

MEMORANDUM

DATE May 24, 2022

TO Jonathan Moore, City of Salinas Community Development Department, Senior Planner
Monica Gurmilan, City of Salinas Community Development Department, Associate Planner

FROM Eli Krispi, PlaceWorks, Project Manager
Tammy L. Seale, PlaceWorks, Principal
Renata Langis, PlaceWorks, Project Planner

SUBJECT Salinas Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment – Virtual Community Workshop Summary

This memo summarizes the virtual community workshop held as part of the outreach for Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Vulnerability Assessment (VA). It includes a description of the workshop, discusses the questions asked of participants through Mentimeter and small group discussions, and presents the results of each question. In support of this summary, **Appendix 1** includes the full list of the Mentimeter questions and responses, and **Appendix 2** presents the detailed notes from the small group discussions.

Workshop Purpose and Desired Outcomes

The City hosted a 90-minute virtual community workshop via Zoom on Thursday, April 28, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to engage and inform residents, businesses, and community-based organizations and partners about the 2022 CAP, share initial results of the technical analyses completed to-date, and to begin brainstorming on GHG reduction strategies. The goals for participants at the workshop were to:

- » Gain a better understanding of the CAP and VA, including what they will accomplish, what they will include, why the City is preparing them, and how they relate to the in-progress General Plan update.
- » Become more aware of the community's role in supporting the 2022 CAP and VA.
- » Learn about how Salinas contributes to climate change, how the community may be harmed by climate change, and what the community has done and can do in the future to address these challenges.
- » Provide an inclusive, equitable, and transparent opportunity for participation in the planning process (including bilingual presentation and translation services).
- » Share their ideas and vision for a sustainable and resilient Salinas.
- » Engage with community members, provide initial feedback and ideas about what the City should do, and discuss questions on the topic of climate change.

Monica Gurmilan, with the City, opened the workshop and welcomed participants in English and Spanish. Tammy L. Seale with PlaceWorks facilitated the workshop, led the Mentimeter surveys and question and answer period, and provided support while Eli Krispi with PlaceWorks led the presentation. In addition, staff from the City and PlaceWorks provided English and Spanish language facilitation during small group discussions.

The workshop included several accessibility options to ensure that all participants could learn about the project and share their experiences. Staff provided the presentation text in both English and Spanish, participants had the option to select simultaneous Spanish language interpretation during the presentation, and all breakout rooms included bilingual staff. Participants also had the option to see simultaneous transcription of the event audio in English. The meeting included closed captioning for those interested. All participants had the option to communicate with the project team in English or Spanish through Zoom's Chat Tool.

SALINAS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The City of Salinas staff promoted the workshop through the project website, traditional media opportunities, and social media channels. Participants registered for the workshop through a Zoom registration page in advance of the workshop. Workshop registrants received multiple reminder emails in advance of the workshops. The reminder emails included links to the Visión Salinas 2040 website to review in advance of the workshop. A total of 41 community members attended the workshop, not including City staff or PlaceWorks project team.

AGENDA

The workshop followed this agenda:

- 6:00 pm Welcome and introduction to the workshop
- 6:10 pm Project presentation and polling
- 6:45 pm Small group discussions in Zoom Breakout Rooms
- 7:20 pm Rapid Report Back
- 7:30 pm Workshop wrap-up and end

MENTIMETER POLLS

At the beginning of the meeting and during the presentation, community workshop participants accessed Menti.com to engage in two online surveys, which were accessible in English and Spanish. The first Mentimeter poll asked participants where in Salinas participants lived or worked.

The second Mentimeter poll focused on the impacts by climate-related hazards and the affects to the transportation system. The poll asked participants the following questions:

1. What area(s) of Salinas do you work, live, or play in? / ¿En qué área(s) de Salinas trabaja, vive o se y visita?
2. What are your highest priorities for the Salinas CAP? / ¿Cuáles son sus principales prioridades para el CAP de Salinas?
3. What have you done at your home, business, or school to reduce GHG emissions? / ¿Qué ha hecho en su hogar, negocio, o escuela para reducir las emisiones de GEI?
4. What hazards in Salinas most concern you and why? / ¿Qué peligros en Salinas le preocupan más y porqué?

All questions were open ended. A total of 29 people participated in at least one question in the poll.

