



C. Environment Component

The Tulare County General Plan provides guidance for the protection of natural and cultural resources and the protection of the health and safety of County residents with an emphasis on enhancing scenic landscapes, reducing pollutants, minimizing the threats of man-made and natural hazards, and maintaining adequate water supplies.

Environmental Concepts

Concept 1: Scenic Landscapes

The scenic landscapes in Tulare County will continue to be one of the County's most visible assets. The Tulare County General Plan emphasizes the enhancement and preservation of these resources as critical to the future of the County. The County will continue to assess the recreational, tourism, quality of life, and economic benefits that scenic landscapes provide and implement programs that preserve and use this resource to the fullest extent.

Concept 2: Environmental Resources Management

As Tulare County develops its communities and hamlets, the County will ensure that development occurs in a manner that limits impacts to natural and cultural resources through proper site planning and design techniques. Development will be avoided in naturally and culturally sensitive areas wherever possible.

Concept 3: Air Quality

The air of Tulare County and its surrounding region will be incrementally cleaner as the implementation of improved transportation, agriculture, and industrial practices reduce pollutants.

Concept 4: Health and Safety

The provision of a responsive public health and safety system is critical to the County's future and the welfare of its residents. Development in unstable or hazard-prone areas (e.g., flood plains, slopes, etc.) will be limited to low-intensity uses. Police and fire services throughout the County will be expanded to serve growing communities, while noise sensitive land uses will be sited to avoid major noise generators, such as railroads, roadways, airports, and industrialized portions of the County.

Concept 5: Water

The long-term strategy for water in Tulare County centers on protecting and conserving existing water supplies and identifying new sources of water. As Tulare County continues to grow, new methods for conserving, treating, and supplying water will enable County residents and farmers to continue to have an adequate supply of quality water that limits long-term impacts on groundwater.

Guideline Principles

Scenic Landscapes

Principle 1: Scenic Resources

Protect the beauty of the County [*New Principle*] [*Board of Supervisors, November 2005*].

Principle 2: Reinvestment

Promote reinvestment in existing communities in a way that enhances livability and image *[New Principle]*.

Principle 3: Urban and Rural Interface

Encourage design and site planning of development adjacent to scenic landscapes that reflect the unique relationship between communities and rural lands *[New Principle]*.

Principle 4: Rural Landscape Separators

Plan and design communities to maintain rural landscapes as visual and physical separators *[New Principle]*.

Principle 5: New Town Impacts

Ensure that new towns or communities are planned and designed to limit their impact on scenic working and natural landscapes *[New Principle]*.

Environmental Resources Management**Principle 1: Natural Resources**

Provide for the appropriate utilization of natural resources in the County *[New Principle]* *[Board of Supervisors, November 2005]*.

Principle 2: Reduce Impacts

Design and plan new development to reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources *[New Principle]*.

Principle 3: Cultural Resources

Continue identifying significant cultural resources to ensure the preservation and maintenance of the heritage of Tulare County *[New Principle]*.

Principle 4: Natural Lands

Support the continued preservation of natural lands *[New Principle]*.

Air Quality**Principle 1: Air Quality**

Pursue economic, land use, and transportation programs that improve air quality in the County *[New Principle]* *[Board of Supervisors, November 2005]*.

Principle 2: Reduce Pollution

Encourage reduction in air polluting activities including industrial, agricultural, and transportation practices that contribute to poor air quality *[New Principle]*.

Principle 3: Alternative Transportation Modes

Promote land use patterns that support alternative modes of transportation to reduce vehicle emissions and maintain air quality *[New Principle]*.

Health and Safety**Principle 1: Noise Protection**

Locate noise-generating uses in areas with compatible surrounding uses *[New Principle]*.

Principle 2: Critical Facilities

Locate critical facilities in areas with minimal hazards and design facilities to withstand potentially hazardous events *[New Principle]*.

Principle 3: Public Safety

Maintain an adequate public safety and emergency response system throughout the County *[New Principle]*.

Principle 4: Health, Safety, and Welfare

Protect the health, safety, and welfare of County residents *[New Principle]*.

Water

Principle 1: Protection

Protect the supply and quality of urban, agricultural, and environmental water serving the County *[New Principle]* *[Board of Supervisors, November 2005]*.

Principle 2: New Sources

Identify and encourage the development of new sources for water that do not deplete or negatively impact groundwater *[New Principle]*.

Principle 3: Recharge

Identify and encourage the development of locations where water recharge systems can be developed to replenish water supplies *[New Principle]*.

Principle 4: Adequate Supply

Plan delivery systems to ensure adequate water is available to meet demand *[New Principle]*.

Principle 5: Conservation

Encourage efficient use, conservation, and reuse of water *[New Principle]*.

Animal Confinement Facilities Plan (ACFP) Phase I

[Not included in this document, previously adopted.]

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