



# **Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee**

Board of Supervisors

March, 2021

# Agenda

- Annual Report Out
- About Climate Change
- MCCAAC First Policy Recommendations
- Baseline Analysis
- Grant Writing
- Questions for and from the Board of Supervisors

# Annual Report Out



## Who are we?

### First Year – Quick Report

- 10 members, 5 vacancies
- Members: Cathy Monroe, Marie Jones, Michael Potts, Shai Larsen, Susan Sher, Tess Albin-Smith, Ellen Drell, Randy MacDonald, John Nickerson, Javier Silva
- Actively functioning for 1 year
- Hindered by Covid, but have been meeting and proceeding virtually
- Absence of funding and staff support felt



## What have we been up to?

- Developed & adopted, meeting ground rules, operating principles, by laws
- Adoption of the Climate Emergency Declaration
- Development of a website
- First Policy Priorities
- Baseline Analysis
- Advise re: new jail
- Letters re BOS 2021 Policy Goals, Cannabis Ordinance, etc.



## How can we help?

- Write grants to support Climate Positive activities.
- Work with Departments to implement the First Priorities.
- Provide advice on relevant BOS Agenda Items.



**Importance of Addressing Climate Change in this Moment**

# Climate Change Milestones Since MCCAAC's Creation

July 2019 - Mendocino BOS creates Climate Action Advisory Committee  
Sept. 2019 - 7 million participate in World's largest-ever climate action protest  
Nov. 2019 - BOS appoints MCCAAC members, first meeting held  
Dec. 2019 - Subsurface Progression closes due to collapse of abalone fishery  
Early 2020 - Australia suffers worst the bushfire season in modern history  
June 2020 - Arctic wildfires and temperatures set new records  
July 2020 - BOS approves electric heat pump system for new County jail building  
July 2020 - BOS adopts resolution declaring a Climate Emergency  
Aug. 2020 - August Complex fire becomes California's largest wildfire ever  
Fall 2020 - More than 30 named major storms in historic hurricane season  
2020 was the hottest year ever, the 6 hottest years have all occurred since 2014  
Jan. 2021 - The Village of Mendocino began the new year in a Stage 2 drought  
Feb. 2021 - Severe climate-related winter storms swept across the United States  
Pandemic has reduced GHG emissions by 7% - Are there lessons we can learn?

## First Policy Recommendations



## **Recognize Global Climate Change**

Resolve that global climate change is a local (county) challenge, and that measures to reduce Mendocino County's Greenhouse Gas emissions will be a small but worthwhile contribution to mitigating the Climate Crisis.

*Susan Sher*

## **Wildfire Safety through Fuels Management**

Work with CalFire and stakeholders to perform prescribed fires in highly flammable vegetation, including coast Pygmy and Inland, where alternative egress is mostly nonexistent.

Work with insurance companies to encourage removal of fuels.

*Tess Albin-Smith, John Nickerson*



## **Wildland Safety Egress**

Work with CDF and local fire agencies to provide early warning systems, identify safety zones, support firesafe councils for neighborhood safety contacts, and identify or construct multiple evacuation routes

*Tess Albin-Smith, Shai Larsen*

## **Encourage Renewable Energy by Permit Streamlining**

Remove regulatory barriers limiting implementation of energy efficiency technology.

- ▶ Develop programmatic CDP & CEQA documents
- ▶ Resolve regulatory barriers to local actions
- ▶ Seek funding for EV charging stations at all existing County facilities

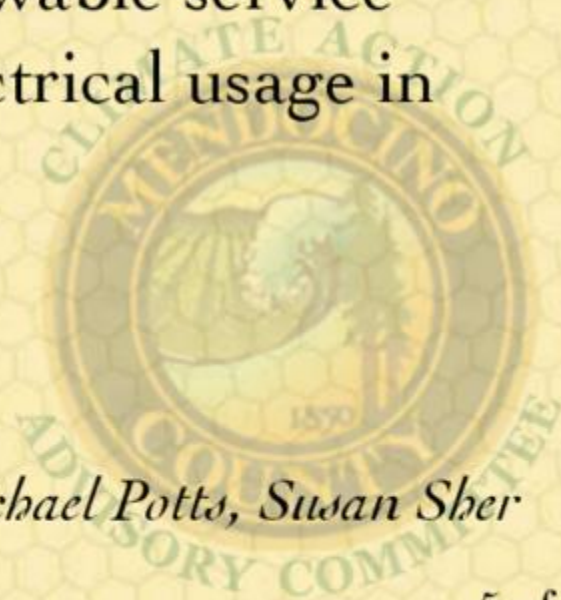
*Tess Albin-Smith, Shai Larsen*



## **Efficient Energy Use & Accessibility**

- ▶ Convert County electrical service to Sonoma Clean Power's 100% local/renewable service
- ▶ Institute measures to reduce electrical usage in all departments
- ▶ Improve energy accessibility
- ▶ Encourage Energy Efficiency

*Marie Jones, Michael Potts, Susan Sher*



## **Build and Buy for Energy Efficiency**

Maximize opportunities for energy efficiency in all county projects and purchases.

