

WE Watch Comments, Santa Barbara County Climate Vulnerability Assessment

October 22, 2021

The Climate Vulnerability Assessment is an impressive document that illustrates the value of work by a multi-disciplinary team which has excellent research, including data handling, skills. Its analysis of the unincorporated area of the county and the three sub-sections is so thorough and complex that reading the document, it seems there is nothing to add. As a resident of the county, one can only be thankful that this work is going on right now in an effort to prepare for a somewhat unknowable future as the climate changes.

Question and related comments: How do the incorporated cities fit into this assessment or will they each need to produce similar assessments? Some of our members live in the two very small cities in the Santa Ynez Valley and as far as I can tell, these cities are not part of the assessment because they are separate entities.

Yet when one looks at the frontline communities' indicators in the southern Santa Ynez area - persons living in mobile homes, seniors living alone, median household income, rentals, cost burdened households, etc. - persons in these categories are concentrated in the two cities. Only Golden Inn Village and a rental manufactured housing site (formerly a mobile home park) next to El Rancho are in the unincorporated area. The lowest income mobile home park is in Buellton.

The Senior Centers working with lower income seniors are located in our cities. People Helping People, which works with lower income persons of all ages throughout the Valley, is located in Solvang. Many of the Valley's lower income residents live in the two cities. About 30% of both Buellton's and Solvang's population is Latinx. These service providers become important implementers of services when stressors hit and individuals must adapt.

The City of Solvang provides wastewater treatment for city and unincorporated area persons but its plant is in the unincorporated area of the Valley. In drought times, Solvang must work with ID#1, which is in the unincorporated area, since it obtains water from it. Both cities hire County police and fire services. The Santa Ynez Valley's cities are totally surrounded by the unincorporated area of the County.

Cities the size of Buellton and Solvang do not have enough staff to form a team to produce their own assessments so would need to pay consultants to do that work. And many consultants do not know our territory like the staff that did this assessment. Is there some way that ours and other cities can utilize the work you have done?

Other Comments:

1. Table ES- 1 (pg. ES-3) & Table 1 (pg. 7) use the term “Southern Santa Ynez.” Is this just the southern part of the Santa Ynez township or southern Santa Ynez Valley or some other geographic area? This needs to be clarified.

2. Tables 9, 10 (pg.37), Tables 15 & 16 (page 66): The “average” temperature figures, heat days, heat waves and warm nights for the geographic areas of the North County (Lompoc Valley and Santa Maria Valley (cooler) and Los Alamos Valley and Santa Ynez Valley (warmer) vary so greatly that averaging them together results in misleading figures for North County compared with averages for the South Coast or Cuyama Valley. It significantly reduces the usefulness of the North County figures. It would make the information more useful if there were a 2-area subset of the warmer and cooler areas within North County in each of these tables. The maps are more detailed (Figures 38, 39, 40 on pages 38-40). We noted that the text on page 37 stated SYV and Cuyama Valley would have the highest temperatures.

3. Page 61 (Blue box). “Communities in the SYV receive water via surface water supplies from the SY River, which can be drawn down in drought conditions.” Compared with South Coast cities and water districts, Santa Ynez Valley residents receive very small amounts of SY River surface water. County Water Agency would know the exact %s. Without modifiers, one could make the logical assumption that, since the river runs through the SYV, residents receive a substantial amount of water from it. The draft Central and Eastern Management Area GSA Plans describe groundwater as our Valley’s primary source of water.

Nancy Emerson, President
WE Watch, Santa Ynez Valley Environmental/Land Use Citizen Organization
P. O Box 830, Solvang CA 93463
info@wewatch.net

From: [barbara lyon](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021 10:51:16 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

First of all, as far as climate change goes, we're not One Climate. That's nonsense. Micro climates exist everywhere and must be addressed individually. Any one of them might affect other areas, but not necessarily. And we may be one country, but this is not a top down effort, it is local always.

Second of all, climate change has always been with us and to deal with it we cannot ignore the weather warfare that has been engaged upon in all of the countries of the world. I am a third generation Californian who knows for a fact that our weather has rarely been naturally occurring for a very long time. I have spoken with people as far away as Bulgaria, Africa and South America who echo this.

Thirdly, "climate change" like "global warming" is a psychological operation moniker. Climate change has existed for time immemorial. It is being used by those who wish to form a one world communist government -- it is a tool of the United Nations Agendas 2020-25-30-50 to force us all into specific geographical areas and build those towns exactly alike. They bring our Santa Barbara and ALL city and town planners to seminars where they are indoctrinated. Then they give lots of money to our Federal government for each of these cities and towns to build accordingly. Santa Rosa's fires were purposely set and encouraged and fit precisely within the boundaries for Santa Rosa, no accident, so it could be rebuilt "back and better" -- another fake moniker. Santa Barbara is guilty of falling for these monies, heck a whole lot of us here are guilty of falling for it. Santa Barbara is a land to cherish, full of a lot of beautiful quiet thoughtful people and a lot of misguided noisy intervening people. The average citizens are a lot brighter than the university imports.

I love our Save the Oceans, Stop Offshore Drilling, and reclamation of our streams and wildlands, which are all a wonderful way to take care of our environment.

