

April 28, 2026

Salinas City Council  
200 Lincoln Ave  
Salinas, CA 93901  
[vision2040comments@salinas.gov](mailto:vision2040comments@salinas.gov)

**RE: Comments in Support of the Visión Salinas Climate Action Plan**

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

LandWatch Monterey County supports adoption of the Visión Salinas Climate Action Plan (CAP), with additional refinements to improve long-term planning that ensures that the greenhouse gas emission targets will be met.

As written, the draft CAP provides a thoughtful framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resilience, and aligning local policy with California's climate goals. It identifies the City's major emissions sources, sets measurable reduction targets, and includes specific strategies to reduce emissions over time.

At the same time, the CAP would be stronger if its implementation framework more clearly connected assumptions, progress metrics, and action language. LandWatch recommends two refinements that would improve accountability without slowing adoption.

First, the final CAP should ensure all assumptions necessary to drive emission reductions are tracked as performance metrics. Appendix B outlines both key assumptions and, separately, performance targets for the CAP. However, in several cases, key assumptions are not listed as performance targets.

For example, in Strategy 7, the performance metrics currently include increases in miles of bike lanes and bikeshare access, but omit the assumed increases in sidewalk coverage and Safe Routes to School outcomes. In Strategy 9, the assumptions target increases in electric vehicle (EV) adoption, but the performance metrics focus only on total EV vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

In both these cases, a disconnect between assumptions and performance could lead to unforeseen emissions outcomes: for example, in Strategy 7, bike lane coverage without sidewalks may be insufficient to achieve the desired 16% reduction in VMT. In Strategy 9, EV VMT may increase—but it could be because overall VMT is increasing, including from combustion vehicles, failing to achieve the expected emission reductions. The performance metrics in the CAP should be comprehensive in evaluating the assumptions, outcomes, and desired emissions or other activity

targets. For example, consistent with the assumptions in Appendix B, 2040 performance metrics should be adopted for sidewalk coverage calling for an 8% increase and for EV adoption calling for 55% light duty EV adoption.

Second, the City should align implementation language with the actual metrics assigned to each strategy. While the draft CAP properly preserves flexibility by noting that not every listed action is intended to be a prescriptive implementation path, the implementation actions should still be strong enough to support the claimed reductions.

For example, Strategy 7 relies on a nearly 60% increase in bicycle network coverage; the action language is only “Maintain or expand resource commitments”, without identifying the level of resource commitment or any gaps necessary to fill to achieve the outcome. Strategy 1 relies on 85% of homes installing electric appliances by 2045, and 20% by 2030, but the language is “Encourage” electric models and “...provide educational programming and materials,” not developing or funding a plan or detailed strategy for ensuring these targets are met. Strategy 5 assumes a 39% increase in residential density by 2045, requiring Salinas to plan to build over 16,000 new homes; yet the language only says “Incentivize diverse housing types and increased density near transit;” it does not identify any specifics about the level of density or magnitude of housing construction required. Strategy 9 requires 85% light-duty EV adoption by 2045, yet the language only says “Explore opportunities” to reduce charging costs and install chargers; it does not provide any estimates for the number of chargers required.

LandWatch strongly supports the actions and strategies identified in this CAP. Our proposed changes should strengthen and enhance the plan: updating strategy language to reflect the magnitude of effort required for implementation will help the City better identify the necessary resources. Expanding the performance metrics will better enable the City to evaluate progress towards meeting its greenhouse gas reduction targets and to adjust course sooner, if necessary.

LandWatch appreciates the City's work on this plan. We recommend timely adoption of a Visión Salinas Climate Action Plan that incorporates these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DeLapa". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael DeLapa  
Executive Director