Energy analysis for all construction projects and equipment purchases, purchase and operations.

*Marie Jones*



## **Eliminate Wasteful Paper and Travel**

Shift documentation from paper to online.

Encourage virtual meetings

Develop a network of Brown-Act eligible public meeting spaces.

Provide public meeting venues with internet access.

*Jen Mayne*

## **Develop a Resiliency Information Portal**

Launch an online public information resource: a county-wide clearinghouse for community preparedness best practices, local successes and challenges.

Help interested organizations coordinate their climate change readiness responses.

*Michael Potts, Shai Larsen*



## **Habitat Protection**

Establish and enforce protections for Oak Woodland ecosystems where 90% species of all WILDLIFE live in this county:

- **And thus increase** the benefits of carbon sequestration by protecting and restoring native plants and wildlife habitat;
- **And because** the presence of diverse wildlife is an indicator of healthy ecosystem which benefits us all;
- **And because** wildlife play an important role in distribution of oak mast and ladder fuel reduction, both ensuring oak regeneration and lessening wildfire hazard and its affect on air quality and climate change.

*Tess Albin-Smith*

## **Energy Security**

Improve electrical autonomy by encouraging local renewable energy resources: electrical storage, community islanding, noise and pollution management during outages. Promote and enable distributed generation and undergrounding. Require an end to Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

*Michael Potts*



## **Oak Woodland and Carbon Sequestration**

- Protect cultural resources and Native American heritage by preserving Oak Woodlands.
- Maximize carbon sequestration potential by preserving Oak Woodland and Conifer Forests.
- Encourage planting, survival, and regeneration of oaks.
- Discourage oak harvesting and woodland conversion, and require erosion control plans for development, to protect hillslope failures on erodible Oak Woodlands.

*Tess Albin-Smith*



## Baseline Analysis

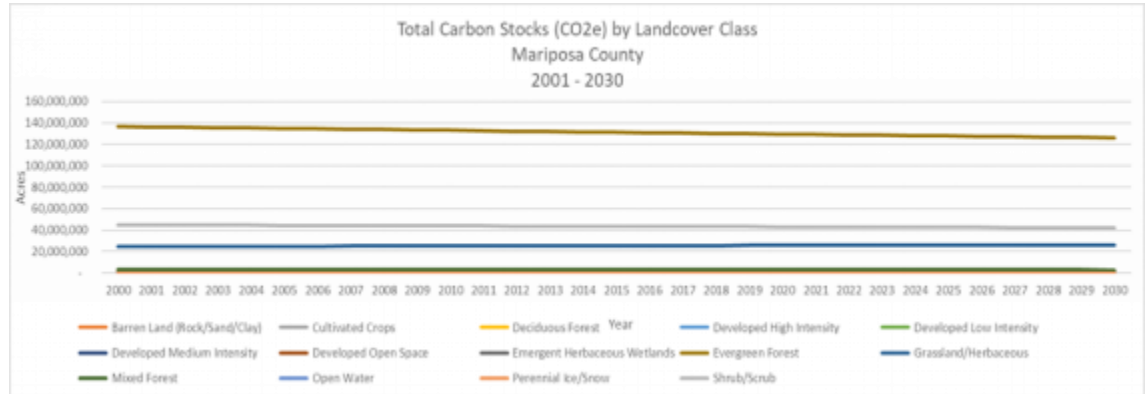
# Baseline Subcommittee Recommendations

- Develop baseline to provide a benchmark trend to 2030 of emissions and carbon capture trends at the county level.
- Baseline will help to prioritize activities to improve carbon storage and reduce emissions.
- Baseline analysis of natural and working lands provides insight into land use change and sequestration trends within them.

