SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

PRESS RELEASE

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CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGY RELEASED

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to present the 2022 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan ("CAAP"), which includes a sector-based inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions and recommends goals and strategies to help decarbonize Santa Cruz County and meet State-mandated greenhouse gas reduction targets.

The CAAP integrates prior County climate adaptation efforts and is designed to synthesize with efforts in other jurisdictions, including supporting a regional approach to climate adaptation planning. The CAAP includes seven broad goal areas and 29 specific strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, divided into the areas of energy, transportation, water, waste, the natural environmental, wildfire prevention and mitigation, and government operations.

The CAAP builds on the County's prior leadership in protecting the environment, from becoming one of the first communities in the U.S. to establish curbside recycling to more recent efforts such as leading the formation of Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE), coordinating sustainable groundwater management among local water purveyors, limiting the introduction of plastics into the environment by banning single-use plastics and Styrofoam, and more.

In keeping with other County planning efforts, the CAAP focuses on equity and includes Equity Guardrails to help consider how climate change and mitigation measures may disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged members of the community, including creating undue burdens on populations that do not have the means to bear them.

The CAAP will go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Dec. 13, for consideration. Should it be adopted, next steps include community outreach and developing metrics for each strategy including specific greenhouse gas reduction targets.

To read the 2022 Climate Action and Adaption Plan, visit www.tinyurl.com/2022CAAP.