When asked about where they live, work, and play, the most common response in both English and Spanish was East Salinas, followed by North Salinas and Downtown Salinas. All other responses were unique responses. Community members also named the school they attend, their employer, and places where they recreate. When asked about their priorities for the Salinas CAP, the three top responses are listed below:

1. Help improve equity and community resilience / Ayudar a mejorar la equidad y resiliencia de la comunidad” (37 percent of total responses)
2. Improve air quality and public health /Mejorar la calidad del aire y la salud pública (22 percent of total responses)
3. Reduce GHG emissions / Reducir las emisiones de GEI (15 percent of total responses)

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When asked about what they have done at their home, business, or school to reduce GHG emissions, participants described various activities, including walking when possible, educating themselves about sustainability, driving a fuel-efficient car, and installing solar panels. When asked about concerning hazards in Salinas, participants described various natural and human caused hazards. Natural hazards mentioned included drought, air quality, and reduction in agricultural productivity. Human-caused health and safety hazards included pesticides, food deserts, and roadway hazards. The feedback received for each question is presented in **Attachment 1**.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

After a presentation of the project and the second Mentimeter polling activity, community workshop participants joined small groups with a facilitator and a notetaker. The small group discussions allowed for an in-depth discussion of the Climate Action Plan and various topics regarding climate change action and effects in the Salinas community. Topics of discussion included potential strategies to reduce GHG emissions (implemented by community members and by the City), barriers to implementing GHG reduction strategies, and natural hazards of concern in Salinas.

The workshop host randomly assigned participants to small groups using the breakout room feature of the Zoom platform. Small group notetakers used Google Docs to record notes, while sharing their screens. Small group facilitators asked participants an introductory question, answered project-related questions, and discussed various topics regarding climate change in the community. Participants also raised questions and comments about the GHG inventory scope and sectors. Facilitators helped to guide participants through a conversation that may have included their reactions to the presentation, efforts they would support to reduce GHG emissions and address climate vulnerability, and barriers to effective action that they observed in the community. Participants included representatives of the General Plan Steering Committee, non-profit and community-based organizations, offices of the Monterey County Supervisors, Salinas Youth Voice (youth advocacy group), and local high schools.

On the topic of the Climate Action Plan, questions and comments focused on the scope of the emissions inventory, high-GHG-emitting sectors in Salinas, the importance of integrating climate planning work with other concurrent long-range planning efforts (such as the General Plan and zoning code), and how resource conservation strategies (i.e. water recycling), green infrastructure (i.e. green roofs), and parks/open spaces can contribute to GHG reduction efforts. Other comments included a request to include a citywide map showing CalEnviroScreen scores and a concern regarding the impact of livestock production on GHG emissions.

When discussing ways to reduce emissions in their daily lives, participants mentioned recycling, carpooling, maintenance of existing trees and green spaces, climate change awareness campaigns, and neighborhood clean-ups as ways they can take action in the community.

On the topic of what the City can do to help reduce GHG emissions, the list was long and focused on transportation strategies to reduce vehicle trips and reliance on automobiles, including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, public transit service and school bus service expansion, carpooling, and promoting electric vehicles (EV) through a rebate program and installation of more EV charging stations. Suggestions for City actions to address climate change that were not related to transportation included expansion of public green spaces, education about recycling, battery storage for renewable energy, the phase out of natural gas use in buildings, and incentives for installation of residential and commercial renewable energy systems.

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On the topic of barriers to reducing GHG emissions, participants mentioned cost and lack of funding for electric and energy efficient vehicles and charging stations; the limitations of the existing built environment, including natural gas infrastructure in buildings and lack of affordable housing near job centers; lack of climate or sustainability education, lack of reliable public transit and dense/walkable urban environment.

When discussing natural hazards of concern in Salinas, participants provided more details about how both natural and human-caused hazards in Salinas affect the community. For example, participants discussed how drought affects agricultural productivity, how wildfire smoke affects air quality, especially for outdoor workers, and how pesticide use affects environmental health of local schools and neighborhoods. The feedback received for each question, is summarized by question and topic in **Attachment 2**.

Next Steps

This memo provides the summary of the community workshop for City Staff. The Project Team will use this feedback shared during the workshop to inform the next phases of the Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment.

DRAFT

**SALINAS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY
ATTACHMENT 1: MENTIMETER RESULTS**

Attachment 1 – Mentimeter Results

At the beginning of the meeting and after the presentation, community workshop participants accessed Menti.com to engage in two online surveys, which were inclusive of both English and Spanish speaking participants. Responses to each question are provided below.

INTRODUCTION MENTIMETER POLL

The first Mentimeter poll was to gauge how participants heard about the workshop, where participants lived and worked, and if they needed an overview of Zoom.

Question 1: What area(s) of Salinas do you work, live, or play in? / ¿En qué área(s) de Salinas trabaja, vive o se y visita?

Total Responses: 29 (24 in English, 5 in Spanish)

English responses	Number of Responses
I live in East Salinas and work in downtown Salinas	1
North Salinas ¹	3
Woodside Park	1
Office on Capitol Ave, meetings on Main St	1
East Salinas	7
Live in South Salinas, work in South and East Salinas, and have family/friends in East, North... all over!	1
Twin Creeks area	1
Creekbridge	1
All of Salinas	2
I live near Prunedale and am a student of Rancho San Juan. I spend most of my time at the Natividad Park, which is an area that various cleanup groups are focused on beautifying.	1
93905/93901	2
I represent the Graniterock concrete plant facility	1
Downtown Salinas	2
Total	24

¹ One respondent who lives in North Salinas also attends Everett Alvarez High School.

