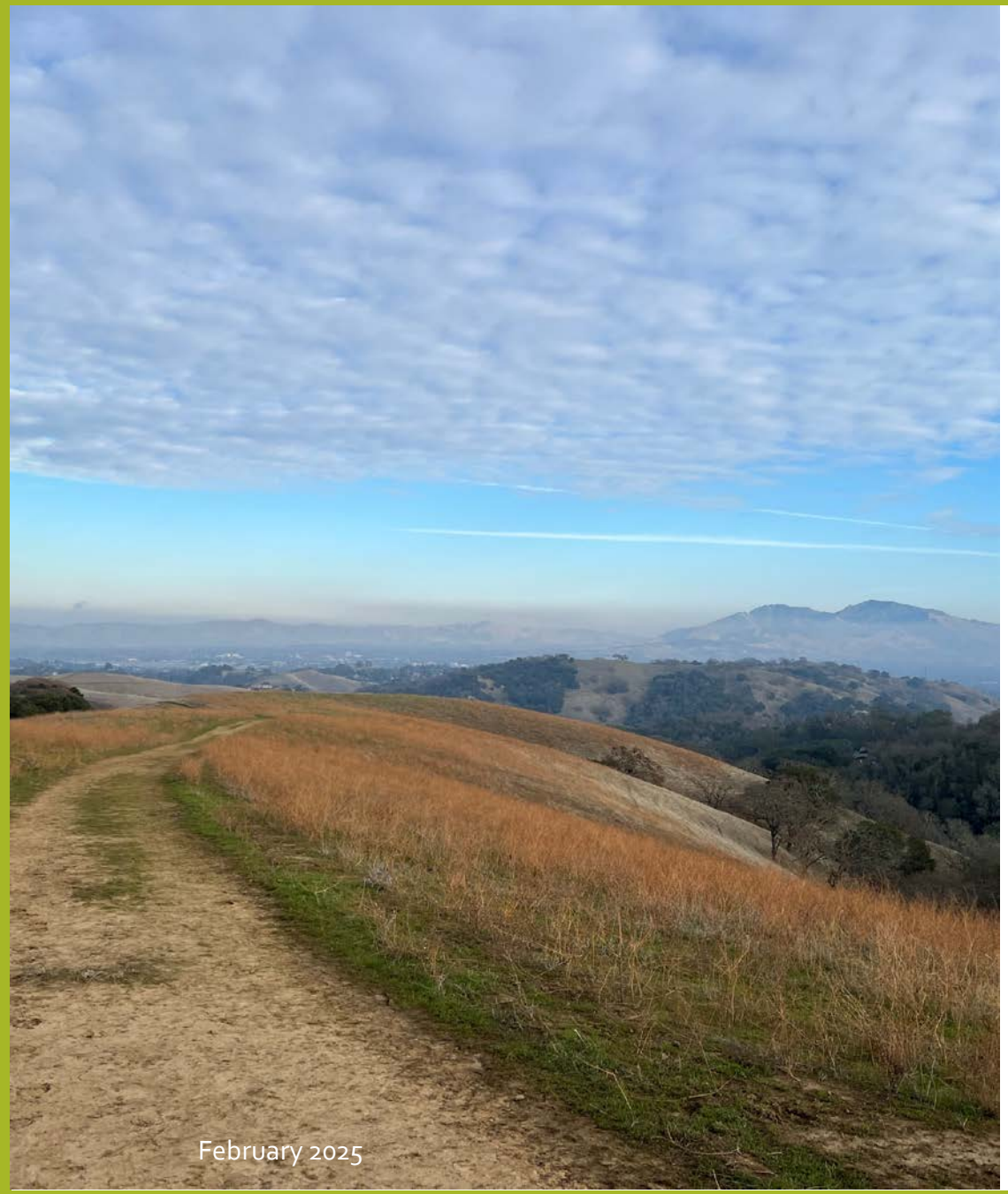
# Background

- Board of Supervisors adopted the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) 2024 Update on November 5, 2024
- CAAP was developed with the 2045 General Plan through the Envision Contra Costa process
- 4 themes are interwoven through both plans:
  - Environmental justice
  - Community health
  - Economic development
  - Sustainability
- CAAP is County's strategic plan to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving climate resilience and adaptation, and promoting equity on climate issues
- Includes strategies for community-facing programs and County operations