Regarding water, scarcity is being promoted while we see our dams being emptied, jets using chemicals and warfare energies to steer water from some places towards other places intentionally to cause floods and droughts where they wouldn't normally occur. We cannot say we have droughts when after years of not much rain our dams will rise to normal with one rain. I saw this happen in 1964-65 with Lake Cachuma. I saw it happen with Lake Shasta in 1970-71. I hear it's been happening in many locales in California such as the Lake Tahoe area.

Regarding fires, after we ceased using Agent Orange to denude vegetation in Vietnam in 1970, we gave the technology to our own US Dept of Forestry which has used it in aerial spraying of remote pristine mountain tops to make it easy for loggers to pick up the then dried toppled trees, but in the process terribly polluting waterfalls, rivers, streams and destroying our entire riparian terrain. There are videos of this, there are videos of the fires being set from satellite technology. Unless and until we require our governmental agencies to cease all such activity, we are doomed. Polar bears DO swim! Bees ARE dying. We are in grave danger unless we pull the reins on our government.

Regarding CO2, this is another United Nations driven falsity. When the earth has had the highest amounts of CO2, as during the dinosaur era, the plant life burgeoned and was so plentiful. Humans are not causing a problem with CO2 nor are cars, though it is good to limit auto emissions as much as possible. We can't say we have global warming due to human activity at large. The jets both commercial and military that are spraying our skies emit more CO2 than all cars do. Many of us walk everywhere. Most driving is due to work commutes. I don't personally know of any individuals who use too many fossil fuels, travel a lot, or have a high carbon footprint, to the contrary. Human activity follows corporate offerings and dictates such as new iPhones every year which contribute heavily to industrial waste and pollution. Advertising needs to be eliminated and spread by word of mouth as in prior times. Corporations need to cease design and manufacturing with obsolescence in mind, greedy guys that they are!

I'll quit here, I have read the Action Plans and find them just boiler plate from the UN Agenda 2020-25-30-50, nothing more, nothing less. Santa Barbara can do so much better with all your great intentions and good minds. We need to act on our own, not in sync with organizations that serve themselves and not the people of Earth in reality. We are a beautiful city and community, creative and thoughtful. Stop the nonsense and think independently .

Very sincerely!

From: [Reed](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Santa Barbara Taxpayers Assn Comments on Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:13:03 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

ATT: Whitney Wilkinson, County Project Manager, Senior Planner
Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

REF: Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association Public Comment, Santa Barbara County
Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (DRAFT)

Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association was formed in 1955 and has represented the interests of Santa Barbara County residents, businesses, and taxpayers for nearly sixty years. After a careful review of your Draft Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, we are pleased to offer our comments.

Your impressive document, occupying some 304 pages, represents a substantial volume of work on behalf of County Staff and paid consultants, and is well organized, comprehensive, and visually appealing. While we have no concerns over the professional appearance of the Draft Assessment, we find that some of its content, or, conversely, lack of content, requires comment.

First, your entire document appears predicated on supporting the finding that "Frontline Communities", defined by you as having particular attributes which, in your opinion, renders them more susceptible to the expected effects of climate change, will apparently face the brunt of the expected effects, while little weight is given to effects on more typical residents. Is this an attempt to infuse an "environmental justice" argument into the program or have we mis-interpreted something? We invite your comment and clarification relative to this point.

Further, again with respect to the "Frontline Communities" you describe, it is obvious that those groups often suffer from limited mobility and resources. An important factor to consider, and one of importance to us, as an organization which promotes economic vitality for the County, is to explore avenues to improve the economic conditions for residents through creation of increased employment and educational opportunities. We would strongly suggest the County consider and add an analysis of actions which could be implemented to improve both educational and employment opportunities for those frontline communities, and, by so-doing, improve not only their current economic status but their resilience to accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change.

We would additionally offer comment that we strongly believe County should analyze methods of enhancing business resilience by fostering a more business-friendly environment which would enhance employment and prosperity, again as a method of increasing quality of life and the ability to cope with anticipated effects of climate change.

We would strongly recommend adding key stakeholders from the business community as participants in the outreach and engagement process in an effort to obtain more comprehensive input which would result in a more accurate assessment of Santa Barbara County's status relative to climate change vulnerability.

Our final concern is with the Assessment's single-minded view of the anticipated effects of climate change. While potential negative effects are thoroughly explored, potential positive effects are ignored. Perhaps the most obvious area of concern is with respect to the anticipated effects on agriculture. As an example, average temperature minimums are estimated to increase by 3.2 and 4.9 degrees by 2030 and 2060, respectively, with maximum temperatures increasing by 3.2 and 5.3 degrees over the same time period. While these changes appear rather minimal, in fact, your Assessment predicts increased insect growth, reproduction, and expected crop damage, but I believe a quick look southward, to Ventura County, for example, would support the argument that those slight temperature increases would be unlikely to increase insect damage to agricultural crops. On the converse, however, a benefit of that slight temperature increase could be expected to result in fewer nights of frost, with concomitant reductions in crop losses, as well as reduced need to employ frost mitigation measures such as use of overhead sprinklers in vineyards, and use of smudge pots or fans in citrus. Further, increased temperatures and the expected reduction in fog could be expected to reduce the incidence of fungal and bacterial plant diseases, many of which require wet leaf surfaces in order to infect and proliferate on agricultural crops. Finally, who could argue against the positive effects that an additional inch or two of precipitation would have on agricultural crops and grazing lands. I speak to these with some measure of knowledge since I hold an M.S. in Plant Pathology and we currently own nearly 3,000 acres of productive farm and grazing land in the North County.

