

Napa County

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559



Agenda

Friday, February 28, 2025

9:30 AM

Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Third Floor

Climate Action Committee

AMERICAN CANYON Melissa Lamattina, Mark Joseph, Pierre Washington (Alternate)

CALISTOGA Kevin Eisenberg (Vice-Chair), Lisa Gift, Irais Lopez-Ortega (Alternate)

NAPA Beth Painter, Bernie Narvaez, Christopher DeNatale (Alternate)

NAPA COUNTY Liz Alessio, Joelle Gallagher (Chair), Amber Manfree (Alternate)

ST. HELENA Billy Summers, Michelle Deasy, Vacant (Alternate)

YOUNTVILLE Hillery Bolt Trippe, Pamela Reeves, Eric Knight (Alternate)

Brian D. Bordona, Director, Chris Apallas, County Counsel, Jesse Gutierrez, Natural Resources, Principal Planner, Ryan Melendez, Natural Resources, Planner II, Alexandria Quackenbush Meeting Clerk, Angie Ramirez-Vega Meeting Clerk

How to Watch or Listen to the Napa County Climate Action Committee Meetings

The Climate Action Committee will continue to meet at 9:30 AM on the 4th Friday of each month. December 5, 2025 CAC meeting adopted in place of the Regular November and December meetings.

The Climate Action Committee realizes that not all County residents have the same ways to stay engaged, so several alternatives are offered. Remote Zoom participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the Climate Action Committee reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access.

Please watch or listen to the Climate Action Committee meeting in one of the following ways:

1. Attend in-person at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1195 Third Street, Napa Suite 305.
2. Watch on Zoom using the attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/82901122471>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date.
3. Listen on Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833 (Meeting ID: 829-0112-2471).

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person and wish to submit a general public comment or a comment on a specific agenda item, please do the following:

1. Email your comment to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org. Emails received will not be read aloud but will still become part of the public record and shared with the Committee Members.
2. Use the Zoom attendee link: <https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/82901122471>. Make sure the browser is up-to-date. When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click "raise hand." Please limit your remarks to three minutes.
3. Call the Zoom phone number 1-669-900-6833 Enter Meeting ID 829-0112-2471 When the Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, press *9 to raise hand. Please limit your remarks to three minutes.

****Please note that phone numbers in their entirety will be visible online while speakers are speaking****

For more information, please contact us via telephone at (707) 253-4417 or send an email to meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org.

ANY MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE:

ON A MATTER ON THE AGENDA

Please proceed to the podium when the matter is called and, after receiving recognition from the Chair, give your name and your comments or questions. In order that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject under discussion. Time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair or Committee, but is generally limited to three minutes.

ON A MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to speak on items that are not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker, subject to the discretion of the Chair. Comments should be brief and focused, and speakers should be respectful of one another who may have different opinions. Please remember this meeting is being recorded and broadcasted live via ZOOM. The County will not tolerate profanity, hate speech, abusive language, or threats. Also, while public input is appreciated, the Brown Act prohibits the Committee from taking any action on matters raised during public comment that are not on the agenda.

1. **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

In this time period, anyone may address the Climate Action Committee regarding any subject over which the Committee has jurisdiction but which is not on today's posted agenda. In order to provide all interested parties an opportunity to speak, time limitations shall be at the discretion of the Chair. As required by Government Code, no action or discussion will be undertaken on any item raised during this Public Comment period.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

Approval of minutes from the regular meeting on January 24, 2025. [25-267](#)

Attachments: [Draft CAC Minutes, January 24, 2025](#)

5. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A. **PRESENTATION:** Video - "Why Bidirectional EV Charging is a Big Deal" - CNET [25-328](#)

- B.** PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: FISCAL IMPACT - NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN CEQA APPROACH MEMORANDUM [25-317](#)
 STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from Ascent Environmental and discuss the CEQA approach options and alternatives outlined in the Napa County RCAAP CEQA Approach Memorandum.
Attachments: [NapaRCAAP CEQAMemo Final clean.pdf](#)
[Item 5B- Ascent RCAAP CEQA Approach\(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)
- C.** PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: FISCAL IMPACT - CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 [25-309](#)
 STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from staff and discuss the Climate Action Committee proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- D.** PRESENTATION: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EV EQUITY ROADMAP TOOL BY PHD CANDIDATE ARI BALL-BARACK OF UC BERKELEY'S ENERGY AND RESOURCES GROUP [25-269](#)
 STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from Ari Ball-Burack, PhD student in the Energy & Resources Group at UC Berkeley, on the EV Equity Roadmap tool developed through the UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy, & the Environment (CLEE).
Attachments: [Item 5D- Napa CAC Presentation - Equitable EV Mapping tool \(added after initial agenda posting\).pdf](#)

6. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE ABOVE STATED MEETING WAS POSTED AT A LOCATION FREELY ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE NAPA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 1195 THIRD STREET, NAPA, CALIFORNIA ON 2/25/25 BY 9:30A.M. A HARDCOPY SIGNED VERSION OF THE CERTIFICATE IS ON FILE WITH THE COMMITTEE CLERK AND AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION
 ANGIE RAMIREZ VEGA (by e-signature)
 Angie Ramirez Vega, Clerk of the Commission



Napa County
Board Agenda Letter

1195 THIRD STREET
SUITE 310
NAPA, CA 94559
www.countyofnapa.org
Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/28/2025

File ID #: 25-267

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director, Napa County Planning, Building, & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner - Sustainability
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of minutes from the regular meeting on January 24, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clerk requests approval of minutes from the regular meeting on January 24, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Only committee members who attended the January 24, 2025 meeting of the Climate Action Committee (CAC) may vote on the minutes. All other CAC members should abstain from the vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.



Regular Meeting Minutes

Climate Action Committee

Committee Members

American Canyon	Melissa Lamattina	Mark Joseph
Calistoga	Kevin Eisenberg	Lisa Gift
Napa	Bernie Narvaez	Vacant (<i>Chair</i>)
Napa County	Liz Alessio	Joelle Gallagher (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)
St. Helena	Michelle Deasy	Billy Summers
Yountville	Hillery Bolt Trippe	Pamela Reeves

County Staff

Brian D. Bordona, Director
Chris Apallas, Committee Counsel
Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner
Ryan Melendez, Planner II
Alexandria Quackenbush, Meeting Clerk
Angie Ramirez Vega, Meeting Clerk

Alternates

American Canyon	Pierre Washington
Calistoga	Irais Lopez Ortega
Napa	Beth Painter
Napa County	Amber Manfree
St. Helena	Vacant
Yountville	Eric Knight

Friday, January 24, 2025

9:30 AM

**Board of Supervisors Chambers
1195 Third Street, Third Floor**

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Melissa Lamattina, Mark Joseph, Kevin Eisenberg, Liz Alessio, Joelle Gallagher, Billy Summers, Hillery Trippe, Lisa Gift (arrived during item 5A).

Alternate Members Present:

Committee Members Excused: Pamela Reeves, Bernie Narvaez, Michelle Deasy

Committee Members Absent:

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Rex Stults, member of the audience.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Three (3) public comments were received.

4. CONSENT ITEMS

A. The Clerk of the Committee requests approval of minutes from the following meeting held on: December 6, 2024.

Motion by Member Joseph to approve Consent Items, seconded by Member Summers.

Vote: Carried 8-0-3

Yes: Joseph, Summers, Eisenberg, Alessio, Gallagher, Lamattina, Trippe, Gift

No: None

Absent: Reeves, Narvaez, Deasy

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. ACTION ITEM: STAFF REQUESTS THAT THE CAC ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR A CHAIR FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR. THE ELECTED CHAIR WOULD TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

Motion by Member Alessio to nominate Vice Chair Joelle Gallagher as Chair.

Vote: Carried 8-0-3

Yes: Alessio, Summers, Eisenberg, Joseph, Gallagher, Lamattina, Trippe, Gift

No: None

Absent: Reeves, Narvaez, Deasy

B. ACTION ITEM: STAFF REQUESTS THAT THE CAC ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR A VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR. THE ELECTED VICE-CHAIR WOULD TAKE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

Motion by Member Alessio to nominate Member Kevin Eisenberg as Vice Chair.

Vote: Carried 8-0-3

Yes: Alessio, Summers, Eisenberg, Joseph, Gallagher, Lamattina, Trippe, Gift

No: None

Absent: Reeves, Narvaez, Deasy

C. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION: CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE (CAC) ORIENTATION: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, INTRODUCTION TO FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 PRIORITIES AND BUDGET

Staff requests that the CAC receive a presentation from staff about the history of the CAC, discuss the roles and responsibilities of being a CAC member, and provide direction to staff on priorities for FY 25/26, and discuss the budget process for FY25/26.

Ryan Melendez and Jesse Gutierrez presented the item.

CAC Members asked, and Ryan and Jesse responded to questions. Chair Gallagher opened public comment; receiving none; she closed public comment.

D. PRESENTATION: AN INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE SCIENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE BY PROFESSOR ANDREW ISAACS OF UC BERKELEY HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from Professor Andrew Isaacs, Senior Lecturer and a leading expert on climate change and business innovation in sustainability.

Professor Isaacs presented the item.

Professor Isaacs responded to questions from CAC members and County Staff.

6. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Joseph reported he and Member Lamattina will not be attending February CAC meeting due to American Canyon Council Retreat.

Ryan Melendez announced a Sustainability workshop will take place at the Napa County Library on February 12, 2025, from 6pm-7pm.

Member Alessio requested a group picture of the committee.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Alessio requests a presentation from staff to identify possible options to transition the Climate

Action Committee from the current joint powers of agreement to a joint powers of authority. Member Joseph inquired about Napa Climate Now!'s heat reduction potential tool that may be educational to the committee.

Ryan Melendez requested a presentation by the BayREN Public Programs which help Local government agencies with guidance, technical assistance, and funding for reaching climate goals.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

ANGIE RAMIREZ VEGA, Meeting Clerk



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

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Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/28/2025

File ID #: 25-328

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Ryan Melendez, Planner II - Sustainability
SUBJECT: Climate Education Video: Why Bidirectional Charging is a Big Deal

RECOMMENDATION

PRESENTATION: Video - "Why Bidirectional EV Charging is a Big Deal" - CNET

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND

Video: "Why Bidirectional EV Charging is a Big Deal" - CNET

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A77-0mQMnPQ>

*Note: Copy and paste entire link above into a web browser.

Electric Vehicles (EVs) were first invented in the early-to-mid 1800s, but have long faced challenges like limited driving range and lagging charging infrastructure. Batteries that could be recharged came along in 1859, making the electric-car idea more viable. Around 1884, inventor Thomas Parker helped deploy electric-powered trams and built prototype electric cars in England. Today, many early adopters of EVs relish them because they are quiet, easy to drive, and don't emit harmful pollutants for human health and the environment. They also cost significantly less to maintain over the life of the vehicle. Modern EVs use lithium-ion batteries to power longer-ranged vehicles, but the challenge of lack of availability of rapid, reliable charging infrastructure still cripples the adoption of EVs globally.

In recent years, some EV automakers have touted the ability to power your home by plugging in your vehicle to home charging infrastructure and utilizing the energy stored in your vehicle. This is called Bidirectional Charging. But how exactly does Bidirectional Charging work? And what other applications could Bidirectional

Charging provide as more and more infrastructure is moving towards “Electrification” or replacement of older, less efficient, and more polluting coal, oil, and fossil fuel equipment? This video by CNET provides an overview of Bidirectional Charging and how it can be used to power our homes during blackouts and even improve the resilience and reliability of the electricity grid altogether.



Napa County
Board Agenda Letter

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Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/28/2025

File ID #: 25-317

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion: Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan CEQA Approach Memorandum

RECOMMENDATION

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: FISCAL IMPACT - NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN CEQA APPROACH MEMORANDUM

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from Ascent Environmental and discuss the CEQA approach options and alternatives outlined in the Napa County RCAAP CEQA Approach Memorandum.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Ascent Environmental has prepared a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Approach Memorandum (Memo) for the Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP). The Memo provides summaries of several types of environmental review and analysis documents and describes why a CEQA environmental review document is recommended for a project such as the RCAAP and various options to accomplish this task.

Staff requests that the CAC review, discuss, and take the memo back to their respective jurisdictions for in-depth discussion with staff, counsel, and agency leadership. A subsequent item will be added to the March 28, 2025, CAC meeting agenda for further discussion and possible action.

Since 2019, all CAC member jurisdictions have demonstrated a commitment to address climate change through regional action and coordination. In the Spring of 2020, Napa County and the local incorporated jurisdictions entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with a goal of developing a regional plan to address climate

change, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and strengthen community, economic, and environmental resilience in the face of changing climate. Moving the RCAAP forward successfully will require a continued commitment, effort, and participation of all CAC member jurisdictions, including agency leadership and staff.

At the January 24, 2025, CAC meeting, the CAC discussed and agreed to make the continued development and future implementation framework of the RCAAP the priority for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The RCAAP administrative draft document is expected to be complete and available for public review in Spring or early Summer 2025. The next phase of developing a CEQA compliant GHG emissions reduction and climate adaptation plan will be to conduct an environmental review and analysis of the entire RCAAP program. Following the environmental review, the RCAAP and the environmental review document will need to be adopted by each of the CAC member jurisdictions.

There has been significant progress made on the RCAAP to date. Milestones include the prospective convening of a Regional Interagency Working Group comprised of agency staff and leadership from across the six jurisdictions, the creation of an RCAAP project website, several intermediary technical documents produced, and significant community engagement early in the project process. Ascent Environmental has prepared and delivered several technical studies and memoranda which provide the data and background that form the basis for creation of the GHG emissions reduction measures and the adaptation measures for the RCAAP. The benefits of the RCAAP are many and include the ability to share resources, coordinate on grant and funding opportunities, leverage local and regional expertise, and work together to implement GHG emission reduction measures and climate adaptation actions that strengthen the region and produce a compounded reduction in climate impacts.

Why does the RCAAP need an environmental review?

The CEQA Memo outlines and details CEQA requirements for projects such as the RCAAP and the key benefits and key challenges of several types of environmental review documents. As mentioned above, an environmental review is the next step in the development of a CEQA compliant GHG emissions reduction and climate adaptation plan.

The CEQA Memo states that adoption of the RCAAP by local jurisdictions in the JPA could result in actions that would cause a “direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment.” It is a requirement under CEQA that public agency decisions, such as adopting and implementing the RCAAP, be informed by analyzing the “project’s” potential environmental impacts, including actions related to reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change. The types of actions found in the RCAAP that could potentially have impacts and consequences to environmental factors reviewed through CEQA are, for example, impacts from construction of detention basins, fire breaks, resilience hubs, upgrade or relocation of infrastructure subject to flooding, installation of erosion control measures, and the construction of floodgates and barriers.

The CEQA Approach Memo describes the RCAAP as a “project” under CEQA. Under CEQA, a “project” is defined as “the whole of an action.” For the RCAAP, the whole of an action would mean implementing all 46 proposed GHG reduction measures and all 40 proposed climate adaptation measures outlined in the plan. As stated in the Memo, “Although the RCAAP will include ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, failure to adopt and implement the GHG measures included in the RCAAP by any jurisdiction could jeopardize the success of the RCAAP for the whole region. Therefore, it is assumed that all JPA members will continue to

engage in preparing an RCAAP that includes the comprehensive suite of GHG and adaptation measures.”

The environmental review document would demonstrate the trade-offs between the benefits and the impacts of implementing RCAAP measures. The review and analysis of the plan would also document any mitigation required to address potentially significant effects of implementing the program. Also, “under CEQA, projects requiring discretionary approval and environmental review must disclose whether they would generate GHG emissions that would significantly impact the environment or conflict with a plan or regulation adopted to reduce emissions.”