## Process



## Example of Baseline Reference Scenario of Natural and Working Lands Baseline Components of Natural and Working Lands in Mariposa County



# Committee Recommendations of Sectors to Include in Mendocino County

Sector	Sub-sector	Notes
Transportation	Commercial	Funding Needed
	Personal/Commuting	
Energy	Heating	Funding Needed
	Industrial Use	
	Residential Use	
Natural and Working Lands	Coniferous Forests	Funding Needed
	Hardwood Forests	
	Brush/Chaparral	
	Grasslands	
	Wetlands	
Urban Forests	Urban Forests	Completed by Committee
Water Treatment/Sewer	Sewer	Funding Needed
Agriculture	Row Crops	Baseline development is underway with a contract with the Mendocino Resource Conservation District
	Orchards	
	Vineyards	
	Irrigated Pasture	
	Marijuana	



# Urban Forest Baseline Completed by Committee Members

Mendocino County has three urban areas as defined by US Census Bureau.

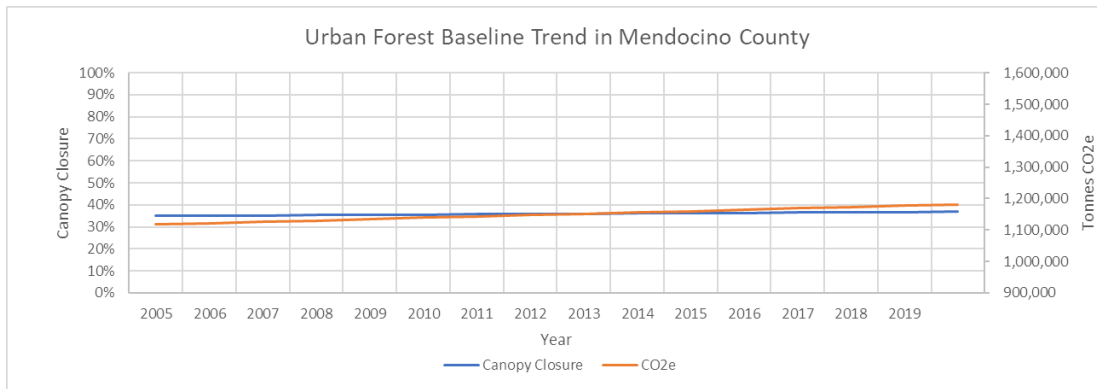
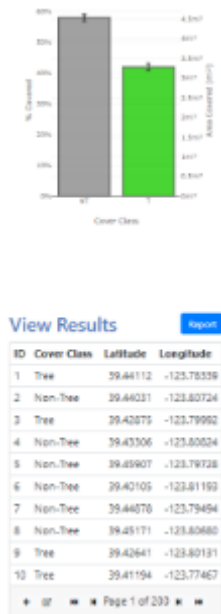
- Fort Bragg, Willits, and Ukiah

Committee members completed baseline development using online tools\*

- Process includes estimation of canopy cover and expansion by published ratio estimators.



Example of randomly sampled points in Fort Bragg





## Grant Writing

## Grant Writing on Behalf of the County

- **Overview.** The Mendocino Climate Action Advisory Committee requests authorization to prepare and submit grants for climate action activities on behalf of Mendocino County to address mitigation of climate change, climate resiliency, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Climate Advisory Committee members have many years of experience writing and administering Federal, State and foundation grants related to climate change, planning, Coastal LCP Amendments, housing development, public development projects, forestry and more.

# Grant Writing

## Grant Preparation

1. Research regarding grant opportunities.
2. Development of an appropriate project description in partnership with County staff and the Committee.
3. Preparation of a staff report or consent calendar item for the BOS to consider the grant application including preparation of any relevant resolutions authorizing grant submittal.
4. Writing and Preparation of grant application.
5. Submittal of grant application on behalf of the County of Mendocino.

## Grant Administration

1. Development of Scopes of Work and RFPs to hire consultants to complete relevant components of the grant scope.
2. Interview and recommend consultants, preparation and presentation of staff report to the Board of Supervisors for consultant selection
3. Consultant Management – meetings, review of work product, provide direction, etc.
4. Preparation of required grant reports and grant invoices.
5. Fee for service





**Seeking collaborators and endorsements**

## What do we need?

We need Board support for the following:

- Implementation of our regarding major policy issues and capital projects at BOS meetings.
- First Policy Priorities
- Empower us to complete Grant writing for the County.
- Welcome our research & input

We need County Departments to collaborate with the Committee.

We need the County to support the Climate Advisory Committee, eventually with staff support.

- Board needs to make appointments to fill vacancies.
- Supervisors should meet with appointees at least 3X a year.
- Do you want our input in the form of a resolution or a letter?

**Questions for us?**