In closing, SBC Taxpayers appreciates the substantial investment which Santa Barbara County has invested in this process and is gratified by the opportunity to offer our input toward the goal of creating the most useful program possible.

Sincerely,

Roy Reed
Board President
Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association

Rnsnsn@comcast.net

805 448-4648

From: [Reed](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Santa Barbara Taxpayers Assn Comments on Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:13:03 PM

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Sincerely,

Roy Reed
Board President
Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association

Rnsnsn@comcast.net

805 448-4648

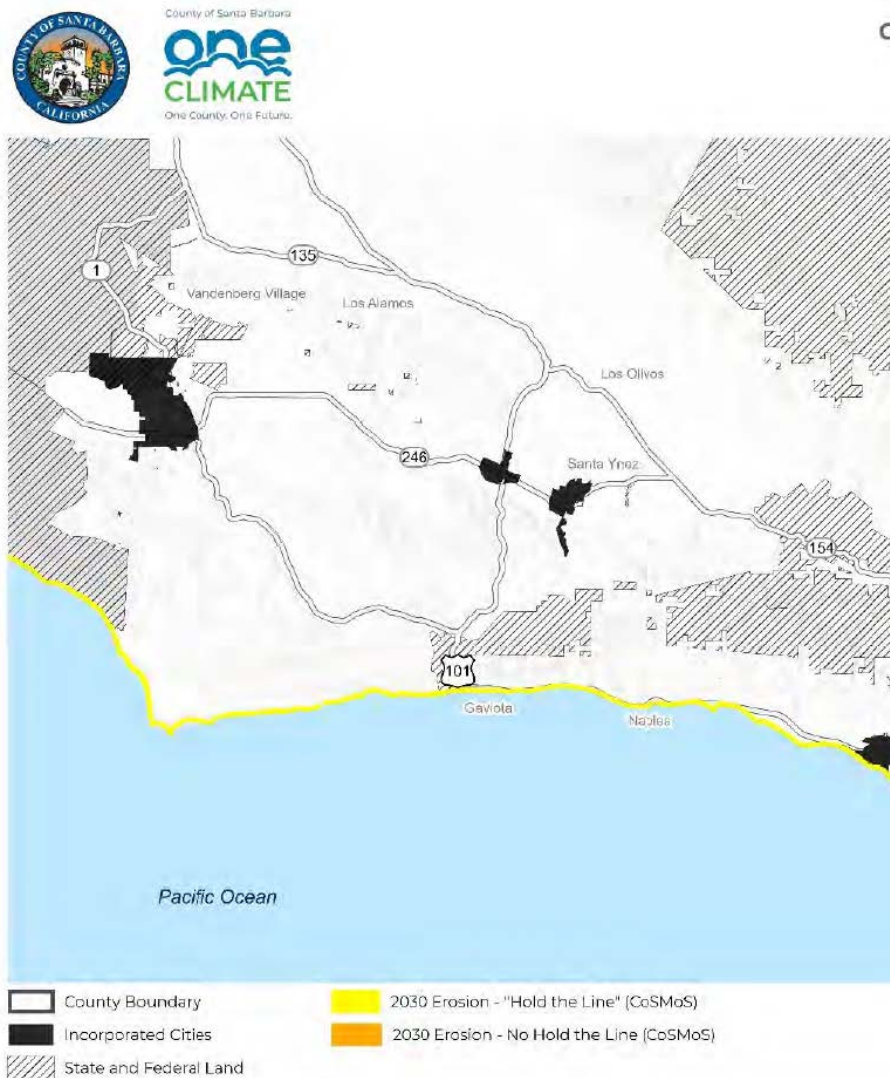
From: [LynneDee Althouse](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Figures 18 to 23 in SantaBarbaraCounty_CCVA_Report_PublicDraft_withExecSummary__09-21-21_reduced
Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021 11:15:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for this timely vulnerability analysis.

Orange shading is not clear on Figures 18 to 23 for the “No Hold the Line” orange legend items. Example snipped from Fig 21:

Figure 21. Projected Areas of Coastal Erosion on the South Coast



Thank you,
LynneDee

LynneDee Althouse

Principal Scientist | Althouse & Meade, Inc.

Biological and Environmental Services

(805) 459-1660 cell | (805) 237-9626 office

1602 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446

LynneDee@althouseandmeade.com

Website: <https://Althouseandmeade.com/>

From: [Jim Ross](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Public comment on Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:24:02 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning and Development Long Range Planning Division:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this Climate Change Vulnerability Report. It contains complex and important material to help us plan for the next years.

I am concerned that the issue of air quality is not included as a major factor or emphasized as much as needed. It does appear in some of the questions asked, but is not mentioned in the Secondary Climate Hazards section, nor in the section on Human Health Hazards on P. 72 where hazards are explained. Air quality is definitely the result of several area of climate change and affects people's quality of life, medical expenses, as well as the economic factors of tourism and public health spending. It often affects the frontline populations that are listed in the report more strongly than other populations. We should definitely be including this in discussion and planning.

Thank you for your attention to these community needs.

Sincerely,
Jan Ross
7130 Del Norte Drive, Goleta, 93117
805-570-3133

From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report
Date: Friday, September 24, 2021 6:30:09 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Have you considered that the foundations of the scientific conclusions for anthropogenic climate change may be flawed?

Is it possible that scientific consensus is being coerced? Have you considered other probable theories?

Are computer models accurate or contain statistical errors that when acted upon causes more harm than doing nothing different?