What are the benefits to the RCAAP of having a CEQA review document?

A CEQA compliant RCAAP provides a tool for member agencies and jurisdictions to streamline the environmental analysis and mitigation of GHG emissions for future projects that demonstrate consistency with the RCAAP and that are subject to CEQA.

Streamlining is available because it is presumed that GHG reduction plans, such as the RCAAP, have completely “evaluated and mitigated the GHG emissions of the jurisdiction at the program level.” The environmental review of the RCAAP will evaluate the effects of implementing the measures in the RCAAP that are necessary to achieve GHG reductions and climate adaptation.

These streamlining benefits would be applied to the review of all GHG emissions reduction measures and climate adaptation actions reviewed in the RCAAP via the environmental document. CEQA coverage applies to the 86 total measures necessary for implementation in the RCAAP.

The measures found within the RCAAP are parts of a whole and it is assumed that “the implementation of the RCAAP would require full participation by the six member jurisdictions in the JPA, and to be CEQA compliant, each jurisdiction’s measures would require an environmental review that addresses the full scope of the RCAAP project. Only one jurisdiction undertaking its independent portion of the RCAAP would not result in implementation of the project and the “whole of an action.”

Choosing an approach for CEQA analysis and environmental review.

The CEQA Memo states “For the purposes of this evaluation, it is assumed that the JPA member jurisdictions will collaborate on the preparation of the selected CEQA approach, and that each member agency will adopt the RCAAP and certify the environmental document as prepared. Deviation from this assumption could substantially impair the success of the RCAAP, resulting in a program that may not achieve reduction targets and, therefore, does not confer CEQA streamlining benefits under Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.”

The CEQA Memo describes several types of environmental documents that meet the specifications for an environmental review and analysis under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F). The Memo provides brief summaries of the following “CEQA compliance pathways” for the CAC to consider. For quick reference please refer below to Table 1: Summary of Benefits and Challenges associated with the Alternative Approaches to Environmental Review. For in-depth summaries of the Key Benefits and Key Challenges of the Alternative Approaches for Environmental Review please refer to the CEQA Approach Memorandum.

Table 1 Summary of Benefits and Challenges associated with the Alternative Approaches to Environmental Review

Analysis Option	Key Benefits	Key Challenges
No CEQA Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal time and cost investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RCAAP will not meet the minimum criteria specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, and no GHG analysis streamlining will be provided to future projects
Categorical Exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exemption applies
Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively quick; lower standards for review and public participation Relatively lower cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal defensibility and uncertainty
Initial Study and Focused Program-level EIR (IS/PEIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses PEIR preparation on areas with potential for significant impacts, in particular GHG/Air Quality, biological resources, and cultural resources. Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-step review process may take longer than PEIR preparation alone More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND
Program-level Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a complete and thorough analysis of potential impacts Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND
Program-Level Environmental Impact Report + Jurisdiction-specific analysis (PEIR +)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most supportive of jurisdiction-specific implementation Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most costly and labor-intensive Can result in long, duplicative documents

Based on their understanding of the project and the JPA member agencies CEQA needs, Ascent recommends preparation of a PEIR without supplemental jurisdiction-specific analyses. The PEIR is estimated to take approximately 1 year to prepare, at an estimated cost of \$400,000.

Once the plan and accompanying environmental review are adopted by each of the jurisdictions in the JPA, a multi-jurisdictional implementation framework and RCAAP consistency checklist should be created for the coordinated implementation of the measures and actions in the RCAAP.



Memo

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.444.7301

Date: February 20, 2025

To: Brian Bordona, Jamison Crosby, Jesse Gutierrez, and Ryan Melendez (County of Napa); and Deborah Elliott (City of Napa)

From: Erik de Kok, Greta Brownlow, and Jessica Babcock (Ascent, Inc.)

Subject: Napa County RCAAP: CEQA Approach Memorandum

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Napa County is located approximately 50 miles north of San Francisco, California, and encompasses an area of approximately 788 square miles. The County’s land area is primarily devoted to vineyards, wineries, farms, ranches, and forestland, with approximately 75 percent of the County’s population of 140,326 living in the cities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, and St. Helena, and the Town of Yountville. Each of the local governments operating these jurisdictions, along with the County government, adopted Resolutions regarding the “Countywide Commitment to Address Climate Change” in June 2019. The Resolutions proposed to: (1) address climate change in their respective General Plans, consistent with State guidelines; (2) form a committee to identify countywide goals and strategies for addressing climate change, including an updated greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, countywide GHG goals and timelines, and common GHG reduction standards for each jurisdiction to adopt independently; and (3) identify potential threats and funding to improve community resiliency. The Climate Action Committee (CAC) comprises two elected officials from each of the six-member jurisdictions and is administered by Napa County. A joint powers agreement (JPA)¹ was approved by all six jurisdictions in April and May of 2021, which ultimately led to unanimous support for the preparation of the forthcoming Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP). The RCAAP will establish a policy framework of measures and supporting actions that would achieve GHG reductions in alignment with State legislation when adopted and implemented by the six jurisdictions participating in the JPA.

Adoption of the RCAAP is considered a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 *et seq.*), and preparation of an appropriate environmental document is required to analyze the potential impacts of RCAAP implementation on the environment. CEQA documentation is also required for the RCAAP to be considered a qualified GHG reduction plan, as defined in Section 15183.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, division 6, section 15000 *et seq.*). Preparation of a GHG reduction plan that demonstrates compliance with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) is a stated objective

¹ A joint powers agreement (JPA) is a formal, legal agreement between two or more public agencies that share a common power and want to jointly implement programs, build facilities, or deliver services. Officials from those public agencies formally approve a cooperative arrangement (California State Legislature, Senate Local Government Committee. 2007. *Governments Working Together: A Citizen's Guide to Joint Powers Agreements*. Available: <https://sgf.senate.ca.gov/sites/sgf.senate.ca.gov/files/GWTFinalversion2.pdf>).

of the RCAAP and would provide a mechanism for member agencies to streamline the analysis and mitigation of GHG emissions for future discretionary projects that are subject to CEQA within participating Napa County jurisdictions.

This memorandum outlines the need for CEQA documentation pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines; documents CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 requirements and streamlining benefit; and identifies, among a range of potential CEQA documentation pathways, a proposed CEQA approach for the RCAAP.

1.1 POLICY FRAMEWORK

In December 2022, the California Air Resources Board approved the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan. This plan outlines the State's comprehensive strategy to achieve its climate goals under Assembly Bill (AB) 1279, focusing on reducing anthropogenic GHG emissions to 48 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 85 percent below 1990 levels by 2045. It includes a variety of measures across different sectors to accelerate GHG emission reductions, enhance carbon sequestration, and implement new carbon capture, utilization, and storage measures consistent with Senate Bill (SB) 905 (also signed into law in 2022) to achieve net-zero emissions (sometimes also referred to by the California Air Resources Board as "carbon neutrality") by 2045.

The RCAAP will serve as a regional roadmap for reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change. It will be consistent with methodologies and goals of the 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan, the Bay Area Air District Climate Protection Planning Program, relevant state legislation (i.e., AB 32, SB 32, AB 1279, and SB 375), Governor's Executive Orders S-03-05, B-30-15, and B-55-18, as well as other policies and requirements mandated by the State of California. Additionally, the RCAAP will build upon the six member jurisdictions' existing climate change and sustainability-related efforts.

1.2 GHG REDUCTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES SUMMARY

The RCAAP provides a holistic approach to climate mitigation and climate adaptation. It includes a suite of GHG reduction measures and climate adaptation measures that would collectively establish a regional program to address climate change. The GHG reduction measures provide a comprehensive program of complementary actions that result in measurable emissions reductions. Where there is evidence to demonstrate a correlation between successful implementation of a measure or action and a certain amount of GHG emissions reductions, the reductions will be quantified in the RCAAP. Some supporting measures and actions may not result in quantifiable reductions; nonetheless, it will be imperative that all jurisdictions implement the measures and actions so that the GHG emissions reductions are achieved.

The RCAAP project team has developed 46 proposed GHG reduction measures to reduce emissions from most sectors evaluated in the 2019 inventory and forecasts, including on-road transportation, building energy use, off-road equipment, agriculture, solid waste, and water and wastewater. The GHG reduction measures also include carbon sequestration-related measures resulting in carbon removals outside the anthropogenic emissions inventory and forecast. Implementation of these measures may have effects that include, for example, impacts to sensitive habitats or disturbance of tribal cultural or archaeological resources due to unanticipated discovery during ground disturbance to build infrastructure required to implement the plan (e.g., upgraded and expanded landfills to increase composting capacity and methane capture) and the potential for energy retrofits of buildings to affect historical structures.

The measures are organized by emissions sector and strategy and are identified by alphanumeric values corresponding to each emissions sector (e.g., BE-1 for the first measure under the building energy emissions sector). Of the 46 measures, 18 are quantified for their GHG reduction potential due to available data and methods limitations. Based on the modeling conducted and the assumptions made, the quantified measures proposed for the

RCAAP would achieve the 2030 and 2045 targets set consistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan if carbon sequestration measures and associated “reductions” are included.

The RCAAP project team has also developed 40 proposed climate adaptation measures to address the vulnerability of people, infrastructure, and the environment to climate change's current and projected impacts. Climate adaptation measures differ from GHG reduction measures in that they address the current and future effects of climate change, rather than mitigate the root cause of anthropogenic global warming and climate change. These measures may have effects that include, for example, impacts from construction of detention basins, fire breaks, resilience hubs, upgrade or relocation of infrastructure subject to flooding, installation of erosion control measures, and the construction of floodgates and barriers.

1.3 CEQA REQUIREMENTS AND STREAMLINING BENEFITS

Why is Environmental Review Required?

Adoption of the RCAAP by local jurisdictions in the JPA would be a discretionary action by public agencies that could cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. CEQA requires that, unless determined to be exempt, agency decisions to approve such actions be informed by analyzing the project's potential environmental impacts, including those related to implementation of measures and actions to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change. While the adoption of a plan to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change would be largely beneficial to member agencies and the environment of the region as a whole, there may be adverse environmental consequences that result from the implementation of individual measures and actions, as described in the general description of potential impacts above. The trade-offs between RCAAP benefits and impacts would be disclosed in the environmental document and, as required by CEQA, mitigation would be developed to address any potentially significant effects of implementing the program.

Once the physical environmental effects of the RCAAP have been evaluated in an environmental document for the program, member agencies implementing programs and specific projects detailed in the measures and actions of the RCAAP would be able to rely on the programmatic assessment of the impacts of those measures, and could focus subsequent review for a specific action, if required, on impacts not covered within the scope of the program environmental impact report (EIR). For instance, most upgrades to or relocations of infrastructure potentially exposed to flooding for climate resilience under draft Measure Flood-5 would be within the scope of the EIR, but some may result in effects not anticipated in the EIR due to scale or unique location – in such an instance, subsequent environmental review would be required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 Requirements and GHG Analysis Streamlining Benefits

Under CEQA, projects requiring discretionary approval and environmental review must disclose whether they would generate GHG emissions that would significantly impact the environment or conflict with a plan or regulation adopted to reduce emissions. Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines establishes a mechanism for agencies to prepare a CEQA-qualified GHG reduction plan and outlines the benefits of preparation of such a plan - for which a programmatic EIR or other environmental document has been prepared and certified or adopted by a lead agency – in streamlining the analysis of GHG emissions for individual projects that are consistent with the plan. More specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F) requires that a GHG reduction plan be adopted in a public

process “following certification of an EIR or adoption of an environmental document”² for future projects to tier from and/or rely on the analysis of GHG emissions.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(2), a certified or adopted environmental document prepared for a GHG reduction plan, such as the RCAAP, may be relied upon to streamline the analysis of GHG emissions associated with future projects that are consistent with the plan. This is because GHG reduction plans that meet all the requirements of Section 15183.5 are presumed to have fully and adequately evaluated and mitigated the GHG emissions of the jurisdiction at the program level. Future projects proposed within any of the participating jurisdictions could include any proposed action that would require discretionary approval and could have a physical impact, including generating GHG emissions, on the environment. In other words, any project that requires CEQA documentation, and that is consistent with the RCAAP, could benefit from the ability to streamline the analysis of GHG impacts.

Future discretionary projects in the member agency’s jurisdiction that are consistent with the growth forecast assumptions in the RCAAP and demonstrate compliance with the GHG reduction measures in the RCAAP (thereby demonstrating consistency with both the GHG reductions modeled in the forecast and GHG reduction measures designed to reduce future emissions to achieve State targets) would not be required to conduct project-level GHG emissions modeling or implement mitigation beyond that required by the RCAAP. While the ability to streamline the analysis of GHG impacts for future actions would be particularly beneficial for projects like residential or mixed-use development that could generate substantial GHG emissions related to vehicle miles traveled, the streamlining of GHG emissions analysis would be beneficial for any project type that would result in demonstrable GHG emissions.

Reliance on consistency with the RCAAP means that subsequent projects need only demonstrate consistency, rather than complete an exhaustive, project specific analysis of GHG impacts. Thus, while CEQA compliance for specific projects that are consistent with the RCAAP must still occur, future environmental documents may rely on a project’s consistency with the RCAAP to reduce GHG emissions and result in a less-than-significant impact related to GHG emissions. Such an environmental document would be required to identify those requirements specified in the RCAAP that apply to the project, and, if those requirements are not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project.³

Streamlining of project-level GHG analyses is only available to adopted GHG reduction plans that can demonstrate consistency with all elements of Section 15183.5(b)(1) and (2), including an environmental review of the plan.

Lead Agency Identification

The JPA did not establish a separate authority or other government organization with decision-making authority to adopt the RCAAP and adopt/certify a CEQA document for the plan. As a result, ultimate decision-making authority remains at the individual agency/legislative body level (i.e., County Board of Supervisors and individual city/town councils).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15050 discusses the identification of the appropriate agency to lead an environmental review of a project. Section 15050(a) indicates that when a project is to be carried out or approved by more than one public agency, as in the case of the RCAAP, “one public agency shall be responsible for preparing an EIR or Negative Declaration for the project. This agency shall be called the Lead Agency.” CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 contains

² CEQA Guidelines Section 15361 defines “environmental documents” to include “initial studies, negative declarations, draft and final EIRs, documents prepared as substitutes for EIRs and negative declarations under a program certified pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, and documents prepared under NEPA and used by a state or local agency in the place of an initial study, negative declaration, or an EIR.”

³ Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15168, future discretionary activities may require subsequent CEQA analysis if their impacts are not adequately considered and mitigated, as necessary, in this in the program-level environmental document. If substantial evidence exists that the effects of a particular project may be cumulatively considerable notwithstanding the project’s compliance with the specified requirements in the plan for the reduction of GHG emissions (i.e., the RCAAP), a CEQA analysis of GHG emissions would be prepared for the project.

criteria for identifying the Lead Agency when two or more agencies are involved in the process. Relevant here, Section 15051(c) indicates that the agency which acts first on the project will be the Lead Agency. Additionally, if multiple public agencies meet the criteria in Section 15051, the agencies may agree to designate one agency as the Lead Agency or that the agencies will “cooperate” in performing the Lead Agency duties.

Ascent recommends that Napa County assume the Lead Agency role with other jurisdictions in the JPA acting as Responsible Agencies, as opposed to assigning multiple agencies to the Lead agency role, as we believe this will help facilitate a more cohesive and streamlined process for preparation and certification of the environmental document. Napa County seems best suited to take on this role because it is both the Administering Agency and largest jurisdiction in the JPA. With this approach, the other participating agencies would each take on the role of Responsible Agency, which per CEQA Guidelines Section 15381, is defined as “a public agency which proposes to carry out or approve a project, for which a Lead Agency is preparing an EIR or a Negative Declaration.” To ensure that the RCAAP can be efficiently adopted and effectively implemented, we recommend that the Responsible Agencies be actively engaged in the scoping, preparation, and review of the environmental document, through active consultation with the Lead Agency and targeted outreach within their own jurisdictions.