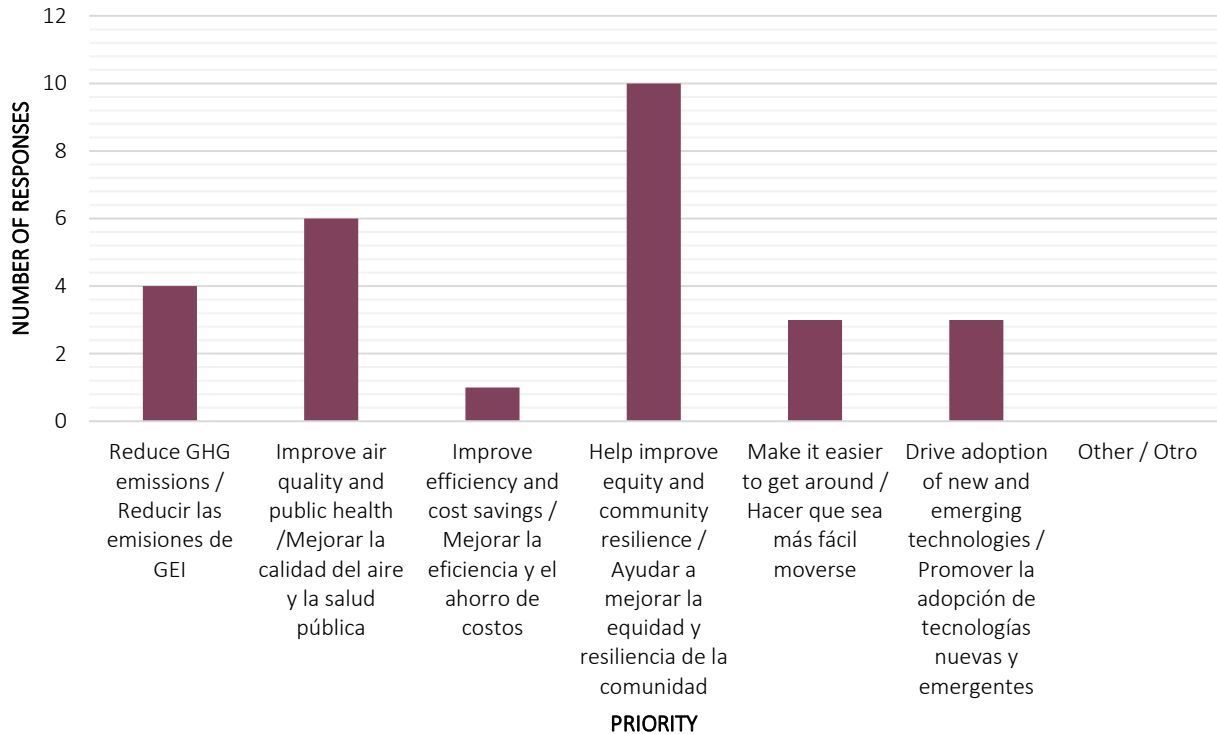
Spanish responses	Number of Responses
Centro	1
Este de Salinas	3
Este de Salinas, Downtown, North Salinas	1
Total	5

**SALINAS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY
ATTACHMENT 1: MENTIMETER RESULTS**

Question 2: What are your highest priorities for the Salinas CAP? / ¿Cuáles son sus principales prioridades para el CAP de Salinas?

Total responses: 27

Figure 1. What are your highest priorities for the Salinas CAP? / ¿Cuáles son sus principales prioridades para el CAP de Salinas?



**SALINAS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY
ATTACHMENT 1: MENTIMETER RESULTS**

Question 3: What have you done at your home, business, or school to reduce GHG emissions? / ¿Qué ha hecho en su hogar, negocio, o escuela para reducir las emisiones de GEI?

Total Responses: 15 (English only)

- » LandWatch works to move policy makers and elected officials to adopt GHG reduction policies and housing/transportation policies that reduce VMT for individuals across the county.
- » Added Solar panels at home and have a fuel-efficient car
- » Fuel efficient car
- » We have mitigation and monitoring measures in place
- » Walk more
- » I work from home
- » Hybrid car
- » solar panels
- » I ride my bike to school.
- » Tankless water heater, full efficient car
- » Educating myself further on the topic
- » Walk when I can, learn more about climate change.
- » Eating less meat and encouraging less meat consumption throughout the community.
- » Walk/use public transportation to commute to school and work.
- » No

Question 4: What hazards in Salinas most concern you and why? / ¿Qué peligros en Salinas le preocupan más y porqué?