If we are to trust the science consensus of the past that has predicted our demise many times over, we are truly doomed to take improper actions.

There are too many unknown variables, but the obvious ones are like the elephant in the room. Science is continuous learning about our surroundings and never stops asking questions.

This is a playlist from a researcher who uses open source data and peer-reviewed papers, of which more than can be stated here.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHSoxioQtwZcqdt3LK6d66tMrel4gqIC->

CLIMATE FORCING | Our Future is Cold
THE SUN | Plasma Climate Forcing
Plasma Climate Forcing | Path to the Atmosphere
Plasma Climate Forcing | Vortex and Jet Streams
Plasma Climate Forcing | The Sun & The Oceans
Plasma Climate Forcing | Tropical Storms
The Sun & Earth | Rapid Temperature Forcing
THE SUN | Plasma Climate Forcing Finale
Scenario #4 | Real Climate Science
Climate Science Criticized by Climate Experts & More
Top 10 Climate Studies - Great for Sharing [2019/2020]
Opportunity of a Lifetime | President of the AGU
Climate Science Collapses | Top Journal Ices the Cake
Heading For An Ice Age | Top Journal Selections
Climate Science Destroyed In 8 Minutes
CLIMATE FRAUDS | Experts on the Hook
EPIC FAILURE | 2021 IPCC Report
NASA Takes a Beating
Ben vs Entire NASA Climate Team
Paper Snitches on Climate Science & Earth Disaster
To NASA's Dr. Karen St. Germain

Electromagnetic Atmospheric Physics | For Beginners & NASA

Thank you for your consideration,
John Roberts

If you are not the intended recipient, do not read, copy, print, or forward this email or any attachments. Immediately delete this email and all attachments. If you are the intended recipient - enjoy yourself.

From: [Ron Lovell](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Subject: Fwd: CAP 2030
Date: Thursday, October 7, 2021 11:19:20 AM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

I sent this the the email posted by the Santa Maria Sun and it was the wrong email. Please understand that vulnerable people are directly impacted by your decisions, since inflation and rising rent is included in their cost of living.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ron Lovell** <ron@2daywebsite.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 2, 2021, 11:02 AM
Subject: CAP 2030
To: <climatechangeassessment@countyofsb.org>

Thank you for allowing me to provide input on your climate action plan. There are a few main concerns that I have.

The first is California is acting independently of other states and other nations. If we do our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, that doesn't mean other states and other countries will change their pollution. Pollution travels. So Californians would bear the brunt of the expense in altering our lifestyle, but other states and countries would not.

The other concern I have is the massive, highly paid public employee base in Santa Barbara County and the related pensions. Consider the percentage of our taxes that go to providing social services and public safety personnel compared to 50 years ago. It is not sustainable. The number of Californians that need public assistance as opposed to contributing to the tax base is growing out of control.

It doesn't matter as much to me because by 2030 my entire family will be out of Santa Barbara County and California. We have already purchased another home in another state that has a lower cost of living and a lower tax base. We will be renting out our properties in Santa Barbara County. Any additional expenses or taxes that are levied on these properties will be added to the cost of rent for my tenants.

The majority of California does not share values in alignment with my family's, like faith and fiscal/personal responsibility. I have realized the tide has turned and I am no longer willing to try to convince people this is a dead end.

Best of luck on your project!

Ron Lovell
Orcutt
805-598-2846

From: [Klara Moradkhan](#)
To: [PADClimateVulnAssess](#)
Cc: [Sarkis MN](#); [Lisa Kalustian](#)
Subject: Comment on Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:36:35 PM

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for inviting comments on the Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for Santa Barbara County. The hazard of Increasing Temperature is a key factor identified as both a Primary Climate Stressor (increasing air temperature) and a Secondary Stressor (Extreme Heat as well as Human Health Hazard).

We request that Santa Barbara County deem the use of cool pavement materials in infrastructure maintenance/repair as well as new construction as a key strategy for mitigating the debilitating effects of increasing temperatures. While still an evolving technology, cool pavement materials have proven their value as cost-effective tool in managing the negative impacts of extreme temperatures caused by climate change.

As an example of what may be accomplished: ePAVE is a patented polymer coating engineered to both cool and preserve underlying surfaces. Adhering to both asphalt and concrete, ePAVE can be applied to wide range of surfaces such as parking lots; local, agricultural and residential roads; walkways, bike lanes and pedestrian plazas. It is solar-reflective and lowers surface and ambient air temperature by up to 20 degrees, reducing the impact of our increasingly hot weather on people and pets while reducing energy use in adjacent buildings. ePAVE is non-toxic with no harmful emissions, and it seals in any toxic emissions from the underlying surfaces.

In addition to the significant contributions to mitigating the impacts of climate change, ePAVE is extremely durable and prevents deterioration of the underlying surface. Compared to traditional slurries and coatings, ePAVE lasts twice as long, saving 50% on maintenance costs over the life of the surface. It reduces the heat on the asphalt surface between 5⁰ to 20⁰ F, It cures 20 times faster, returning full access to your facilities with minimal disruption. It exceeds all federal highway safety measurements including for skid resistance. Plus, ePAVE coating is color customizable and can also be applied with decorative effects.

ePAVE can help Santa Barbara County effectively manage the negative impacts of climate change, meet sustainability goals, reduce asphalt and concrete lifecycle costs, and also contribute to any project's design aesthetics. Additional information is available at www.epavellc.com.