When approving the project, the decision-making bodies of the Responsible Agencies would consider the Lead Agency’s environmental document prior to acting upon or approving the project. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15096, each Responsible Agency would certify that its decision-making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the environmental document; affirm that the environmental document is adequate; adopt mitigation and/or alternatives to address any significant impacts; and make its own findings and issue its own approvals for the project, including the adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. In the spirit of producing and certifying a single environmental document for the RCAAP, a joint process for scoping and review of the environmental document would be established to ensure ongoing continuity and collaboration.

2 ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

As indicated above, there are a variety of environmental documents that could satisfy the CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F) requirement for environmental review. This section provides a brief summary of potential CEQA compliance pathways to consider in selecting a preferred approach to environmental review. Following staff review and CAC consensus on a preferred approach, Ascent will prepare a detailed scope of work proposal for consideration.

Importantly, a “project” under CEQA is defined as the “whole of an action” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In the case of the RCAAP, the whole of the action would consist of implementing all proposed GHG reduction measures in the plan to achieve 2030 and 2045 GHG reduction targets and all proposed climate adaptation measures to address climate change impacts in the region. Thus, the project would constitute implementation of the RCAAP throughout the six member jurisdictions; no jurisdiction’s portion of the RCAAP would have full independent utility from the remainder of the RCAAP. In order to be CEQA compliant, each of the member agencies’ analyses would be required to address the full scope of the RCAAP project. As such, no options are presented below for each of the local jurisdictions in the JPA to undertake a stand-alone CEQA analysis solely for their jurisdiction.

See Section 4 of this memo for a summary of CEQA compliance options and Ascent’s recommended compliance pathway.

2.1 NO CEQA REVIEW

As explained above, all discretionary approvals must be informed by an environmental evaluation, unless eligible for a statutory exemption or fully evaluated in an adopted EIR. Under certain conditions, feasibility and planning studies

that do not have a legally binding effect on later activities can be exempt from CEQA review, for example (CEQA Guidelines Section 15262). The RCAAP does not appear to qualify for this or any other CEQA exemption, and the program has not been evaluated in any of the member agencies' adopted EIRs (such as an EIR prepared for a General Plan update that would include the RCAAP policies).

Furthermore, if an exemption were identified and applied to the RCAAP, the RCAAP would not meet the requirements under Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F) related to the certification of an EIR or adoption of an environmental document. This would be contrary to one of the JPA's primary objectives in adopting the RCAAP, discussed above, and future projects within the member jurisdictions would not be eligible to streamline project-level GHG emissions analyses. The RCAAP would also be more cumbersome for member jurisdictions to implement because each project that implements RCAAP policies would need to undergo environmental review without an adopted evaluation and disclosure of the potential effects of RCAAP implementation.

If an applicable exemption were identified, this option would have minimal upfront cost (\$30,000 or less) for analysis and would have minimal effect on the timeline for RCAAP completion. However, this option is not recommended due to the unlikelihood of RCAAP success and significantly increased downstream costs for member jurisdictions attempting to implement the RCAAP through individual projects.

2.2 INITIAL STUDY

An Initial Study (IS) checklist could be prepared to determine if implementing the RCAAP would significantly affect the environment. The IS checklist would be based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Although they can provide robust environmental analyses, ISs are neither intended nor required to include the level of detail provided in an EIR and cannot be certified or adopted by a public agency. For this reason, an IS may provide a cost-efficient approach to analysis that would provide a window into the scope and level of CEQA review that would be required, but would not fully satisfy the requirements of Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F).

Based on our experience with GHG reduction plans throughout the state, the policies, measures, and actions, that will be required in the RCAAP to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions commensurate with State policy will result in some potentially significant effects on the environment that will require mitigation. These effects may include, for example, environmental effects associated with the future construction of utility-scale renewable energy infrastructure, if required to implement the plan. Significant impacts may also result from specific projects associated with implementation of the RCAAP that the local jurisdictions may seek to clear through the CEQA documentation prepared for the RCAAP.

Where there is potential for environmental impacts that can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) can be prepared, with the IS used to provide substantial evidence to support the conclusion. If there is substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may cause a significant effect on the environment, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, an EIR would be required (CEQA Guidelines 15063[b][1]). Substantial evidence of a potentially significant effect triggering the preparation of an EIR is understood where "a lead agency is presented with a fair argument that a project may have a significant effect on the environment" (CEQA Guidelines 15064[f][1]). In practice, this "fair argument" standard results in a CEQA document that is vulnerable to litigation.

In either case, the IS would constitute a first step in identifying the potential impacts of RCAAP implementation and the recommended CEQA compliance pathway. The IS also could help to "screen out" certain topics from detailed consideration in an EIR, if required. Costs associated with potential IS pathways are disclosed below.

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Following the completion of an IS, a public agency must prepare a proposed MND for a project subject to CEQA when the IS identifies potentially significant effects, but revisions in the plan or mitigation would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur (CEQA Guidelines Section 15070).

As a practical matter, this option would be approached as an IS that presents mitigation for all impacts determined to be potentially significant in support of an MND.⁴ The IS/MND would include a description of the RCAAP, identification of baseline environmental setting conditions, and identification of environmental effects. The analysis would include a checklist for each resource that mirrors the sample environmental checklist provided in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, with brief discussions to substantiate the conclusions reached for each threshold. Scoping is not required for an IS/MND, and identification of alternatives would not be required.

Following the preparation of the proposed IS/MND, the document would be submitted to the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day public review, and Ascent would assist with the preparation of a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which would be provided to the public, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and the County Clerk. Although there is no obligation to provide written responses to the comments received during this review period, Ascent would strongly recommend doing so to create a complete public record. After considering input received during the public review, Ascent would finalize the document. The IS/MND would be adopted by the decision-making body of the Lead and Responsible Agencies prior to approving the RCAAP if they find, on the basis of the whole record before them (including the IS and any comments received), that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the MND reflects the agency's independent judgment and analysis (CEQA Guidelines Section 15074).

This option would cost approximately \$90,000 to implement and would take 6 to 9 months to complete. The advantage of this option is that there are fewer regulatory obligations related to public participation and analyses, which shortens the time necessary for document preparation and associated costs. The primary disadvantage is this approach's legal defensibility. If litigated, the IS/MND would be subject to the fair argument standard, which dictates that if substantial evidence exists to support a fair argument that a proposed project may have a significant environmental impact, then an EIR must be prepared, even if other evidence suggests the project will not have a significant impact (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(f)(1)). The "fair argument" standard sets a low threshold for requiring preparation of an EIR, and courts have recognized a statutory preference in CEQA for environmental review through EIRs. Thus, if a litigant prevails in a legal challenge to the RCAAP, local jurisdictions in the JPA may be required to prepare an EIR for the plan and potentially pay the challengers attorney's fees. Similarly, if the environmental review determines that there are impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less-than-significant level (due to impact severity, lack of jurisdiction to impose mitigation, or uncertainty related to the nature of the impact), a (focused) program-level EIR (or PEIR) would be required after the completion of the IS or the RCAAP would have to be revised to remove the measures and actions that cause the impact(s), which could affect attainment of GHG reduction targets. Due to the applicability of the fair argument standard and the risk associated with potential legal challenges, Ascent does not recommend this approach.

Initial Study and Focused Program-level EIR

This option assumes that all of the steps to prepare an IS are completed, as described above, and that the IS would be part of the administrative record supporting the approach to the analysis included in a program-level EIR (PEIR). More specifically, the IS would be used to inform the scope of the PEIR, such that the PEIR would evaluate in detail only the impacts on resources that are determined to be potentially significant and require mitigation in the IS. The

⁴ Conversely, if the IS concluded that no feasible mitigation could reduce one or more impact of the project to a less than significant level, an EIR would be required.

PEIR would describe the components of the RCAAP and the baseline environmental setting conditions and would identify the environmental effects of those topics that need to be fully analyzed (based on the findings of the IS) pursuant to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Potentially significant impacts would be identified, and preliminary mitigation would be recommended.

The focused PEIR would include a Notice of Preparation and scoping period with scoping meeting(s) (which could be held in conjunction with CAC meeting or in another forum); preparation of the administrative draft, screencheck draft, and public draft documents that include a full evaluation of cumulative impacts and alternatives; a 45-to-60-day public comment period; and preparation of responses to comments and a Final EIR. The initial preparation of draft documents would be facilitated by the IS, which would focus on the scope of the topics in the EIR, but all legal noticing and review period requirements would remain applicable.

This option would cost approximately \$250,000 to \$350,000 to implement, depending on the scope of the EIR, and would take 12 to 18 months to complete. This option would be time-intensive because it would result in the preparation of two reports. By preparing an EIR and fully evaluating all potentially significant environmental effects, this option would raise the burden of proof for any party that challenges the conclusions of the document. Rather than simply presenting a “fair argument” that there could be a significant impact, substantial evidence would need to be presented that the conclusions are flawed. Additionally, this option would satisfy the requirements of CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5(b) to allow future projects under the RCAAP to rely on the analysis in the PEIR and reduce future costs associated with environmental review of those projects.

2.3 PROGRAM-LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The CAC may also elect to forgo preparation of the IS and begin preparation of the PEIR. For the purpose of scoping, it would be assumed that all Appendix G resource areas require assessment. However, resource areas for which there is clearly no potential for impact can be scoped out of detailed evaluation with a brief explanation in the PEIR (typically in the Introduction). As described above, the PEIR would include a Notice of Preparation and scoping period with scoping meeting; preparation of the administrative draft, screencheck draft, and public draft documents that include a full evaluation of program-level and cumulative impacts and alternatives; a 45-to-60-day public comment period; and preparation of responses to comments and a Final EIR. This scope could be completed in approximately 12 months and is anticipated to cost roughly \$300,000 to \$400,000 (approximately 2,000 labor hours), depending on the level of outreach support requested by local jurisdictions in the JPA. As with the IS/PEIR approach discussed above, this option would comply with section 15183.5(b) and reduce future environmental review costs of implementing projects under the RCAAP.

Program-Level Environmental Impact Report with Jurisdiction-Specific Analyses

With this option, the PEIR analysis described above would include geography-specific discussions for each member agency that clearly consider local conditions, unique regulations, and any jurisdiction-specific policies or programs that would be included in implementing the RCAAP measures and actions. This could be presented as subsections of the impact analyses or in an appendix that is summarized in the analysis. Significance conclusions would still be based on the whole of the action.

This approach would provide each member agency with a more tailored environmental analysis, resulting in a longer and more complicated document. However, there could be benefits if there are unique existing conditions in the local jurisdictions and/or substantial differences in the implementation details for GHG reduction and climate adaptation measures that would apply within different jurisdictions. For instance, measures focused on agricultural operations or open space may primarily apply to the unincorporated county and sea-level rise adaptation measures may be

jurisdiction-specific based on geography. In this case, providing a discrete analysis could facilitate future CEQA reviews for projects undertaken to implement the RCAAP and create jurisdiction-specific mitigation monitoring and reporting, if appropriate and desired.

Preparation of a PEIR with jurisdiction-specific analyses would be more complicated and costly than a standard PEIR. This option is anticipated to take 12 to 18 months and cost roughly \$400,000. This additional upfront investment is intended to facilitate streamlining of future projects required for RCAAP implementation. Because there do not appear to be distinct differences in the programs that would be implemented in the various jurisdictions and there is anticipated to be considerable overlap in the potential for environmental effects throughout the region, there may not be a profound benefit of this approach.

3 PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

As the recommended lead agency, Napa County would adopt the RCAAP first (including certification of the PEIR). Following adoption by the County, the other member jurisdictions can use the PEIR to adopt the RCAAP in a form appropriate to that community. Local adoption could take the form of a General Plan amendment, ordinance adoption, resolution, or some combination thereof. Once adopted, the cities, County, and regional agencies will implement the measures each has committed to in their respective CAP adoption processes.

Checklist

As part of RCAAP implementation, all discretionary projects subject to CEQA would be evaluated for consistency with the RCAAP. A Consistency Review Checklist will be developed to provide a mechanism for projects to demonstrate compliance with “those requirements specified in the plan that apply to the project, and, if those requirements are not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project” per CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(2). As an implementation tool, the Checklist would summarize the requirements of the RCAAP but would not impose any new or different requirements than those of the RCAAP.

If a project would be consistent with the growth forecasts used to develop the RCAAP and demonstrates consistency with the RCAAP by satisfying all Checklist criteria, then the project would be considered consistent with the RCAAP and would be eligible for CEQA streamlining of its project-level GHG analysis. Project-level GHG emissions modeling would not be required. Projects that would result in an increase in density or intensity beyond what is reflected in the GHG emission projections contained in the RCAAP would be subject to the member agencies’ adopted GHG thresholds and would be required to conduct a project-level assessment. Such an analysis would quantify existing and projected GHG emissions for the project and incorporate applicable items from the Checklist to the maximum feasible extent, along with any identified project-specific mitigation measures.

We assume that the County and other member agencies will develop a Checklist. However, because the Checklist is an implementation tool that does not affect the content of the RCAAP, it does not require a separate environmental analysis. Member agencies may consider, based in part on the prevalence of jurisdiction-specific measures and actions in the plan, whether a single master Checklist is appropriate or if jurisdiction-specific Checklists would provide greater function.

4 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The JPA member jurisdictions have invested roughly 5 years in the pursuit of a regional program to address climate change. As explained above, the success of the RCAAP and providing future CEQA streamlining opportunities will depend on the continued efforts and participation of all JPA member jurisdictions. Although the RCAAP will include ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, failure to adopt and implement the GHG and adaptation measures included in the RCAAP by any jurisdiction could jeopardize the success of the RCAAP for the whole region. Therefore, it is assumed that all JPA members will continue to engage in preparing an RCAAP that includes the comprehensive suite of GHG and adaptation measures summarized above in Section 1.2.

Environmental review is required both to support each agency’s adoption of the RCAAP and to meet the requirements under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 for a fully vetted GHG reduction program from which development projects can streamline their GHG analyses. The key benefits and challenges with each of the five options for CEQA review outlined above are summarized below in Table 1. For the purposes of this evaluation, it is assumed that the JPA member jurisdictions will collaborate on the preparation of the selected CEQA approach, and that each member agency will adopt the RCAAP and certify the environmental document as prepared. Deviation from this assumption could substantially impair the success of the RCAAP, resulting in a program that may not achieve reduction targets and, therefore, does not confer CEQA streamlining benefits under Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Table 1 Summary of Benefits and Challenges associated with the Alternative Approaches to Environmental Review

Analysis Option	Key Benefits	Key Challenges
No CEQA Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal time and cost investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RCAAP will not meet the minimum criteria specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, and no GHG analysis streamlining will be provided to future projects
Categorical Exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exemption applies
IS/MND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively quick; lower standards for review and public participation Relatively lower cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal defensibility and uncertainty
IS/PEIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses PEIR preparation on areas with potential for significant impacts, in particular GHG/Air Quality, biological resources, and cultural resources. Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-step review process may take longer than PEIR preparation alone More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND
PEIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a complete and thorough analysis of potential impacts Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND
PEIR + Jurisdiction-specific analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most supportive of jurisdiction-specific implementation Highly defensible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most costly and labor-intensive Can result in long, duplicative documents

Due to the deferential standard of review and high degree of legal defensibility, as well as the anticipated potential for significant (and perhaps unavoidable at the program-level) impacts, Ascent encourages the preparation of a PEIR for the RCAAP. The IS/PEIR would result in a highly defensible, focused PEIR with conclusions based on substantial evidence. However, the two-step review process could result in a longer timeline for completion (because the IS would be completed before EIR preparation begins) and resource areas with potentially significant effects would be evaluated in both places. Further, based on the universe of potential effects from the RCAAP and the regional nature of the program, it may be challenging to fully scope resources out of further evaluation in the IS, which limits its utility.