# CAAP Goals

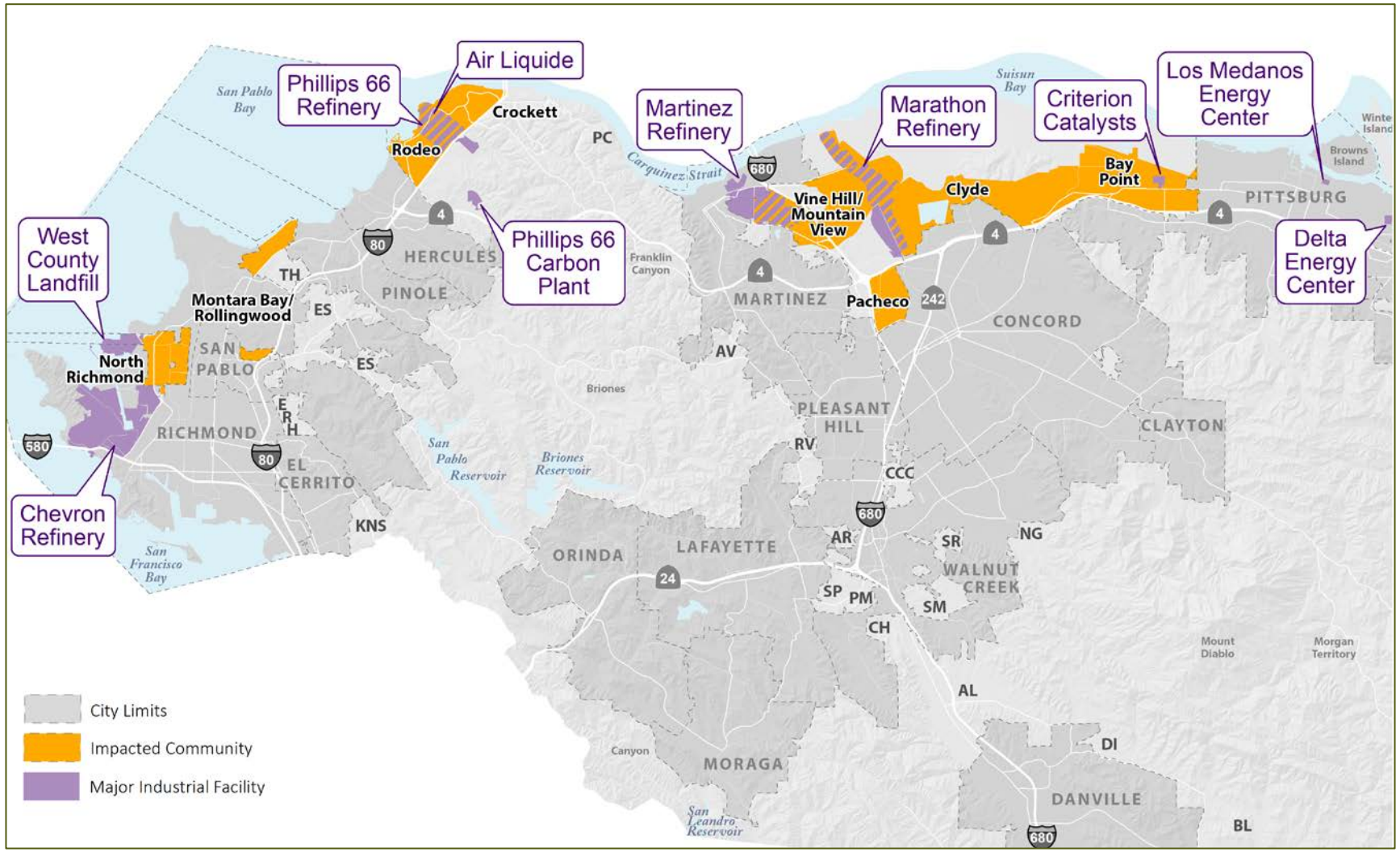
- Strategies and actions support the State's GHG emissions reduction goals through 2045, as established by State laws and regulations
  - Reduce community-wide GHG emissions by 40 percent from the 1990 levels by 2030.
  - Reduce community-wide GHG emissions by at least 85 percent from the 1990 levels by 2045 and be on a pathway to support statewide carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Improving community resilience to climate hazards through adaptation