Please contact me if you would like additional information about cool pavements and ePAVE. Thank you.

Best,
Klara Moradkhan
CEO

ePAVE, LLC
Klara@ePAVELLC.com
www.ePAVELLC.com
818-620-3308

Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Public Review Draft September 2021

10.18.21

Comments from William Siembieda

Change: Bill TO “William” In the Core Team Advisors. Acknowledgement section.

Figure ES-2. Is it. Missing the ocean acidification stressor ?

Page 33. , par , add an “s” to build.

Page 77 SEVERE WEATHER:

“Severe weather includes strong winds, hail, lightning, and heavy rainfall typically caused by intense storm systems, although types of strong winds, such as sundowners, can occur without a storm. Severe weather is measured by the number of events per year, which is likely to increase. Severe winds can damage or destroy buildings, knock over trees, and damage power lines and electrical equipment. This includes sundowner winds, which can reach over 120°F and speeds of 60 miles per hour in some areas.”
ADD “Vulnerability can be decreased by hardening of the building envelope in corridors where severe winds occur on a consistent, or annual, basis.

Page 78 -Call out Box on right . DELETE “can experience” and replace with “experiences”. Simply state the factual condition here. ADD to Box “Mapping known wind corridors associated with Santa Anas and Sundowner winds may assist in identifying the assets that are most vulnerable to severe weather and wildfire impacts.

Page 79. Add new text (paragraph) - “Wildfire is a threat to the County’s critical transportation infrastructure. Figure 33 depicts various sections of the US 101 going through area designated as very high fire severity zones. This is a vulnerability that will increase as these zones expand.”

Page 140 2nd par, right column “The County is currently supporting the efforts of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies...”. It would be useful to provide an estimate of WHEN (year) these plans will be completed. Right now the text lacks context and temporal impact. With dates there is a notion of how to assess the plans with Climate change indicators.

Page 142. 2nd column from right. CLEAN up the wording “There may be few alternative transportation service options ...” to something factual and subject to adaptive actions.

Page 157. REWRITE first two sentences in the Conclusion. Reads “clunky” and is uses definitions differently than in the Glossary. Vulnerabilities do not create assets.

Page 160. DELETE the words “ and grow” in the definition of resilience. There is no evidence that resilience is correlated with growth.

Page 98. Table 18. CHANGE second from right column heading to read “Adaptive Capacity Analysis” which is what the column contains.

<https://sites.google.com/umich.edu/planning-remembrances/>

Page 157. Conclusion.... REWRITE and make stronger. What has been learned from conducting the CCVA, and what pathways for adaptation have been opened for future action? Overall what actions (more integration between stakeholders, use of metric targets) will the support a decrease in the County’s vulnerability in the next two decades?



October 22, 2021

Whitney Wilkinson
Long Range Planning Division
County of Santa Barbara
Comprehensive Plan, Safety Element
ClimateVulnerabilityAssessment@countyofsb.org

Re: Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA)

Dear County Staff and PlaceWorks Consultants:

The Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties represents over 170 growers, shippers, farm labor contractors, and supporting agribusinesses. Our members grow diverse field and nursery crops such as broccoli, strawberries, wine grapes, vegetable transplants, flowers, and tree fruit.

We are alarmed by the draft's assessment's focus on fatalistic characterizations, rather than meaningful collaboration with stakeholders towards proactive problem-solving. We understand the CCVA is part of a broader planning effort but believe greater care should be taken in laying its foundational approach. In many places the assessment fails to recognize the County's own contributions to vulnerability and undermining adaptability. We urge a fundamental shift in approach driven by greater receptiveness to feedback from diverse viewpoints including the private sector and tremendous potential for advancement through respectful partnership rather than divisive, unfounded assumptions.

The draft falls short in several broader issues:

1. Overall, the tone of the draft is overwhelming negative and focuses on worst-case scenarios. Decisions made from a place of fear, anxiety, or "emotional hijack" do not result in creative problem-solving. We encourage the report to be reframed as balanced, proactive, and solutions-oriented. We are concerned that the foundational tone will ultimately result in regulatory mandates that will exacerbate many of the problems envisioned and more.
2. Throughout the draft, the assessment does not recognize or incorporate existing regulations and mitigating factors that are already in place.
3. The format of the document is very confusing, redundant, and hard to follow, which makes it difficult to further provide constructive comment on the draft. The visual-only column headers are confusing.
4. The County's own policies and regulations should be examined as a barrier to resilience; these policies and management choices create vulnerability, not "from the absence of capacity to adapt," but from the ability to implement adaptive strategies due to overly burdensome regulations.
5. In many places, the draft fails to recognize adaptive capacity or to outline cascading positives/significant opportunities for synergistic benefits. For example, proactive vegetative fuel load management, which has been dangerously absent in the past few decades (in some cases due to misguided environmental concern), decreases the severity of catastrophic wildfires. Catastrophic wildfires result in greater smoke exposure, increased recovery time for ecosystems, hydrophobic

“moonscapes,” reservoir siltation, and hydrophobic particle deposition in streams and rivers reducing groundwater infiltration. The extent of damage can be reduced through proactive management. Another example is the management of invasive species, such as arundo and tamarisk; management of these invasive species would reduce wildfire risk, increase water availability, and improve ecosystem health.