As a result, Ascent recommends that the County act as Lead Agency and forego the IS step and prepare a PEIR. This is likely a quicker approach than the IS/PEIR track. Resources may still be scoped out of detailed analysis as part of the PEIR review process, but the full evaluation is not necessary before the release of the Notice of Preparation. As described above, there is no evidence that a supplemental, jurisdiction-specific analysis would be particularly informative for decision-makers or helpful for plan implementation in this case. For these reasons, the PEIR with Jurisdiction-Specific Analysis is not anticipated to confer benefits that outweigh the effort to produce the analysis.

Based on our understanding of the project and the JPA member agencies' CEQA needs, Ascent recommends preparation of a PEIR without supplemental jurisdiction-specific analyses. The PEIR is estimated to take approximately 1 year to prepare, at an estimated cost of \$400,000.



Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Climate Action Committee Meeting
February 28, 2025



RCAAP CEQA Approach

Overview



Requirements for environmental review



GHG emissions evaluations for future projects



Overview of options for environmental review approach



Additional considerations, take aways, and next steps

Why does the RCAAP Require Environmental Review?



The RCAAP is a “Project” as defined by CEQA

- Adoption of the RCAAP by local jurisdictions in the JPA would be a discretionary action by public agencies that could cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment

Project: “whole of the action”

- RCAAP will be a comprehensive program of complementary actions
- 46 GHG reduction measures and 40 adaptation measures
- Assumes all jurisdictions implement the measures and actions so that the GHG emissions reductions and climate adaptation outcomes are achieved.

2025 CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act

Statute & Guidelines

Association of Environmental Professionals



Informed Decision Making

- **CEQA document evaluates/discloses the impacts of implementing RCAAP measures:**
 - landfill modification
 - energy retrofits to historic structures
 - construction of detention basins, fire breaks, resilience hubs
 - upgrade or relocation of infrastructure subject to flooding
 - installation of erosion control measures
 - construction of floodgates and barriers
- **Identifies potentially significant impacts of implementing the RCAAP and appropriate mitigation**



Evaluation of the RCAAP Program

- Member agencies implementing programs and specific projects detailed in the measures and actions of the RCAAP would be able to rely on the programmatic assessment of the impacts of those measures
- Where measures and actions would require future discretionary action at the local level, environmental analysis could tier from the document for the program
 - Demonstrate within the scope: no further review required
 - Focus future environmental review where required

GHG Streamlining Benefits



Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of GHG Emissions

- **Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines**
- **CEQA Qualified GHG reduction plans must meet certain criteria**
 - Technical requirements related to inventory, forecasts, and achieving reductions that align with targets
 - Also includes a requirement that the plan is “adopted in a public process following environmental review”

These plans are often referred to as “CEQA Qualified”



How GHG Streamlining Works

Because the RCAAP:

- Evaluates and mitigates the existing and forecasted GHG emissions of the six jurisdictions

And:

- The effects of implementing the measures and actions necessary to mitigate the GHG emissions will have been documented pursuant to CEQA

Projects consistent with the growth forecasts and all applicable GHG reduction measures **would not** have to conduct project-level GHG emissions analysis

- Future project-level analyses would still require proposed projects to demonstrate that they are consistent with RCAAP and incorporate applicable measures as mitigation.

CEQA Approach Options



No CEQA Review/Exemption

- **Benefits**
 - Minimal time and cost investment
- **Challenges**
 - The RCAAP will not meet the minimum criteria specified in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5
 - No GHG analysis streamlining will be provided to future projects
 - There are no applicable Categorical Exemptions



Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

- **Benefits**

- Relatively quick; lower standards for review and public participation
- Relatively lower cost

- **Challenges**

- Legal defensibility (standard of review)
- Uncertainty (it may not be possible to mitigate all impacts)



Initial Study/Programmatic EIR

- **Benefits**

- Focuses PEIR preparation on areas with potential for significant impacts - in particular GHG/air quality, biological resources, and cultural resources.
- Highly defensible

- **Challenges**

- Two-step review process may take longer than PEIR preparation alone
- More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND



Programmatic EIR

- **Benefits**

- Provides a complete and thorough analysis of potential impacts
- Some topics can still be screened out for detailed analysis
- Highly defensible

- **Challenges**

- More costly and labor-intensive than an IS/MND



Programmatic EIR + Jurisdiction-Specific Analysis

- **Benefits**

- Most supportive of jurisdiction-specific implementation
- Highly defensible

- **Challenges**

- Most costly and labor-intensive
- Can result in long, duplicative documents



Recommendation

Programmatic EIR

- Highly defensible
- Approx. 1 year timeline
- Covers all required resource areas in a single document
- Maximizes tiering potential
- Necessary for significant and unavoidable impacts
 - could result due to uncertainty

Additional Considerations

Lead Agency

- Napa County

Responsible Agencies

- Other Jurisdictions in the JPA
- Actively engaged in the scoping, preparation, and review of the environmental document
- Conduct targeted outreach within their own jurisdictions

This organization will facilitate a more cohesive and streamlined process for preparation and certification of the environmental document.

Take Aways

Cooperation Remains Essential

- No jurisdiction's portion of the RCAAP would have full independent utility from the remainder of the RCAAP
- If any jurisdiction does not adopt and implement the RCAAP it could jeopardize the region-wide effort to achieve GHG targets.
- Every jurisdiction needs an evaluation of the whole "project" pursuant to CEQA to support RCAAP adoption
- Environmental review allows for the future development projects to streamline their GHG analyses



Next Steps

1. Review and discuss memo with agency leadership
2. Identify preferred approach
3. Further discussion and possible action at the March 28, 2025 CAC Meeting
4. Scoping and contracting for selected approach
5. Public Draft RCAAP in Spring or Early Summer 2025
6. Environmental document preparation in the Summer and Fall of 2025



THANK YOU

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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FARGO

OENOTRI



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

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Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/28/2025

File ID #: 25-309

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion: Climate Action Committee Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: FISCAL IMPACT - CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from staff and discuss the Climate Action Committee proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On January 24, 2025, the Climate Action Committee (CAC) discussed priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and directed staff to make completion of the Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP) the priority for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY25/26). Priority activities already underway, namely Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and building energy reach codes, are included as measures within the RCAAP and therefore no longer need to be called out as stand-alone priorities moving forward. The RCAAP is currently in development by Ascent Environmental. It is anticipated that a public draft of the RCAAP will be completed in Q2 or Q3 of 2025 for consideration and adoption by the member jurisdictions.

Based on this direction, County staff developed a draft budget for FY 25/26 which will support accomplishment of the CAC's priority activity, the RCAAP. Staff request that the CAC review, discuss, and take the proposed FY 25-26 budget back to their respective jurisdictions for in-depth discussions with staff, agency leadership, and elected officials. An item will be added to the March 28, 2025, CAC meeting agenda for further discussion and possible action.

The total estimated budget amount for FY 2025-2026 is \$697,278. This includes \$195,878 in estimated County staff time, \$400,000 estimated to prepare a Program-level Environmental Impact Report for the RCAAP and an additional \$82,400 requested by Napa County counsel for outside counsel support to review CEQA documents, \$10,000 for continued work on EV charging station prioritization tool, and \$9,000 for the Napa Climate Challenge.

CAC ADMINISTRATION BY NAPA COUNTY STAFF

The proposed budget includes an estimate of staff resources needed to administer the CAC including agenda and staff report preparation, staffing of monthly CAC meetings, administration of any future grants or state/federal funds and related tasks, completion of the RCAAP and the CEQA Environmental Impact Report and development of options for a new organizational structure to support RCAAP implementation. Lastly, it will include County staff time related to the creation and coordination of a recommended municipal staff-level working group.

The role of Principal Planner, Sustainability has been added at the request of the CAC to dedicate a more substantial portion of their time to CAC, RCAAP development and implementation, and climate and sustainability-related projects, tasks, and activities. The quoted staff hourly rates are estimated weighted labor rates. Rates may change depending on contract negotiations.

Table 1: Napa County Staff Time & Cost

Position	% Time	# Hours	Labor Rate	Total
Planner II - Sustainability	20%	416	\$86.10	\$35,818
Principal Planner - Sustainability	50%	1,040	\$110.71	\$115,138
Natural Resources Conservation Manager	5%	104	\$134.13	\$13,950
Director of Planning, Building & Environmental Services	5%	104	\$209.81	\$21,820
Deputy County Counsel IV	2%	42	\$220.00	\$9,152
				\$195,878

REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN (RCAAP)

The RCAAP is expected to be completed and considered for adoption by the CAC member jurisdictions during FY 25/26. The CEQA environmental review approach for the RCAAP will require additional funding (see item below) and could take between 6-18 months to complete depending on level of engagement and depth of analysis.

Implementation of the RCAAP will require the establishment of clear lines of communication between all participating jurisdictions at the staff level. The CAC and supporting County staff can bolster jurisdictional resources for tasks, but it will be imperative to have jurisdictional agency staff coordinating and communicating directly with their elected officials, executive staff, and jurisdictional departments. The

RCAAP point(s) of contact within each jurisdiction will have a more direct understanding of their jurisdiction and community needs than County staff will.

For these reasons, staff recommend the formation of an RCAAP staff-level working group to collaborate on implementation. The working group will assist in prioritizing measures and actions for each jurisdiction, optimizing shared resources, and collaborating on funding strategies, etc.

CEQA APPROACH FOR THE RCAAP

The CAC and all jurisdictions in Napa County have explored the need for a CEQA-qualified RCAAP and GHG reduction plan. For this to take place the CAC must choose the best path forward and decide on the level of project scope and detail envisioned for the environmental review of the RCAAP. The environmental review will allow for CEQA streamlining of the GHG emissions reductions strategies of subsequent discretionary projects in member agency jurisdictions that demonstrate consistency with the RCAAP; as well as streamlining both GHG emissions reductions and other CEQA requirements related to the implementation of the measures directly within the RCAAP.

At the February 28, 2025, CAC meeting, Ascent will present several options highlighting the benefits and challenges of each approach. The recommended option is to prepare an RCAAP Program-Level Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which will provide a complete and thorough analysis of potential impacts by the RCAAP. This approach can take up to 12 months to complete with an estimated anticipated cost of \$300,000 - \$400,000, depending on the level of outreach needed by partner jurisdictions in the JPA. Additionally, Napa County counsel has requested \$46,400 - \$82,400 for additional outside counsel to support the review of CEQA legal documents. For the purposes of this proposed budget, the higher estimate has been used. CAC member jurisdictions will only be charged for the actual cost of the CEQA approach, not to exceed the estimate provided here.

TOTAL DRAFT BUDGET

The total estimated budget amount for FY 2025-2026 is \$697,278. This includes \$195,878 in estimated County staff time, \$400,000 to prepare a Program-level Environmental Impact Report for the RCAAP and an additional \$82,400 requested by Napa County counsel for outside counsel support to review CEQA legal documents, \$10,000 for continued work on EV charging station prioritization tool, and \$9,000 for the Napa Climate Challenge.

The budget below assumes that the CAC moves forward with a Program-level Environmental Impact Report approach to completing the CEQA and environmental review portion of the RCAAP, implementation of the RCAAP, and the desire to continue work on the five ongoing priorities and tasks from the previous years. Any additional efforts directed by the CAC that are not a part of the approved budget may result in costs to the member jurisdictions that exceed the estimated amount in FY 25/26.

Table 2: Climate Action Committee Tasks & Costs

Task	Cost	Status
Energy Reach Code	Incl. in staff time	Ongoing, potential completion date -
EV Charging Tool	\$10,000	Final tool will be presented in Feb. 2025; Cost is for potential updates to the tool
Napa Climate Challenge	\$9,000	Recurring annual cost
CEQA Review of RCAAP	\$482,400	Based on recommended option and additional outside counsel review request
County Staff time	\$195,878	
Total	\$697,278	

COST-SHARE

Under the Joint Powers Agreement, the County contributes 33.0% of the actual costs of the CAC Program Administration costs, from the PBES budget. The cities and town each reimburse the County for the remaining Program Administration, according to a formula that allocates costs based on fifty percent (50%) equal shares and fifty percent (50%) proportional share of population exclusive of the unincorporated area population, more specifically as follows:

American Canyon: 12.8%

Calistoga: 8.3%

Napa: 29.9%

St. Helena: 8.5%

Yountville: 7.5%

The allocation among the member jurisdictions would be as follows:

Table 3: Cost Share Breakdown by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Percentage	Total
Napa County	33.0%	\$230,101.74
American Canyon	12.8%	\$89,251.58
Calistoga	8.3%	\$57,874.07
Napa	29.9%	\$208,486.12
St. Helena	8.5%	\$59,268.63
Yountville	7.5%	\$52,295.85
Total	100%	\$697,278.00

In accordance with Section 7(a) of the Joint Powers Agreement, the Administering Agency will provide the Estimated Amount (aka Draft Budget) for FY25/26 to all Parties at the February 2025 meeting.

As mentioned above, Staff request that the CAC members review, discuss, and take the proposed FY 25-26 budget back to their respective jurisdictions for in-depth discussions with staff, agency leadership, and elected officials. An item will be added to the March 28, 2025, CAC meeting agenda for further discussion and possible action.

County staff time for the implementation of actions in the RCAAP affecting only Napa County jurisdiction will not be billed to the member jurisdictions. If the CAC directs additional actions or efforts, this Estimated Amount may be supplemented with the approval of all Parties.



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

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NAPA, CA 94559
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Main: (707) 253-4580

Climate Action Committee

Agenda Date: 2/28/2025

File ID #: 25-269

TO: Napa County Climate Action Committee
FROM: Brian D. Bordona, Director of Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services
REPORT BY: Jesse Gutiérrez, Principal Planner, Sustainability
SUBJECT: Presentation: Introduction to the EV Equity Roadmap Tool by UC Berkeley PhD candidate Ari Ball-Burack

RECOMMENDATION

PRESENTATION: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EV EQUITY ROADMAP TOOL BY PHD CANDIDATE ARI BALL-BARACK OF UC BERKELEY'S ENERGY AND RESOURCES GROUP

STAFF REQUEST: Receive a presentation from Ari Ball-Burack, PhD student in the Energy & Resources Group at UC Berkeley, on the EV Equity Roadmap tool developed through the UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy, & the Environment (CLEE).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Ari Ball-Burack is a second year PhD student in the Energy & Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley, advised by Dr. Dan Kammen. Ball-Burack studies data and computational tools to inform effective decarbonization policy. Specifically, he is interested in incorporating key complexities such as justice and equity, behaviorally realistic decision-making, and technological innovation in energy policy decision support tools.

His current research investigates decarbonization policy interactions at the national and global levels, distributional equity in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and representations of consumer adoption in

multi-sector energy system models.

For the past year and a half, he has been the lead designer for an EV Equity Roadmap tool, a collaboration between UC Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment and the UC Berkeley Energy and Resources Group. Recently, Ball-Burack has worked with Napa County, its incorporated jurisdictional staff and GIS teams to develop county-specific data and insights which has expedited the publicly available tool to help inform equitable EV charger site selection and prioritization in the Napa region.

Ball-Burack graduated from Williams College, where he studied Computer Science and Physics, and received MPhil degrees in Advanced Computer Science and Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge. Prior to joining UC Berkeley, he worked as a researcher at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Ball-Burack will present the latest version of the EV Equity Roadmap tool to the Climate Action Committee.

