

March 27, 2026

Monterey County Alternative Energy & Environment Committee  
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Alternative Energy & Environment Committee Members,

After more than five years of advocacy, LandWatch is pleased to see this complete draft of Monterey County's Community Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CCAAP). The draft plan is thoughtful and thorough, includes a strong set of climate action strategies, and addresses many community concerns. The County should prioritize timely adoption of this CCAAP so that implementation can begin as soon as FY 2027, as any further delay would jeopardize the plan's timelines and risk missing our emission reduction targets.

LandWatch especially appreciates the careful consideration that was put into Chapter 4, which recognizes the important role that natural and working lands play in local carbon storage and identifies key actions to protect these open spaces and prevent major carbon loss. We also find that the strategies laid out in Chapter 6 effectively address many of the County's major challenges in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including from on-road transportation, building energy use, and fertilizer.

The County's General Plan originally called for this work to be completed by the end of 2022, more than three years ago. As a result of these delays, the County will have to move more quickly to meet the emission reduction targets set by the General Plan. We can't afford more delays.

We urge you to adopt this plan as soon as possible and begin implementation in FY 2027.

Sincerely,



Michael DeLapa  
Executive Director

cc Cora Panturad, Sustainability Program Manager, panturadc@countyofmonterey.gov