6. Given the tremendous subjectivity and lack of coherence of the assessment format, we urge the focus to be on the County’s role in facilitating solutions and addressing its own created impediments to solutions, rather than taking a punitive approach.
7. The draft references the Paycheck Protection Program as an economic driver in several places. This was a short-term federal program related to COVID-19 and should not be relied upon in a multi-decade County planning document rather than a local, long-term industry sector.

Additional specific comments on the draft include:

1. ES-13. Although it has been a participant in the process, the County is not the party developing groundwater sustainability plans; these are being developed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for each basin.
2. ES-15. Public Works is also an important agricultural partner. The Ag Commissioner’s Office should be included in the consideration of Economic Drivers and Emergency Management.
3. Page 3. The County’s self-sufficiency goals should include domestic agriculture, rather than reliance on international imports. It may not be feasible for food, energy, and water sources to be carbon-free; is the manufacture, transportation, and installation of solar panels or wind turbines carbon-free over its lifecycle? We agree with the need for efficiency, preparedness, sustainability, and resilience and challenge the County to identify and eliminate barriers within its powers to these goals.
4. Page 13. Pesticide use is not synonymous with and should not be confused with pesticide exposure. Additionally, the dataset references reported use in 2012-2014; many advances and materials prohibitions have occurred in the past decade since the data was collected and might not be representative of current or future use patterns. Additionally, the use of certain products such as those treating mildew may improve with the envisioned conditions.
5. Using average annual temperatures for projected highs seems to have limited utility, since stresses to people, the environment, and crops would come during periods of extreme temperatures.
6. Page 14 Table 3. We question the accuracy of the figures in Table 3.
7. Page 85. We support the importance of vegetation and wildfire management as it pertains to preserving water storage capacity and preventing hydrophobic burn scars and reservoir/stream siltation as a result of catastrophic, unmanaged wildfires. We encourage the County to engage with USFS on national forest management since policies upstream will impact the future storage capacity of Twitchell Reservoir and Cachuma Reservoir. We encourage the County to promote policies and engage with federal jurisdictions to protect County assets from antiquated vegetation and fire management policies.
8. Page 86, Table 17. Although it is impossible to predict, it is possible that certain pests and diseases such as powdery mildew might improve with warmer, drier conditions.
9. Page 87. Basin hydrology and geology is different for each basin and the risk of saltwater intrusion may not be applicable in all basins.
10. Page 93. The alleged stressor “availability of educational opportunities” does not accurately reflect the tremendous talent, advancements, and future plans of outstanding public and private K-12 educational programs, Allan Hancock College, USCB, and other plans to promote local and distance learning in our communities. For example, Hancock has recently and dramatically expanded its tuition assistance programs.
11. Page 94. We would add the County’s own policies and regulatory culture to the list of stressors “making it more difficult for [economic drivers] to prepare for climate change hazards and increasing

the severity of impacts.” There are cascading regulations that make agile adaptations nearly impossible.

12. Page 96. The plan references several urban planning documents. Although referenced later in the document, the draft needs to be further adapted to the rural communities in Santa Barbara County; for example, electric well pumps, limited rural internet connectivity, and intermittent telecom create vulnerabilities regardless of race.
13. Page 98. This table does not recognize the current regulatory protections offered under Cal/OSHA’s heat illness prevention requirements or wildfire smoke standards, among others. Additionally, although it’s not clear what the threshold for “hazardous” conditions are, there may be limited circumstances when it is not possible to delay agricultural work but protection mechanisms are provided in the referenced standards.
14. Page 104-105. Table 19 is confusing, arbitrary, and inaccurate. For example, what is the rationale behind stating that “Persons without a high school degree” are less vulnerable to wildfires than any other population? This is one tiny example of the many factual and rational shortcomings of this table and approach.
15. Page 106. This is another example of a missed opportunity to proactively address potential problems by fatalistically concluding there are no alternatives. There may be no *existing* alternatives but planning, implementation, and other measures can mitigate damage and have cascading benefits. For example, new water infrastructure projects can help to control flooding, increase groundwater recharge, and prevent downstream flooding and roads and bridges washing out. New and improved roads can create emergency escape options and ease congestion during times of emergency evacuation.
16. Page 107. County representatives participating in SBCAG should advocate for additional representation of North County needs in the Resiliency Assessment priority list, such as Main St/SR-166, and Betteravia Rd.
17. Page 108. The County controls its budget allocations and prioritization as a stressor and partnership with other jurisdictions and funding sources; we encourage the County to prioritize infrastructure construction, repairs, and deferred maintenance in its County budget allocations.
18. Page 110. We have heard concerns that further electrification efforts without commensurate grid improvements will cause further problems with electricity generation and distribution problems. The County must facilitate diverse sources of energy, including fuel-powered generators, to provide guaranteed uptime for essential functions such as medical equipment, irrigation equipment, and fresh produce cooling/cold storage. For example, irrigation reservoirs for avocado orchards have proven essential during many firefighting efforts on the South Coast.
19. Page 111. We encourage the author to consult with Public Works, IRWMP, and SGMA GSAs to expand upon this cut-and-paste language to local needs, conditions, and opportunities for creative solutions.
20. Page 115-117. Reservoirs should be added to the list. Dams and reservoirs may be used for flood control purposes but also groundwater recharge, which mitigates drought but depends on the specific situation. There are also flood control structures and opportunities for groundwater recharge that are not dams. Public Works, IRWMP, and the SGMA GSAs could provide additional information and insight. As mentioned previously, reservoirs may also assist with wildfire suppression efforts.
21. Page 124. The recent trend of high cost, limited coverage, and cancellation of fire insurance and other types of liability insurance should be flagged as an issue for the County’s policy platform to address at the state and federal levels.
22. Page 126. The impact of pests and diseases could improve or worsen depending on the specific circumstances of the pest and microclimate. There are already workplace protections regarding wildfire smoke and heat illness prevention through Cal/OSHA. There is adaptive capacity if the County and other regulatory agencies will work proactively with agriculturalists and their partners to implement improvements and reduce barriers to problem-solving. We see vector-borne diseases referenced throughout; we are not aware of this currently being a widespread problem and are not sure if it’s worthy of the focus in the report since it’s not a reasonably foreseeable outcome on the Central