The tool is a user-friendly and interactive platform that generates maps of potential Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station locations based on select criteria.

“The platform is intended for use by local governments and a range of stakeholders in planning, siting, and investment decision-making processes. It incorporates criteria such as environmental and demographic indicators, existing EV and charging access, electric grid capacity, commercial and public spaces, and more.” - UC Berkeley Center for Law, Energy & the Environment: EV Equity Initiative

The project provides a tool that jurisdictions can use that is publicly accessible, easy to use, and that can help guide decision-making in identifying high-priority areas and sites for EV charging infrastructure. Additionally, insights gained from using the tool can assist in generating compelling applications when seeking funding for infrastructure projects.

LINKS:

EV Equity Roadmap Tool

www.law.berkeley.edu/research/cee/ev-equity/mapping/ <<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/cee/ev-equity/mapping/>>

EV Equity Initiative - UC Berkeley Law

www.law.berkeley.edu/research/cee/ev-equity/ <<http://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/cee/ev-equity/>>

Mapping for Equitable EV Charger Siting in Napa County



Ari Ball-Burack, UC Berkeley

February 28, 2025

Napa, CA



Agenda

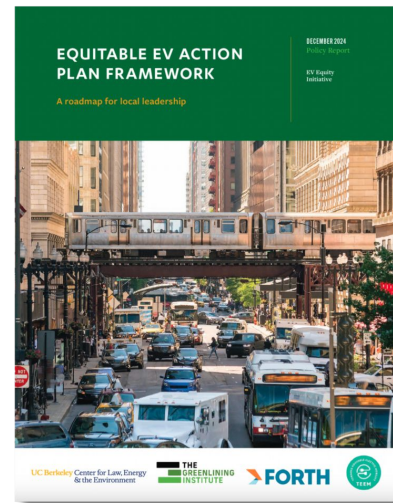
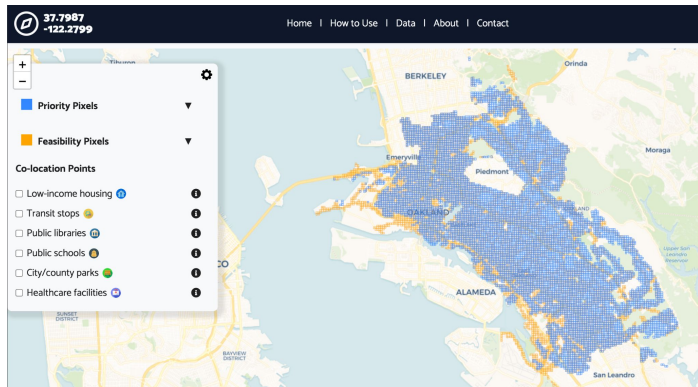
- Context: Berkeley Law CLEE's EV Equity Initiative
- Demo part 1: (public-facing tool) analysis for city of Napa
- Project extension for Napa County
- Demo part 2: bespoke analysis for granular charger siting
- Q&A

EV Equity Initiative

(law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/ev-equity/)



- UC Berkeley Law Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment (CLEE), UC Berkeley Energy and Resources Group (Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory)
- Seeks to build locally tailored, community driven, and replicable approaches to the development of electric vehicle and mobility infrastructure in underserved communities in California and the US



Mapping Platform (public)



(<https://evmap.climateplans.org/>)

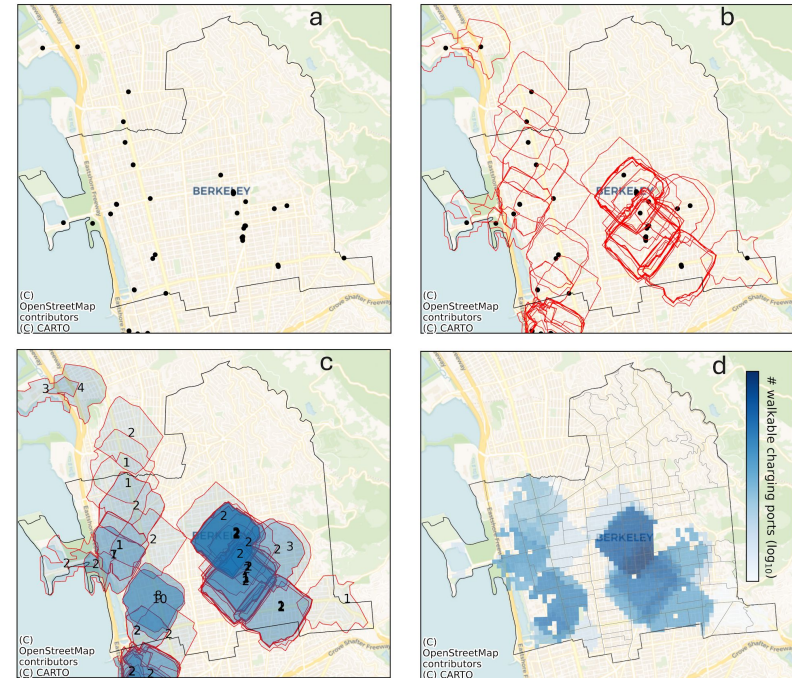
Our mapping tool (California-specific, for now) will help local governments and stakeholders make decisions around EV charger and mobility infrastructure siting while centering equity and community-informed decision-making

1. **Data-rich:** pixel-grid approach integrates diverse data layers
2. **Flexible/tailored to local context:** user selects criteria
3. **Free, publicly accessible:** for local agencies and community groups in planning, engagement, grant-seeking

Roadmap Architecture

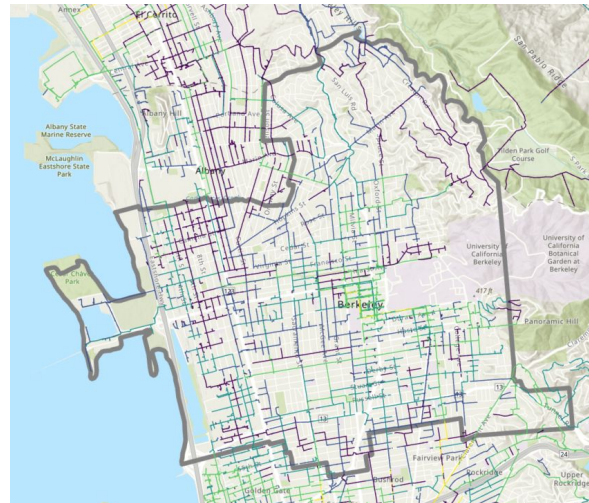
1. Priority pixels

- Help identify priority communities and areas for EV charging based on *population characteristics*
- These include (but are not limited to) population density, prevalence of renters and multifamily residents, income, disability, other demographic information, historical environmental burden, and *current access to public charging infrastructure*



Roadmap Architecture

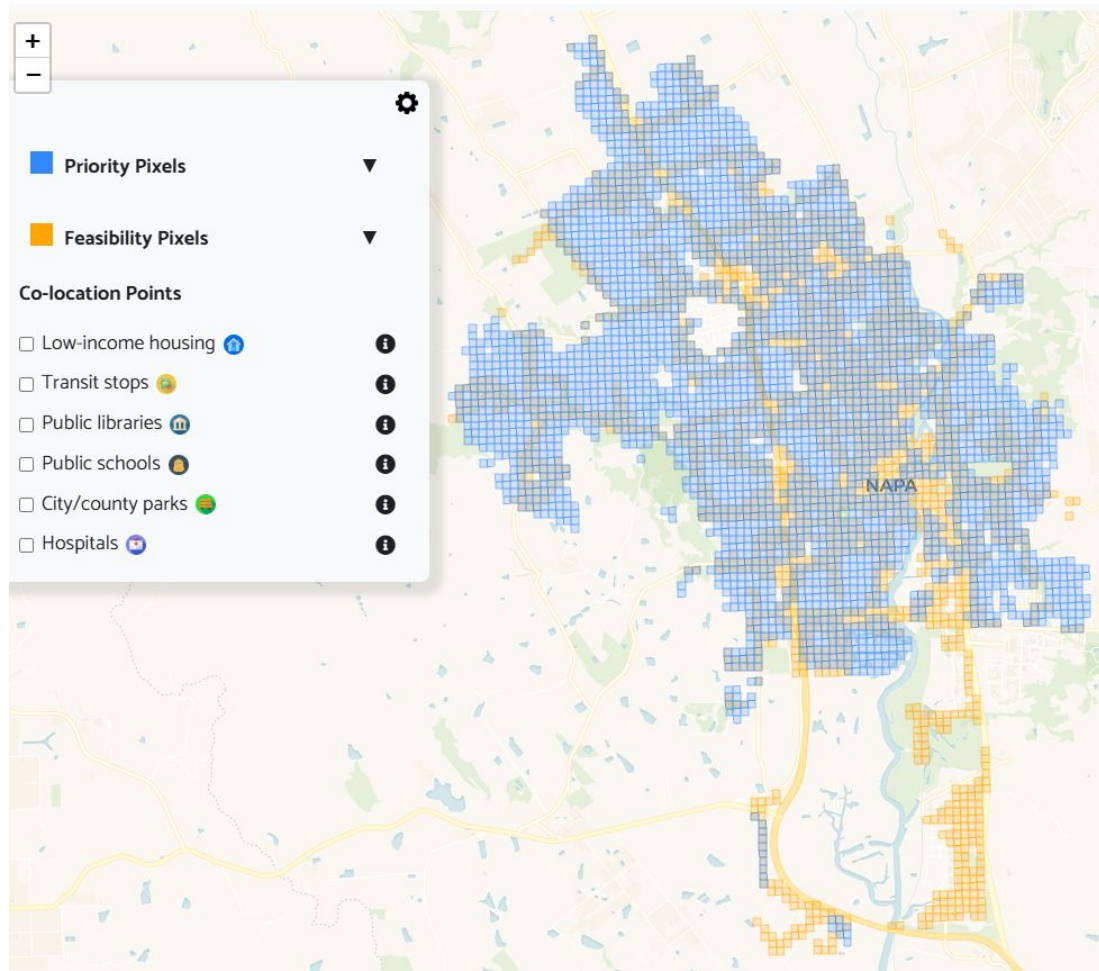
1. Priority pixels
 2. Feasibility pixels
- Depict constraints on the physical location of chargers, including *power grid constraints* and funding resources.



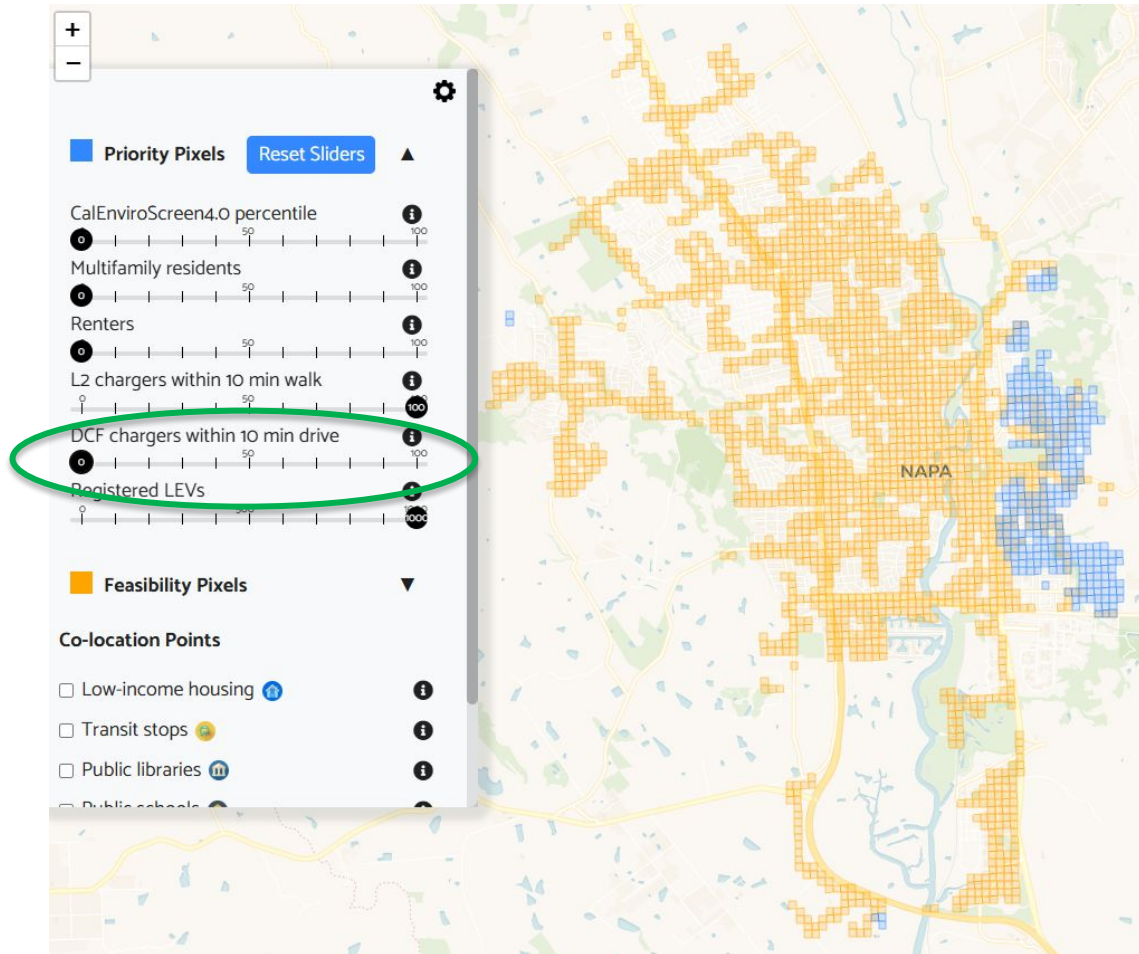
Roadmap Architecture

1. **Priority pixels**
2. **Feasibility pixels**
3. **Co-location points**
 - Additional points near which EV charging may be prioritized (i.e., public schools, healthcare facilities, parks, transit stops, libraries, and low-income housing)
 - Could also represent points near which EV charging may be *de*prioritized (i.e., existing EV charging infrastructure)