Total Responses: 9 (8 in English, 1 in Spanish)

English responses	Number of Responses
Long commutes to/from the peninsula, food deserts, segregated communities, inequitable access to public resources	1
Wildfires nearby impacted air quality, especially fieldworkers.	1
Agriculture already feeling it.	1
The fields and air quality because we are an agricultural community as we know, so can it affect our public health and air quality	1
Air quality from wildfires and energy disruption	1
Cracked roads and sidewalks because it poses a susceptibility of injury to pedestrians	1
Lack of adequate public transportation, Pesticides, ground water contamination, drought.	1
Pesticides, water, community preparedness for natural disasters	1
Total	8

Spanish responses	Number of Responses
Pesticidas, falta de transporte público para usar menos el carro privado Pesticides, lack of public transport to use the private car less	1
Total	1

**CITY OF SALINAS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY
ATTACHMENT 2: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES**

Attachment 2 – Small Group Discussion Notes

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Small group facilitators asked participants an introductory question, answered project-related questions, and discussed various topics regarding climate change in the community. A summary of the discussion is provided below.

Do you have any reactions, questions, or comments about the presentation or CAP?

- » Surprised that transportation has the largest percentage of GHG emissions
 - » Where is the scope of emissions?
 - » Did not consider agriculture in the data because it is outside city limits
 - » More exposed to agriculture within the city/Data for agriculture is low
 - » What is the use of recycled water? Plan?
 - » Would like to see what percent increase of open spaces and parks reduce GHG and what increments would improve it
 - » Animal agriculture - not a problem here in Salinas?
 - » Hazards and disasters - how to address them?
 - » Have you promoted green roofs to reduce GHGs?
 - » Interested in seeing how built environment contribute to GHGs (goods and services and source of materials)
 - » Having a map overlaying [CalEnviroScreen] scores would be interesting to see
 - » Have you promoted green roofs to reduce GHGs?
 - » GHG emissions affect multiple sectors and GHG reduction strategies should be woven into policies, zoning codes, and enforcement
- The current future growth area plan did not include GHG reduction strategies in mind for the future impacts.

What have you been doing at your home or business to reduce GHG emissions or improve climate resilience?

- » Implement recycling in households
- » Minimize car usage/ carpooling to reduce emissions
- » Care for existing greenery/trees
- » Clean up parks whenever you can
- » Create awareness for greenhouse emission
- » Reduce plastic water bottle usage
- » Have a monthly clean-up of neighborhood/Create volunteer groups

What are the barriers to reducing GHG emissions or improving climate resilience in Salinas?

- » Existence of natural gas (in buildings)
- » Cost
- » Dense housing, getting charging stations at apartments
- » Lack of education, personal resistance
- » Is it a matter of funding when talking about renewable energy for programs? Money/funding is the issue on the path to move to renewable energy. More funding (grants) to help individuals

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VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY
ATTACHMENT 2: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

- » Need grants for electrical vehicles
- » Economics is a big challenge - 60 percent of Salinas population live below the poverty level
- » Public Transportation, don't have adequate public transportation, commuting for work
- » Lack of affordable housing requires people to commute longer

What would you like to see Salinas do to reduce GHG emissions?

- » More places to charge vehicles
- » More walkable spaces/pedestrian/bike safety
- » More crosswalks on Alisal
- » Increase public transportation/ efficient
- » Creating proper storage for the energy that will be needed/battery storage
- » Conversion from gas to electric
- » More education regarding recycling for the whole city.
- » Create safer bike lanes
- » Have more public transportation in the city
- » Limit trips to stores
- » Widen school bus routes to accommodate students that live closer
- » Have carpool for packaging companies' employees
- » City of Salinas program to help Salinas residents cost competitive to buy electric vehicle
- » Creating more green spaces
- » Have the City promote e-bike rebate programs as well as fuel efficient vehicle rebate program
- » Set programs to help individual or companies to move into renewable energy, no programs in the local level

What are the biggest natural hazard issues in Salinas?

- » Drought
- » Sea Water intrusion
- » Some natural hazards aren't as visible here - heat waves not as intense as central valley (though we are not built for them), can't see sea water intrusion, not as vulnerable to fire directly
- » Areas of concern in the Salinas area pesticides drift is a major issue in school, farm/ag fields in the middle of the city; industrial area lots of Semi trucks, recent fire with ammonia concerns.
- » Water quality and salt-water intrusion, working with the County and Agriculture to help in this area
- » Local fires a few years ago that affected the air quality in the area.
- » Improving Public Health and Safety alerts when shelter in place was put in order because of the fires
- » Field workers were still working [during wildfires]
- » Fields are sprayed with pesticides near schools