Coast. What is important is the County's continued support at the local, state, and federal level for pest detection and exclusion programs facilitated through the Ag Commissioner's office.

23. Page 128.

- a. "Resistance... to change in business practices" is a blatantly false statement. Agriculture is continually adapting and innovating; misguided regulations is a major obstacle to future resilience.
- b. It would be more correct to identify the stressor as "Lack of alternative crops that can economically support the extremely high cost of doing business in Santa Barbara County."
- c. "Difficulty in relocation" would be more accurately described as "competition from and relocation to other counties, states, and countries with fewer regulatory constraints and lower cost of doing business."
- d. "Large scale economic fluctuations: changes to economic sectors or recessions" is not a particularly accurate statement. With a few exceptions, agriculture generally faces different economic cycles that are not usually linked to the typical real estate, stock market, and consumer cycles.
- e. See previous comments on Cal/OSHA regulations and other comments regarding the accuracy and applicability of the following: "Vector-borne illness, extreme heat, and smoke from wildfires can harm outdoor workers, preventing operations from functioning adequately."
- f. See previous comments regarding policies supporting guaranteed uptime and generators instead of "power shut-offs that prevent wells and other infrastructure from functioning properly."
- g. We believe the comment "...there may be resistance from the community even if these options were available" is either inaccurate or taken out of context. If there is an economically and technically feasible alternative that works better, adoption by agriculturalists is likely. If the comment is referencing the regulatory or public community's resistance to technology advancements like plant protection materials or genetic advancements as a hazard, that should be clarified.

24. Page 132. See previous comments regarding visual column headers and subjectivity of assessment and limitations.

25. Page 133. See previous comments regarding missed opportunity to capitalize on cascading benefits.

26. Page 136. Presumptuously dismisses the potential of SGMA and does not recognize current basin adjudications. Basin hydrology and geology is different for each basin and the risk of saltwater intrusion may not be applicable in all basins.

27. Page 148. Assistance should be equitable throughout the county and adapted to local needs, not just focused on the South Coast. Why is the South Coast called out specifically when there are likely households in need in the Cuyama Valley, Santa Ynez Valley, and Gaviota Coast that do not currently have access to weatherization and cooling systems. These are the communities mapped to have higher temperatures in the nearer future and may or may not currently have access to weatherization or cooling systems.

28. Page 149-Wildfire. We are concerned that the draft's current language on wildfire only uses the word "enforcement" for defensible space and places the blame and burden on individual residents and abandons them on broader policy issues. As mentioned previously, the draft falls short in identifying the County's potential leadership role in mitigating the impact of wildfire through fuel load management and wildfire mitigation within its own land use jurisdiction. Additionally, there is tremendous need for the County to champion for its residents in interactions with the Los Padres National Forest and other regulatory agencies and organizations that are obstacles to balanced land management policies.

29. Page 149-Agriculture. See previous comments on Cal/OSHA regulatory protections for wildfire smoke. Additionally, the draft also overlooks the County's own contributions to stressors. The following is a more accurate representation of the realities, needs, and circumstances:

"Agriculture remains a major economic driver in the County, representing a significant source of income, employment, and community contributions. Agricultural workers, many some of whom

already face ~~numerous~~ non-climate stressors, are likely to face economic hardships from reduced agricultural productivity or agriculture moving from Santa Barbara County to other counties, states, and countries, exacerbating inequities in the county and lost income and employment. Continued agricultural productivity depends on 1) County policies that promote a vibrant agricultural economy in Santa Barbara County 2) crops' and other products' ability to resist County policies and policy platforms that enable agriculture to proactively adapt to changing climate conditions, 2) "hardening" agricultural operations to prevent or lessen damage (e.g., to drought and wildfire) and supporting water supply enhancement efforts and guaranteed uptime for essential inputs, and 3) providing agricultural operators with tools and resources to quickly recover from disasters."

30. Page 153. Emergency Management-Agricultural resources (coolers, reservoirs, irrigation infrastructure, orchards, vineyards) must be identified as an asset worthy of protecting in emergency planning. Agency and Nonprofit Coordination-Fuel load management should be added to this section, as well as increased water storage and infiltration.