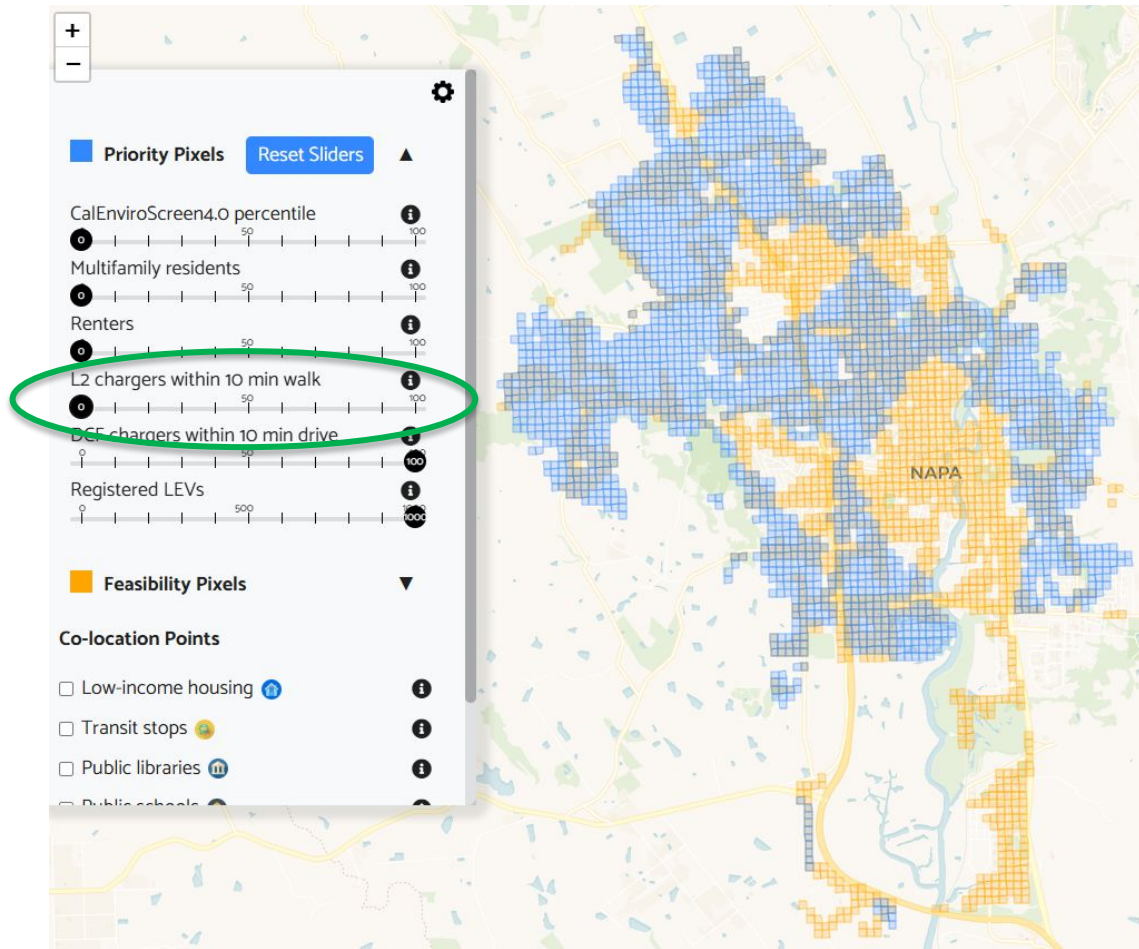
Demo: City of Napa



Demo: City of Napa

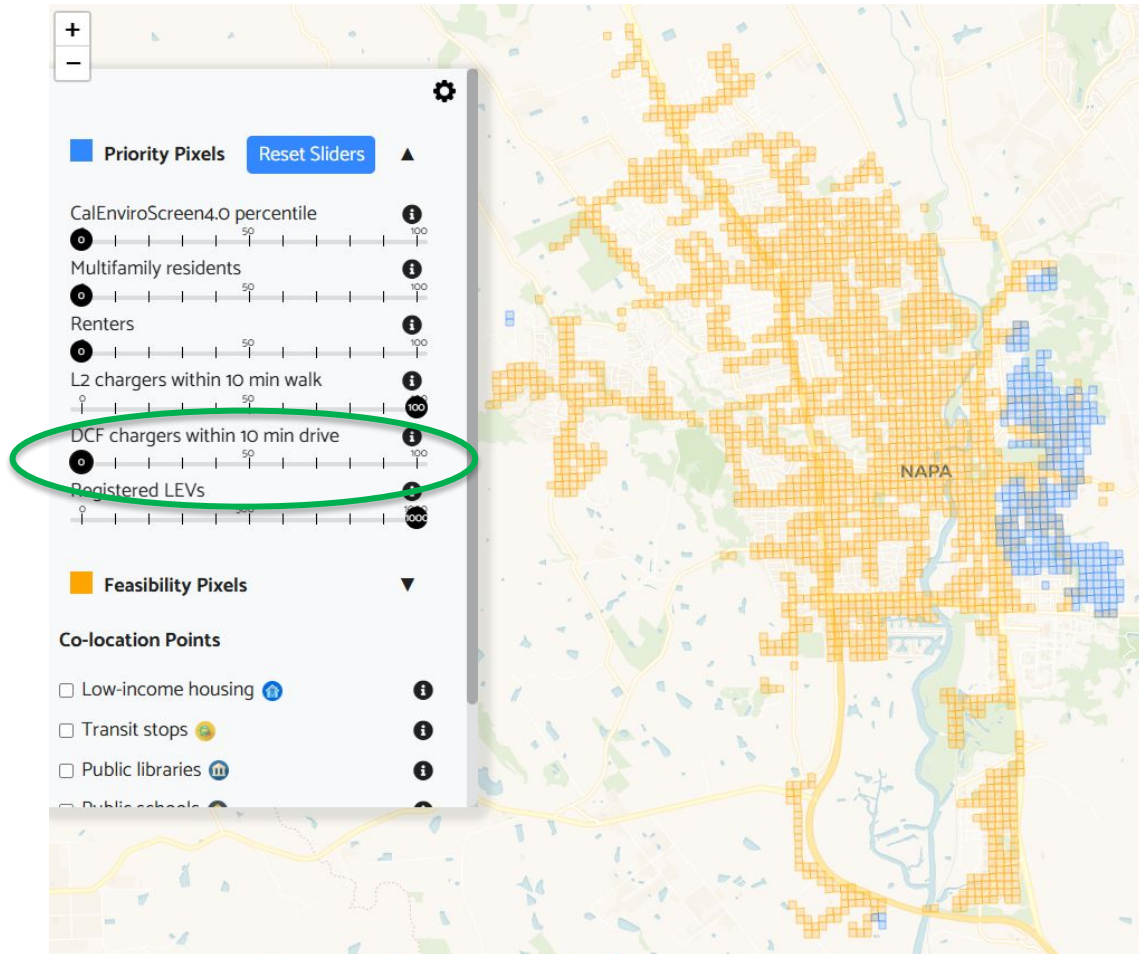


Demo: City of Napa

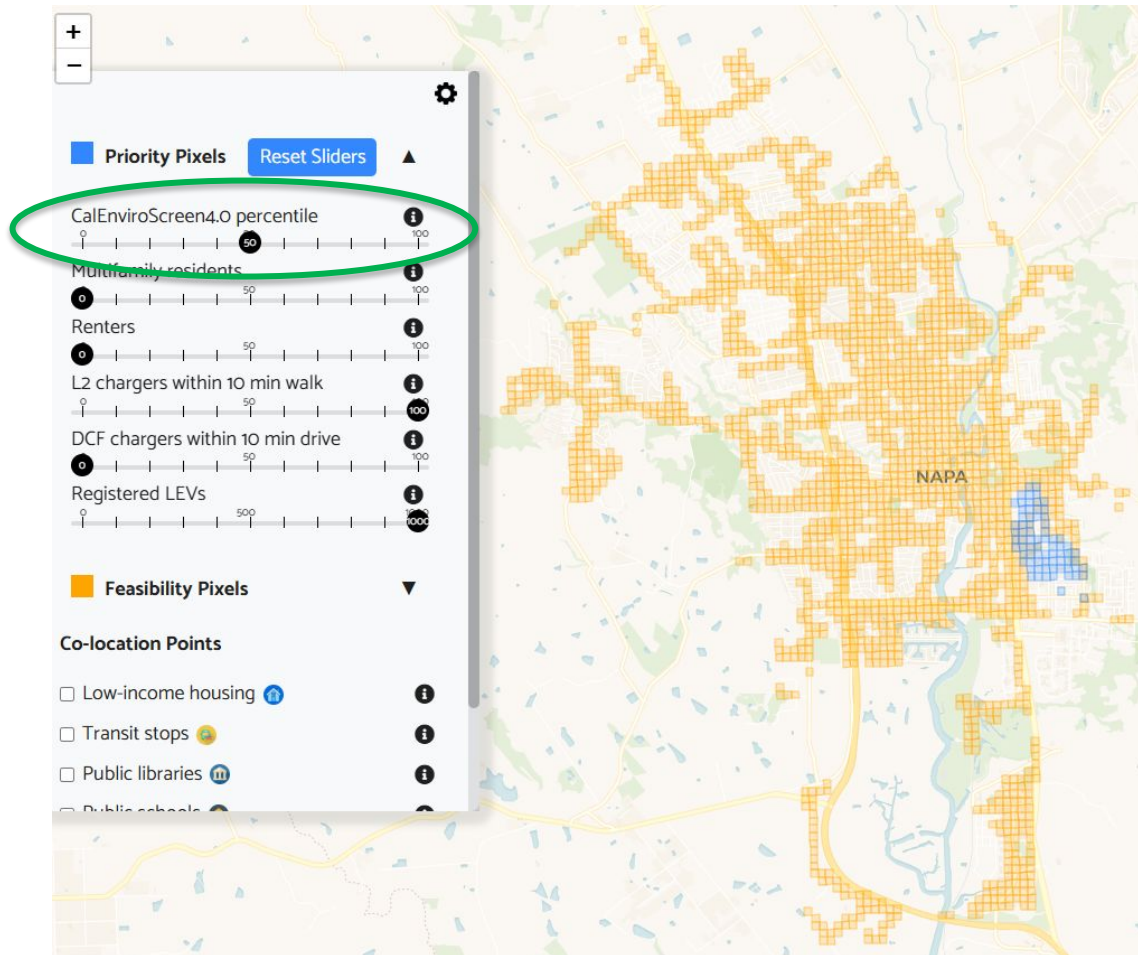


(what-if L2...)