| Sector | 2005 $MTCO_2e$ | 2013 $MTCO_2e$ | 2017 $MTCO_2e$ | Percent change 2017 from 2013 | 2017 Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential energy | 274,690 | 258,420 | 252,730 | -8% | 20.7% |
| Nonresidential energy | 118,740 | 125,350 | 122,040 *† | 3% | 10% |
| Solid waste | 48,450 | 26,540 | 25,570 | -47% | 2% |
| Landfill | 193,950 | 196,500 | 197,710 | 2% | 16% |
| On-road transportation | 628,200 | 651,130 | 550,490 † | -12% | 45% |
| BART | 2,300 | 2,680 | 1,350 | -41% | .001% |
| Off-road equipment | 71,880 | 66,230 | 17,580 | -76% | .01% |
| Water and wastewater | 8,080 | 7,400 | 5,690 | -30% | .004% |
| Agriculture | 57,320 | 58,200 | 46,180 | -19% | 3.7% |
| **Total** | **1,403,610** | **1,392,450** | **1,219,340** | **-13%** | |
| * 2013 data used as a proxy. | | | | | |
| † Subject to potential revisions as new data become available.<br>$MTCO_2e$ = metric tons equivalent of carbon dioxide | | | | | |

February 2025

# Transportation and buildings are key emissions sources we can influence.

# What Motivates Us



## CAAP Strategies:

# Clean and Efficient Built Environment

*Homes, workplaces, and businesses in unincorporated Contra Costa County run efficiently on clean energy.*

# Clean and Efficient Built Environment

## Community-Facing Programs

- **Adopt new or modified reach codes** that require higher energy efficiency and lower GHG emissions
- Support **energy efficient and carbon-free** retrofits in homes and businesses through education, policies, and programs
- Create a County **roadmap** to support converting buildings to rely on low-carbon or carbon-free energy using an equitable framework
- Study what the County should do to support **low-carbon concrete**
- Encourage project applicants to incorporate **sustainable building strategies, solar, and battery storage** into their projects
- Explore opportunities to install **community solar**

## County Operations

- Design and **construct new County facilities to be zero-net energy**
- **Track energy and water use** and **conduct upgrades** of County facilities, including conversion to all-electric space and water heating
- Continue enrolling County facilities' electricity accounts in **MCE's Deep Green** tier
- Explore developing **microgrids** for County facilities

## CAAP Strategies:

# No Waste Contra Costa

*Contra Costa County disposes of no more solid waste than 2.2 pounds per person per day (PPD).*

# No Waste Contra Costa

If the CAAP meets its goals, in 2045 the largest source of GHG emissions will be from material *already deposited* in landfills.

## Community-Facing Programs

- Increase community-wide **composting** of organic waste, **recycling**, and **waste minimization programs**
  - Franchise agreements
  - Landfill operations
- Support edible **food recovery programs**
- **Reduce emissions** from landfill gas

## County Operations

- **Reduce waste** and implement **three-stream collection** at County facilities
  - This and other CAAP goals should be included in lease agreements
- Implement the **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**

## CAAP Strategies:

# Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience

*Contra Costa County uses less water, and communities are prepared for drought.*

# Reduce Water Use and Increase Drought Resilience

Irrigation pipe in East County

## Community-Facing Programs

- Require use of **water-efficient fixtures**
- Encourage use of **drought-tolerant landscaping**
- Increase participation in **water conservation programs**
- Ensure **sustainable and diverse water supplies**
  - Including expanding recycled water systems

## County Operations

- **Monitor water use** and implement additional ways to **reduce water use**
- Implement **drought-tolerant landscaping at County facilities**
- Evaluate opportunities for **graywater use**

## CAAP Strategies:

# Clean Transportation Network

*Contra Costa County's transportation network provides safe and accessible options for walking, biking, and transit. If residents and workers are driving, they are in zero-emission vehicles.*

# Clean Transportation Network

## Community-Facing Programs

- Expand **bicycle, micromobility, public transit, and pedestrian infrastructure**
  - Implement the County's County Road Improvement and Preservation Program, Complete Streets checklist, Vision Zero Report and Action Plan, and Active Transportation Plan
- Build out **countywide bicycle and pedestrian network**
- Support efforts to **expand service area, frequency, and regional integration of transit systems**
- Support establishment of a **shared mobility program** and bicycle repair programs
- Increase access to **zero-emission vehicle charging** infrastructure
- **Facilitate the transition to zero-emission vehicles** across communities, vehicle types, and sectors
- Support implementation of CCTA's **Contra Costa County Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint**

