



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Meeting Date: November 9, 2022
Agenda Item: #7

Subject: Study Session and Report to the Planning Commission on 2023-25 County Operational Plan process, "A Santa Cruz Like Me", and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)

Recommended Action(s):

1. Presentation on the 2023-25 County Operational Plan process, "A Santa Cruz Like Me", and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP).

Executive Summary

Staff from the County Administrative Office will provide an update on the 2023-25 County Operational Plan process, "A Santa Cruz Like Me", and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and request online input from the Planning Commission at <https://forms.office.com/g/1hmgPkswxU>.

Background

The County Administrative Office is leading on several important County initiatives. The following provides a brief summary of each:

Operational Plan

The Santa Cruz County Strategic Plan for 2018-2024 was approved by the Board in June 2018. The plan was the result of a year-long effort led by the County Administrative Office (CAO) and the Strategic Plan Steering Committee (SPSC). The SPSC engaged with thousands of County residents and staff to develop a vision, mission, values, focus areas and goals. Each of the Strategic Plan's six focus areas contains four goals, for a total of 24, which are presented online at www.sccvision.us.

The Operational Plan provides a blueprint for how departments aim to provide better services and measurable results with their budgeted resources through three two-year

plans of the Strategic Plan. Each department develops at least three Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable (SMARTIE) objectives, designed to be completed within two years, that work towards achieving the County vision, mission, and goals. Operational plan elements are defined as follows:

- Countywide Strategies – Approaches for achieving strategic plan goals.
- Department Objectives – Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable (SMARTIE) actions that work towards Strategic Plan goals and countywide strategies.
- Key Steps - Critical activities or steps necessary to achieve each department objective.

The Operational Plan is a living document, and County successes and challenges will be transparent. Through the Vision Santa Cruz County website, the County tracks progress on each objective, as well as local, State and national indicators that demonstrate progress towards achieving the County's goals, mission and vision.

"A Santa Cruz Like Me"

The "A Santa Cruz Like Me" survey to collect data was a partnership between Santa Cruz Ventures and the County in recognition of the value of a representative government and to capture a snapshot of the County's citizen lead representative and advisory commissions and bodies. Different lived experiences can help inform and shape policy and governance to ensure our County is resilient, prosperous, and equitable. Four recommendations were created and included in the report to address the variances; 1) create a committee to review variances and propose solutions, 2) require the collection of demographic information at the time of application, 3) including data review as part of the onboarding process, and 4) work with cities within the Santa Cruz County to conduct a similar study.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

The Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience (OR3), residing within the CAO, is taking the leadership role in the update to the County's climate strategy through the development of a new Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). OR3 has a deeply engaged, comprehensive and collaborative team of County staff subject matter experts, department directors, and a consultant to support the completion of the CAAP by December 2022.

Analysis

2023-25 Operational Plan

The County Administrative Office is launching the development 2023-25 Operational Plan with County departments as a part of the 2023-24 Proposed Budget process. In the development of the first two Operational Plans, objectives were presented to the Commissions and other stakeholders only after they were written by departments. Feedback from the Board of Supervisors and Commissions was that engaging earlier in the process would lead to better objectives. The 2023-25 Operational Plan is focused on the following:

- Continuing to hold major work accountable to measurable results

- Working with community partners to make sure their voices are reflected in the plan
- Validation –including the people closest to a problem in designing its solution
- Continue to disaggregate data to uncover hyper-local trends and gaps in services

“A Santa Cruz Like Me”

The county is diverse, and our community values diversity. Different lived experiences can help inform and shape policy and governance. Last year, after receiving the 2020 census data, the CAO partnered with Santa Cruz Community Ventures, a community-based organization, to gain a better understanding of the makeup of our County’s representative bodies through a survey that went out to County Commissions, Boards, and advisory bodies. The findings from that survey were presented to the Board of Supervisors and the community via a report titled A Santa Cruz Like Me: The Value of Representational Government.

Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP)

The 2022 CAAP will represent a two-year time horizon planning document that will be followed with a detailed implementation planning efforts in 2023. With the nature of evolving and expanding climate and resilience funding at the State and federal level as well as changes in State law requirements, OR3 felt that a long-protracted plan development process and a longer time-scale plan would not adequately address the crisis we are currently in and the urgency of the moment. The CAAP strategies and objectives will be grouped by logical categories and identify priority efforts to meet our State Greenhouse gas (GhG) reduction requirements and build resilience and adaptive capacity in our county for vulnerable residents and infrastructure.

The Planning Commission’s purview is important with over 60% of the GhG emissions for the county coming from the transportation sector with most of that from single occupancy vehicles, developing land-use patterns to reduce vehicle miles traveled, encourage multi-modal transportation, and improve public transit especially in the context of the upcoming Housing Element update.

The CAO would appreciate input from Planning Commissioners on the development of the FY 2023-25 Operational Plan and the A Santa Cruz County Like Me (ASCCLM) work around representational government. Please take moment to inform the work by completing a survey at <https://forms.office.com/g/1hmgPkswxU>.

Strategic Plan

- 1.A (Comprehensive Health & Safety: Health Equity)
- 4.B (Sustainable Environment - Natural Resources)
- 4.C (Sustainable Environment - Local Conservation)
- 4.D (Sustainable Environment - Climate Change)
- 6.A (Operational Excellence: Customer Experience)
- 6.D (Operational Excellence: Continuous Improvement)

Exhibits:

Presentation