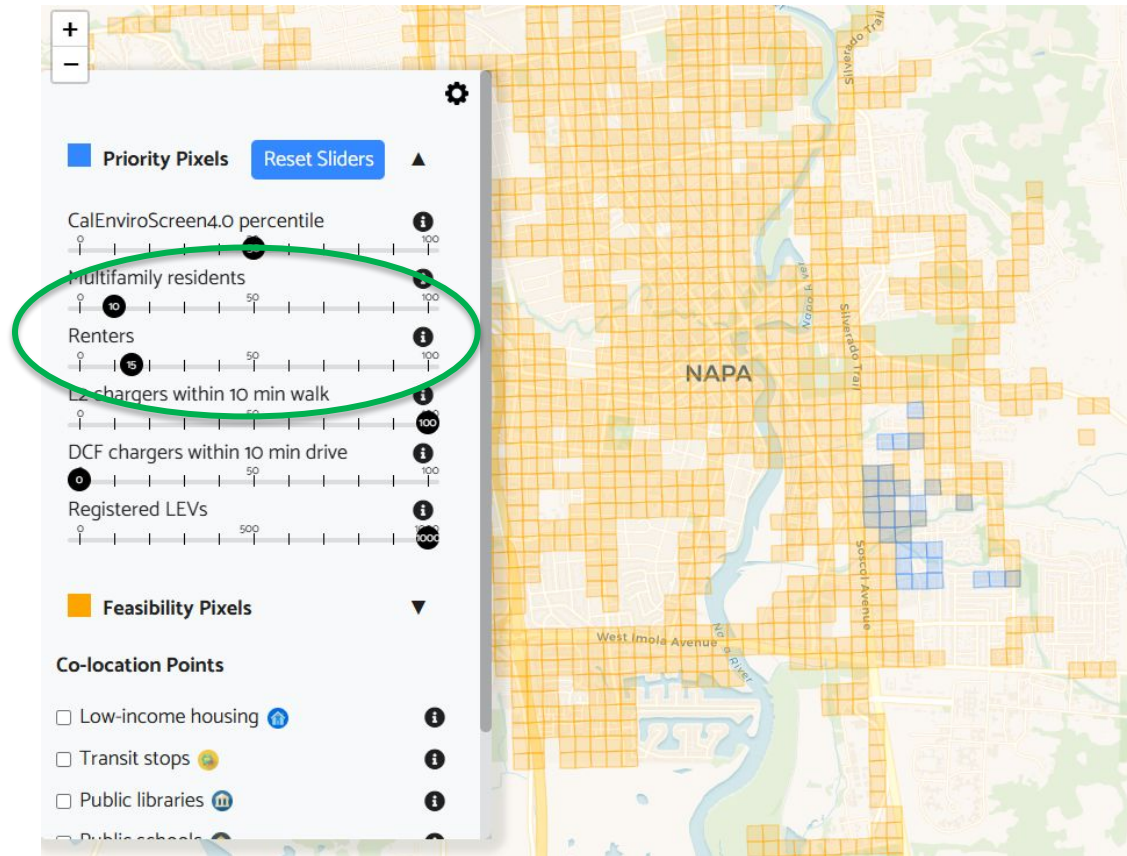
Demo: City of Napa



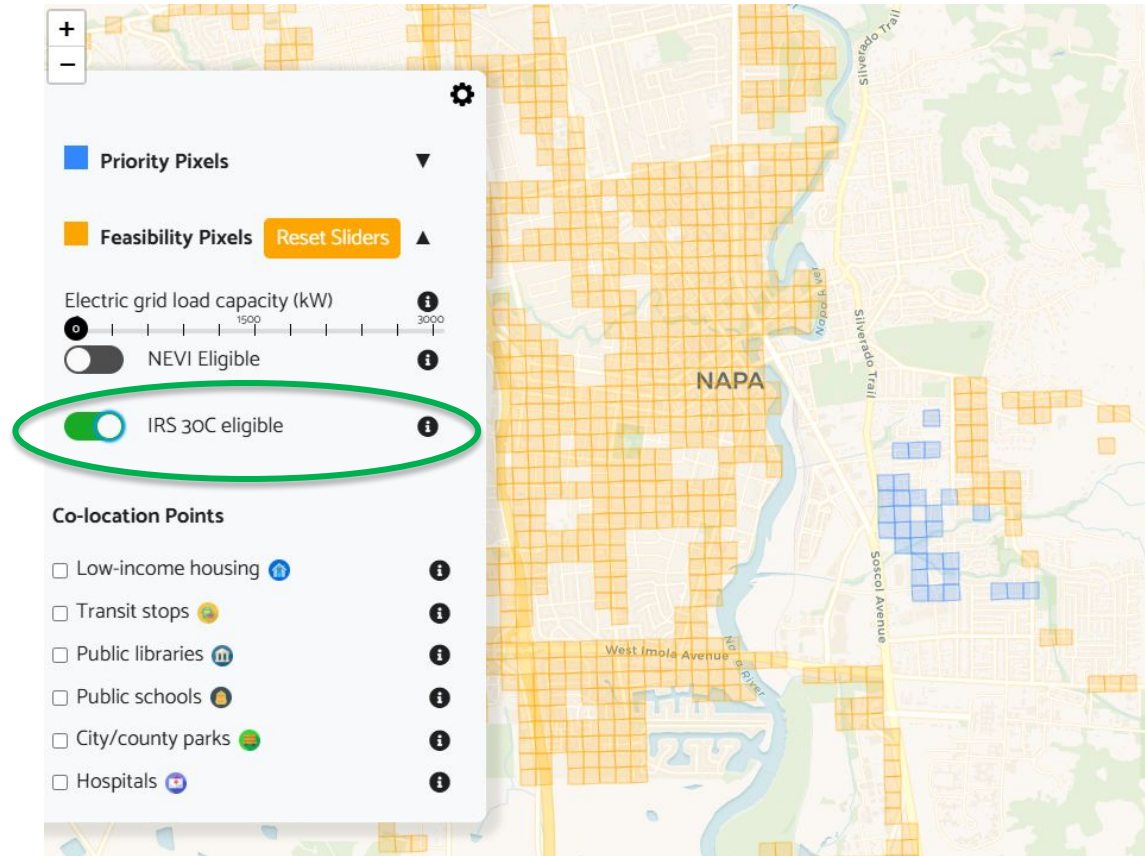
Demo: City of Napa



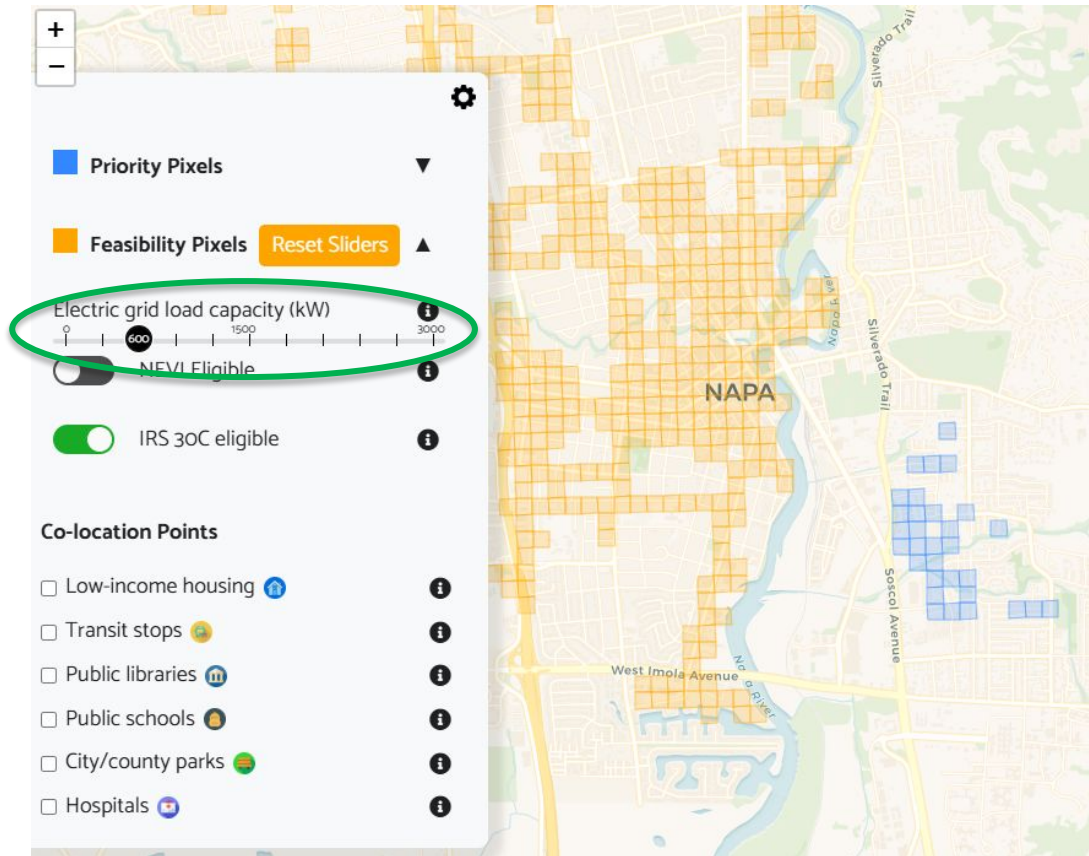
Demo: City of Napa



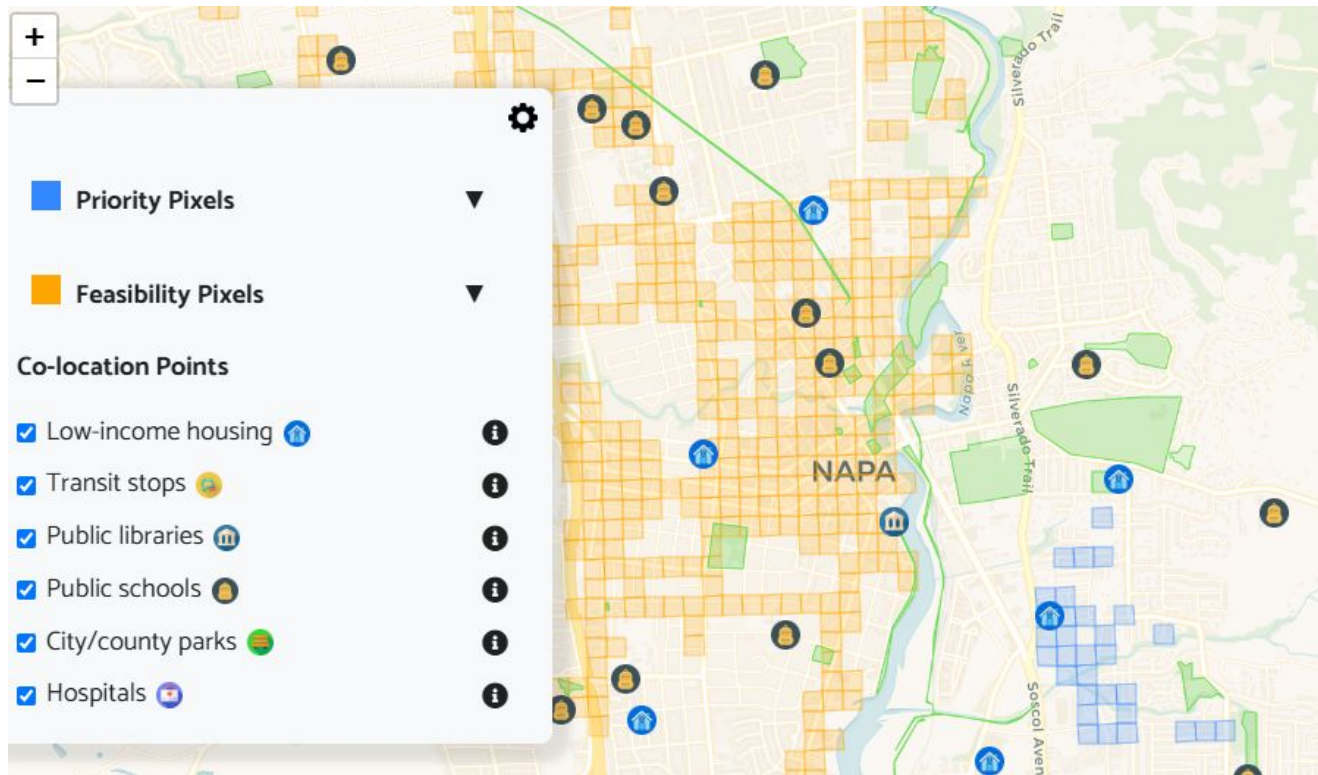
Demo: City of Napa



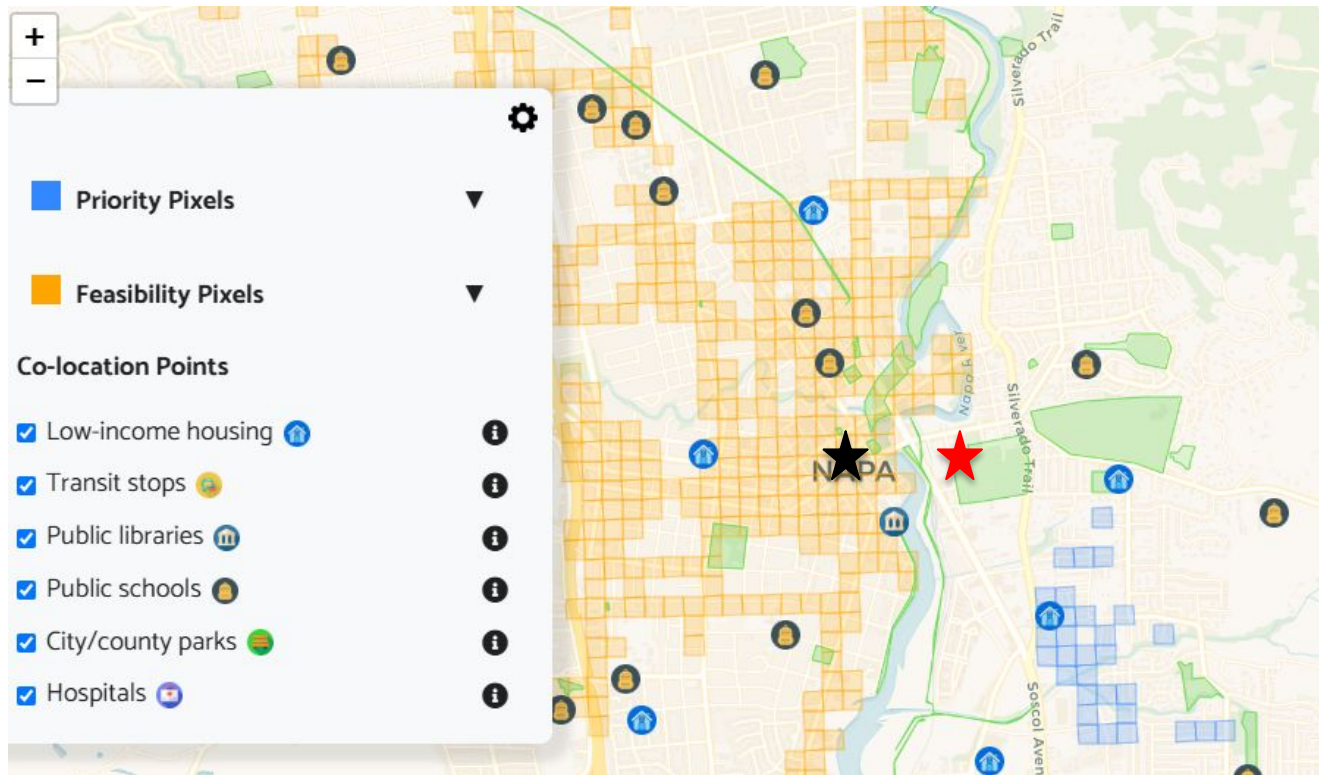
Demo: City of Napa



Demo: City of Napa



Demo: City of Napa



★ = “selected” site

★ = sufficient load capacity, no 30c eligible

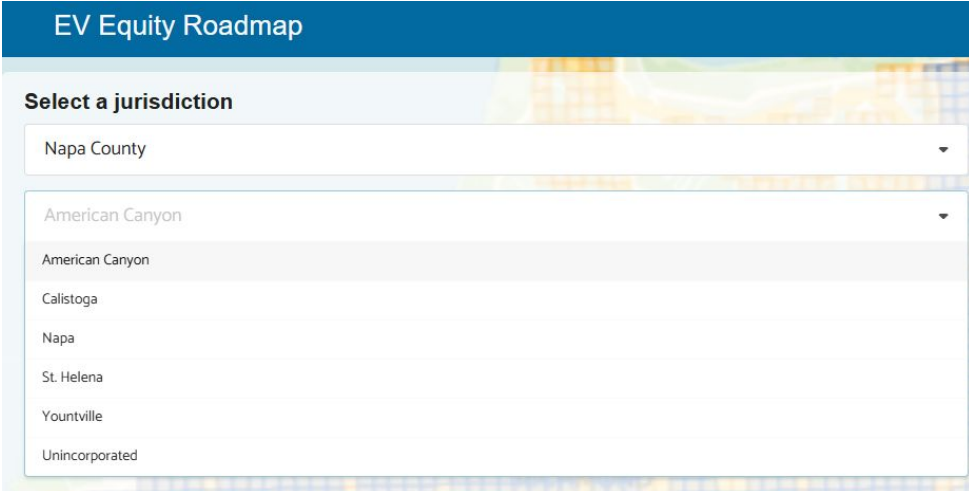
Project Extension for Napa County



Project Extension for Napa County

1. Early availability

Napa was the first county for which (standard) data were collected, compiled, and made public

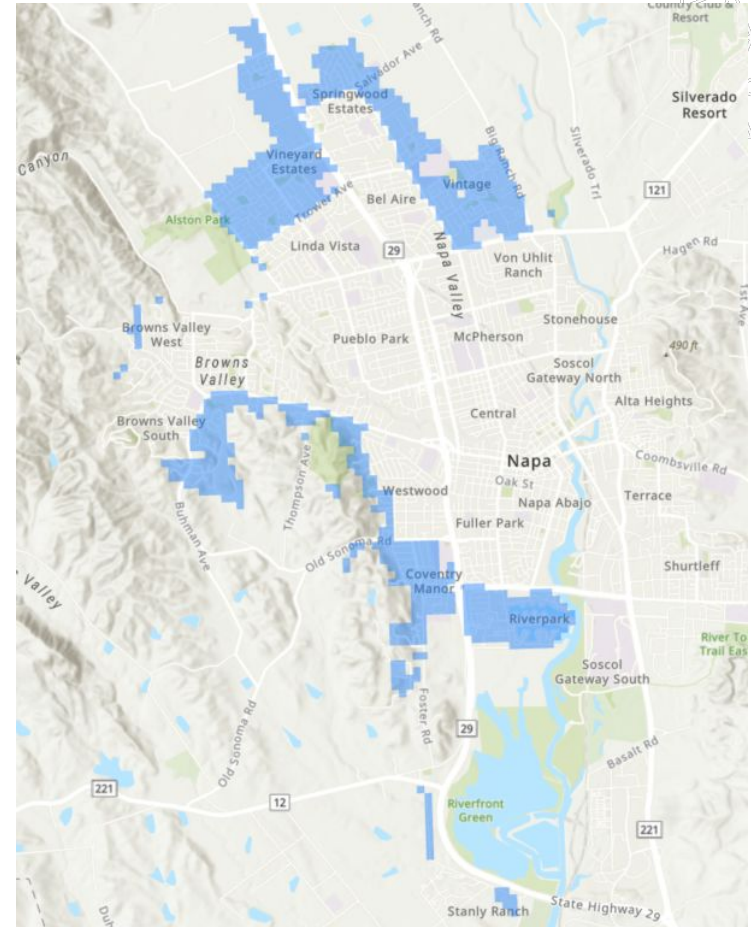


The screenshot shows a web application interface titled "EV Equity Roadmap". Below the title is a "Select a jurisdiction" dropdown menu. The menu is currently open, showing a list of jurisdictions: "Napa County", "American Canyon", "American Canyon", "Calistoga", "Napa", "St. Helena", "Yountville", and "Unincorporated". The "Napa County" option is selected and highlighted in a light blue color. The background of the application is a light blue and white grid pattern.