## County Operations

- **Implement programs to encourage transit use, bicycling, walking, telecommuting, and use of alternative vehicle fuels** by County employees
- Require **new County vehicles to be zero-emission**
- Install **zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure** at County facilities to support fleet transition
- **Educate and empower County staff** to use zero-emission vehicles

## CAAP Strategies:

# Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

*Contra Costa County will increase resilience to climate hazards and foster community health.*

# Resilient Communities and Natural Infrastructure

## Community-Facing Programs

- Support the use of **ecosystem restoration** and **green infrastructure** to adapt to climate change
- Prepare a **sea level rise adaptation plan**
- **Protect against and adapt to wildfire** events
  - Development requirements
  - Wildfire mitigation efforts
- Develop a **resilience hub master plan**
- Pursue **implementation of carbon sequestration feasibility study recommendations**, *Healthy Lands, Healthy People*
- Prepare an **Urban Forest Management Plan** to support expanded tree planting and maintenance
- Support and fund efforts to enhance **community and cross-sector engagement in community-level resilience**

## County Operations

- Explore ways to **increase carbon sequestration** on County-owned properties
- Promote installation of **drought-tolerant green infrastructure,** including street trees
- **Consider projected impacts of climate change** when siting, designing, and identifying costs of County capital investment projects

## CAAP Strategies:

# Climate Equity

*Contra Costa County will address environmental factors leading to health disparities, promote safe and livable communities, and promote investments that improve neighborhood accessibility.*

# Climate Equity

## Community-Facing Programs

- Secure funding, in partnership with CBOs, to **provide low-cost or free home improvements** in Impacted Communities, e.g., air conditioning and filtration, solar and energy storage systems, and energy efficiency
- Support **transition from highly polluting industries to a net-zero emission economy** based on renewable and sustainable industries that provide living-wage jobs
- Continually **engage communities most affected by climate change** in developing and implementing climate solutions
- Increase access to **parks and open space**
- Ensure residents have **equitable, year-round access to affordable, local fresh food**, through farmers' markets, urban gardens, and grocery markets

## County Operations

- Ensure **equitable investment in infrastructure and services in Impacted Communities** through County planning and expenditures
- Incorporate **addressing climate chance, providing climate solutions, and enhancing community equity** more fully into County operations and services
- Include the use of **Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria** in investments, including investments related to the Contra Costa Employees Retirement Association, County's Deferred Compensation Plan, and County investment policy

## CAAP Strategies:

# Leadership

*Contra Costa County is a model for how local government can take action on climate issues.*

# Leadership

## Community-Facing Programs

- Support legislative efforts to establish a **green bank** to equitably finance sustainability projects
- Ensure funding mechanisms to address climate change minimize or **avoid disproportionate financial impacts to Impacted Communities**

Department of Child Support Services staff with a new portable electric vehicle charger.

## County Operations

- Encourage adoption of the **County's Green Business Program** best practices
- Explore funding mechanisms to **support the County's Sustainability Fund** for investments in County facilities
- Facilitate **trainings for County staff** on climate change
- Encourage County employees to **explore innovative technologies and programs** that address climate change
- Incorporate **integrated pest management** on County properties
- Implement the County's **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy**, including in the contracting process
- Consider development standards for the **disclosure of climate and equity effects and vulnerabilities** in staff reports for the Board of Supervisors
- **Assess County programs, policies, operations, and projects** for their contribution to achieving the County's GHG emissions reduction goals

## CAAP Strategies:

# Implementation

*Contra Costa County will ensure it follows through to achieve the goals and actions in this Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.*

# Implementation

Green Government Group (G3) Champions tour the TRUE Gold- and LEED Platinum-certified new administration building at 1026 Escobar St.

The Department of Conservation and Development leads implementation of the CAAP.

- Ongoing CAAP progress reports
- Additional staff through General Fund
- Update greenhouse gas emissions inventory in Year 1
- Continue collaborative partnerships with public agencies, private partners, community groups, and residents, especially those in Impacted Communities
- All County departments can contribute
  - Key partners are Public Works, Health, and CAO

# Thank you!