Thank you for your responsiveness to these comments as we work collectively to secure the future for agriculture in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,



Claire Wineman
President



*540 E. Betteravia Rd., #D235, Santa Maria, California 93454
www.EconAlliance.org*

To: Whitney Wilkinson, County Project Manager, Senior Planner
Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

From: Sam Cohen, Vice President, EconAlliance

RE: EconAlliance Input
Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

As a cross-industry alliance with a mission to build awareness, advocacy and appreciation for Northern Santa Barbara County industries and communities, we read with interest the draft of the County's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Its visual appeal and broad content should attract stakeholders and decision-makers to the document, a key goal of this type of report. We appreciate the County's efforts in this important undertaking, as well as the opportunity to provide input and feedback to the draft. Our input follows:

- A recognized challenge in developing crisis or disaster-related assessments is that of focusing more on risks and challenges than on prevention and solutions. While it is clear the latter were included, the focus of the draft was definitely on the former. A stronger solutions and prevention-oriented approach in the assessment could set the stage for the County to be seen as more proactive and as a more critical and willing partner for industries and communities addressing the vulnerabilities.
- Where the focus on the risks/challenges is especially significant is in the content around the Frontline Communities and vulnerable populations, characterized (in part) by those with limited mobility, limited resources and existing economic disparities. While individuals can be challenged or at risk currently based on these conditions, these conditions could also be ameliorated over time by the County and cities supporting family-wage job expansion, and more skill-building educational opportunities. A greater focus on addressing these challenges with economic and education solutions/strategies would give County residents a more positive outlook and would avoid having this document be a negative element in promoting countywide economic development.

- A characterization made of both the ag and oil and gas industries was that they were resistant to changing their business practices. We would submit that from the perspective of most job-creators, any company or industry surviving the wave of federal, state, county and city regulations over the last few decades, as well as 18 months of COVID's monthly regulatory revisions, is actually masterful at changing its business practices, so the statement may not resonate with many in the private sector.
- Referencing business resiliency, it is suggested that the report recommend that the County and cities analyze their roles in avoiding exacerbation of business/industry risk through policies or fees that drive up the costs or uncertainty that hinder business and industry vitality.
- Lastly, a broader outreach to the business and industry sectors for discussion of the above and other areas is advised so that the document benefits from the perspective of those job-creators driving the economy and supporting the additional costs of climate change amelioration.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts for this critical endeavor.

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- Are plans in place for the harbor and pier to withstand rising sea level and intense storms

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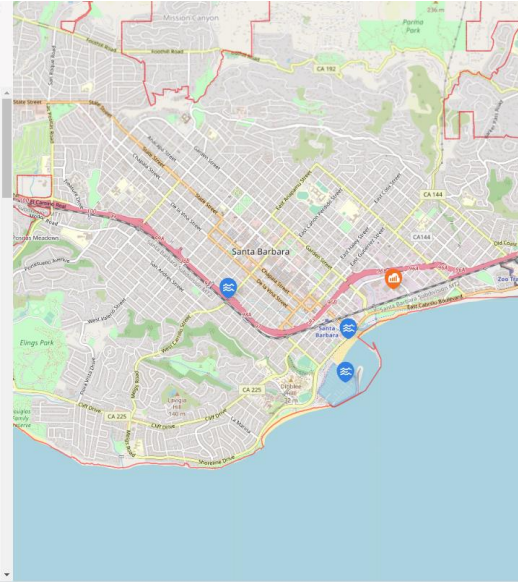
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- Sea level rise threatens the harbor, West Beach, East Beach, the water treatment facility and 101 Freeway, a main state artery. Salsipuedes Street, "leave if you can", will likely revert back to the saltwater marshes that were there before. What can be done to protect or move infrastructures?

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- With hot winds, even areas that are not wildlands can be fire risks. The holiday fire in 2018 started when hot winds knocked tree branches and sparked a utility line fire that burned down a lot of homes and threatened dense residential areas of Goleta. Windy ridges above dense residential areas are vulnerable to this kind of climate risk. Residents of these areas may have some ability to help pay to underground wires if the county coordinated those efforts.

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5 months ago
- Flood Control District is using Roundups to control weeds in flood basins



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- CCVA Report Comment

From: [Ramon Elias](#)
To: [Wilkinson, Whitney](#)
Subject: Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (DRAFT)
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:40:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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ATT: Whitney Wilkinson, County Project Manager, Senior Planner

Santa Barbara County Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

REF: Comments on the proposed Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (DRAFT)

The following comments pertain to the referenced document prepared by County Staff and their paid consultants. Further elaboration and or clarification from the commentor can be provided upon request.

1. The study's different vulnerability assessments do not distinguish between every day baseline needs, and incremental climate change impacts. There is no measure given for either. Instead, general examples are discussed that could apply anywhere in the State (or Nation or world). The absence of specific and quantifiable information reduces the applied scoring method to a series of questionable indices having debatable ranking and importance, making these analyses highly subjective. Perhaps County staff can supply more information that would strengthen the study and eliminate this concern.
2. The report tends to highlight common issues present in many places to varying degrees regardless of climate change. The questions are what kinds of and where will specific County climate change needs arise. Many areas of the County are already known for a high degree of self-sufficiency and or lessor susceptibility. The challenge is to identify true needs, not universal concerns. The later does not seem to have been accomplished. None of the included vulnerability tables address specific needs.
3. Contemplated measures for maintaining and growing a strong and vibrant economy that is promoted and protected throughout this process should be addressed.
4. The so-called prioritized list of vulnerable populations and assets mentioned in the Conclusion is not obvious.
5. A notable point that seems to have been overlooked is that numerous sources whether academic, Federal, or international, basically concur that Santa Barbara County is likely to experience low to medium climate change impacts. That perspective should also be related to the citizens of the County. This does not preclude our need to properly assess needed preparation measures for the possible impacts from estimated climate changes.

Thank you,

RAMON ELIAS

VICE PRESIDENT

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