Project Extension for Napa County

1. Early availability
2. Incorporation of pesticide exposure

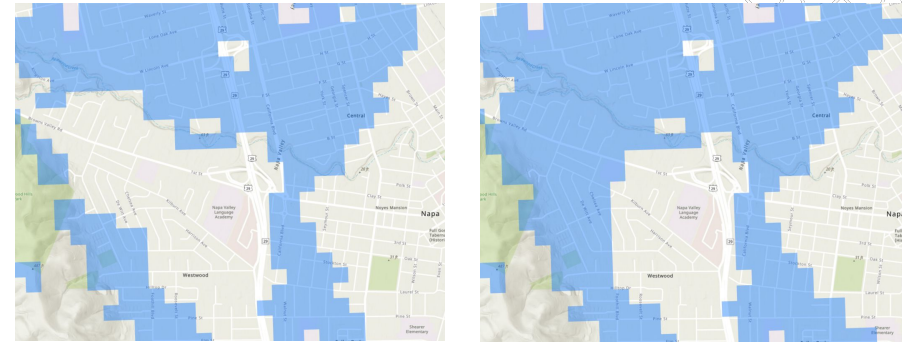
A relevant indicator for environmental justice in Napa, excluded statewide



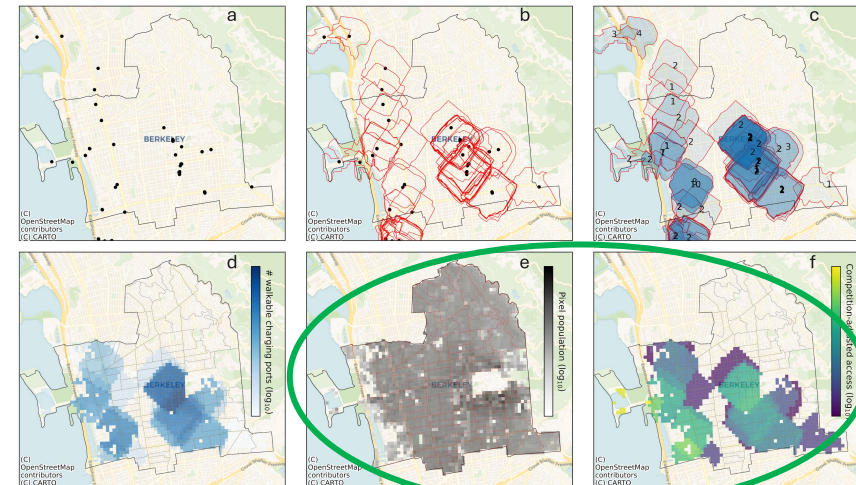
e.g., Pesticide exposure percentile ≥ 70

Project Extension for Napa County

1. Early availability
2. Incorporation of pesticide exposure
3. Richer charging access metrics



Options to exclude Tesla chargers and/or see “competition-adjusted access”



Project Extension for Napa County

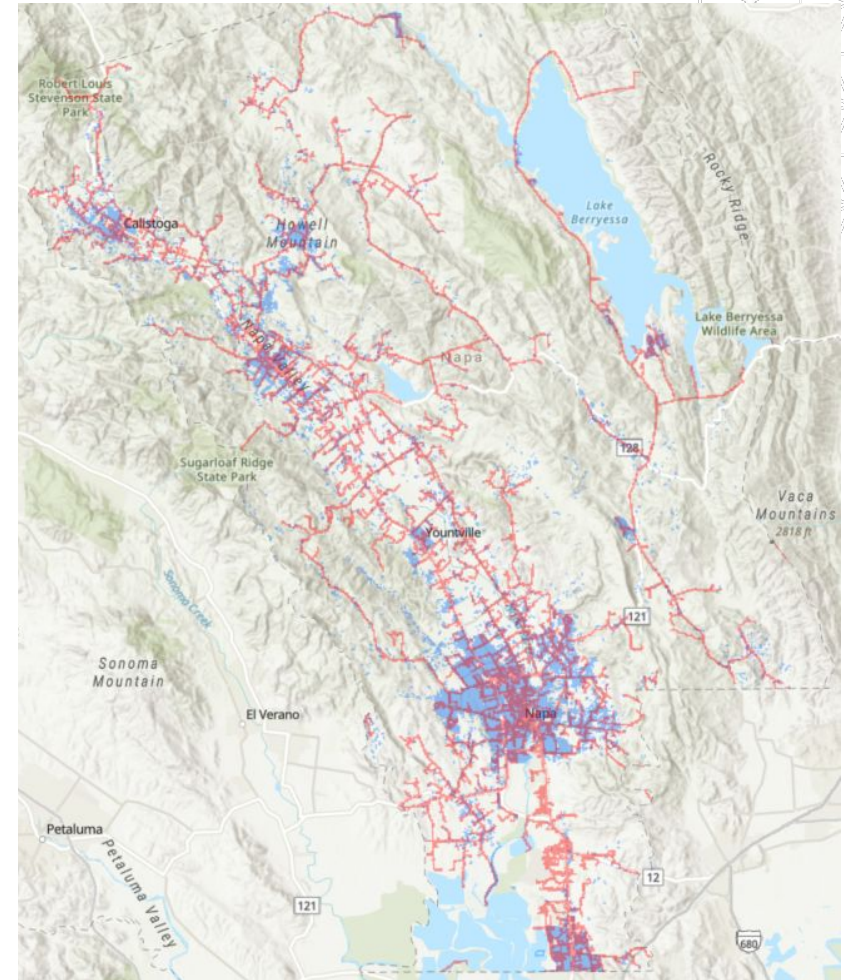
1. Early availability
2. Incorporation of pesticide exposure
3. Richer charging access metrics
4. Publicly-owned parcels

For granular analysis and streamlined site selection



Project Extension for Napa County

1. Early availability
2. Incorporation of pesticide exposure
3. Richer charging access metrics
4. Publicly-owned parcels
5. Whole-county data

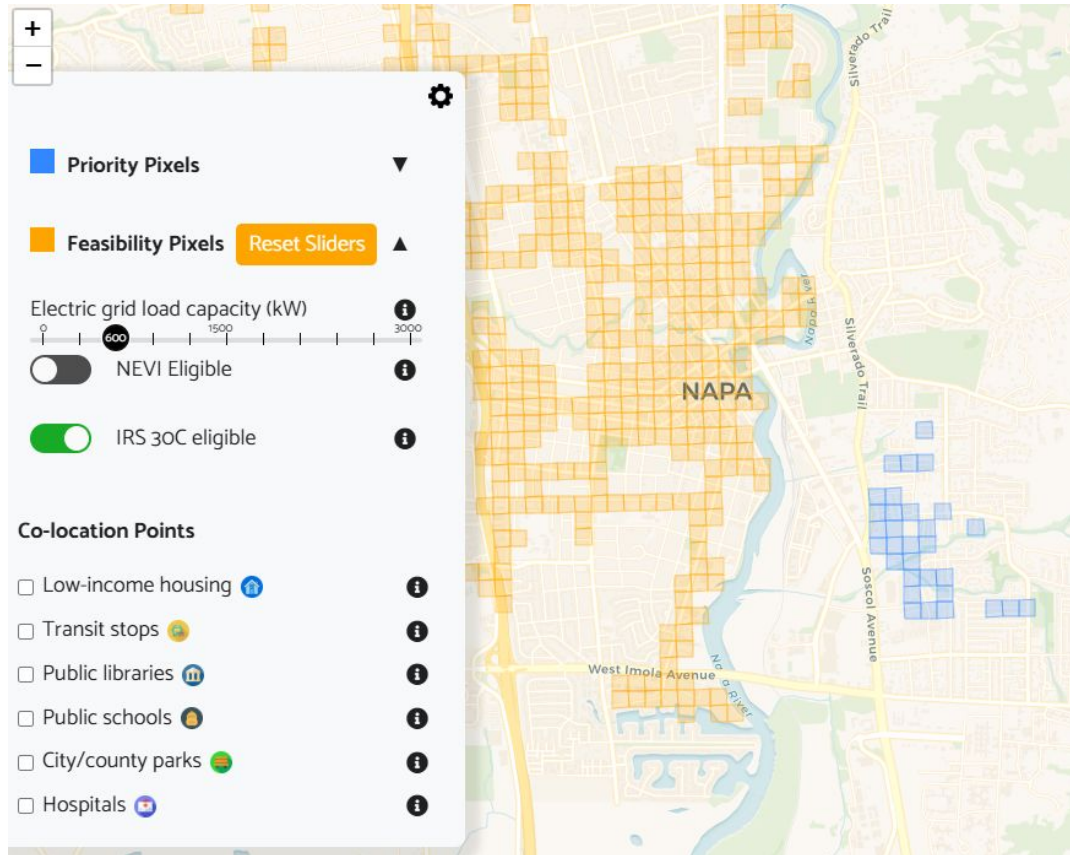


Project Extension for Napa County

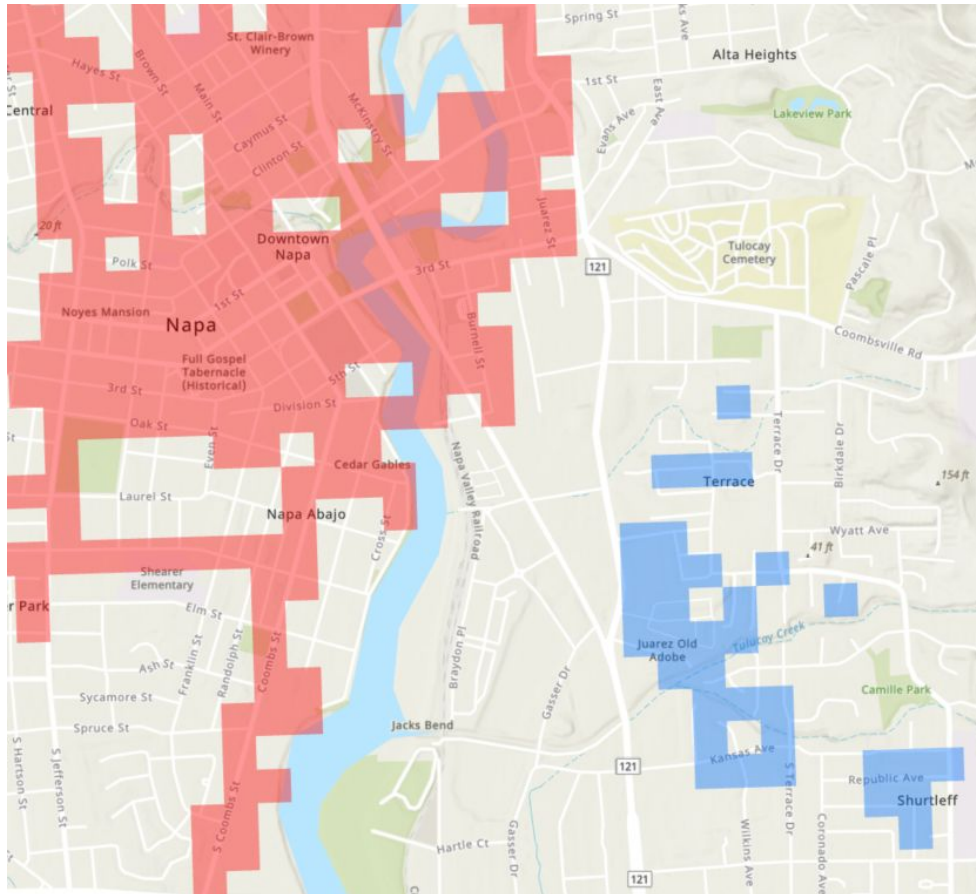


- 1. Early availability**
- 2. Incorporation of pesticide exposure**
- 3. Richer charging access metrics**
- 4. Publicly-owned parcels**
- 5. Whole-county data**
- 6. Ongoing training and support**

Demo Continued... (recall)

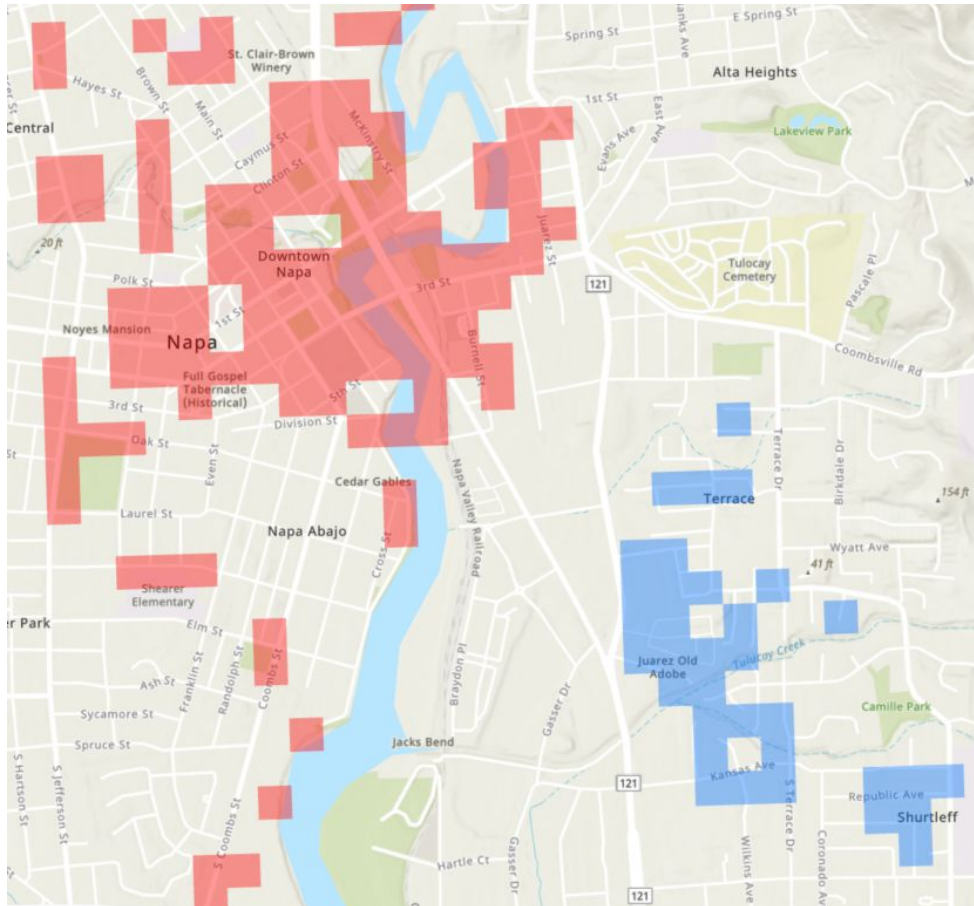


Demo Continued...



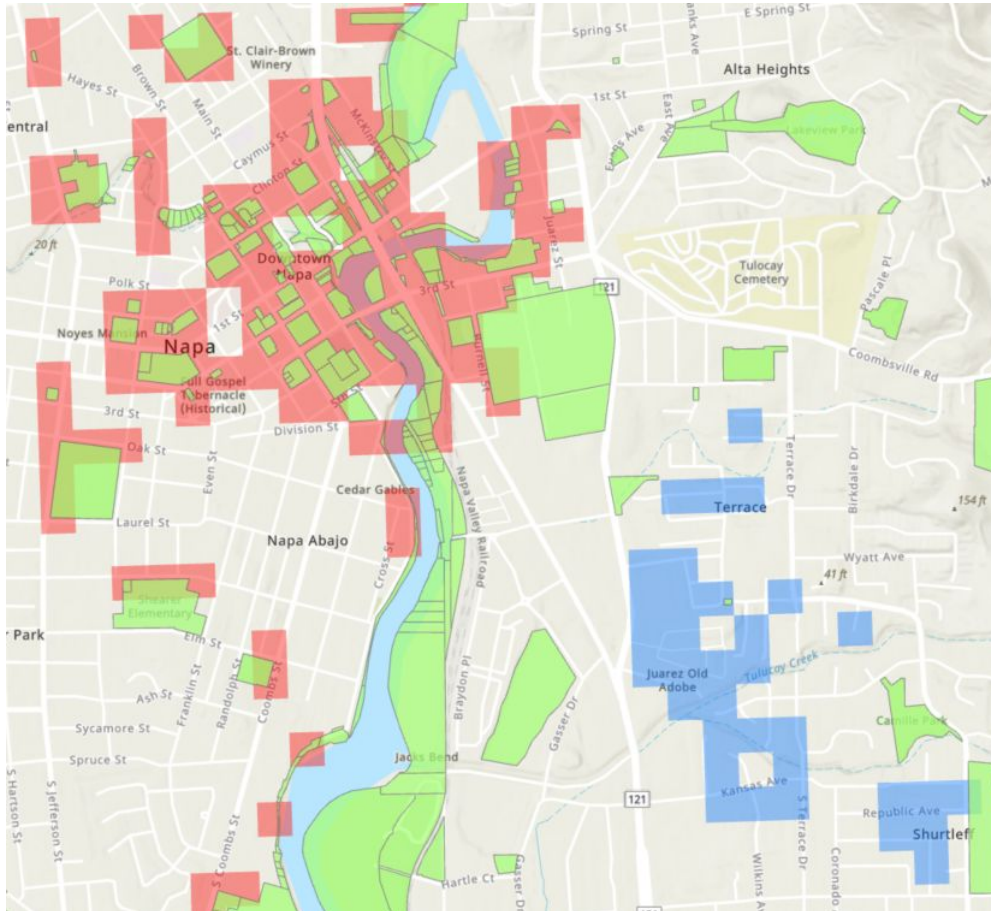
- More current charging access data

Demo Continued...



- More current charging access data
- Feasibility pixels can be filtered to show public ownership

Demo Continued...



- More current charging access data
- Feasibility pixels can be filtered to show public ownership

Thank you!

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