



## Community Workshop: Planning Issues and Assets

### GOSHEN PLANNING COMMITTEE AND VISALIA EDC

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Goshen Planning Committee  
November 18, 2003

Visalia Economic Development Corporation  
November 19, 2003

On November 18, 2003 and 19<sup>th</sup>, forty-one people from the Goshen Planning Committee, and the Visalia Economic Development Corporation in Tulare County attended planning workshops to participate in updating Tulare County's General Plan. The workshops provided an opportunity for attendees to assist in identifying overall planning issues and assets that should be focused on during the General Plan update.

For this exercise, attendees participated as individuals. Each person identified top issues facing the County today and what they thought would be leading issues in the year 2025. In addition, they pondered what assets the County could enhance, protect, and build upon. The issues were recorded by each person on file (queue) cards. They also identified their favorite scenic places in the County.

The following tables summarize each individual's responses. To prepare the tables, each response identified by participants was recorded verbatim from the queue cards. Next, the issues were sorted according to categories, shown as headings in ***bold italics***. After reviewing all of the issues, those that are very similar to one another were grouped together using a forward slash ( / ) to identify the various ways to express the same idea. The number of times that each issue was noted by participants was then tallied. In the tables showing current issues and issues in 2025, the issues are sorted first by the tally of the top three rank, and then by the tally not in the top three rank. Top ranked issues within each general category are shown in italics. Tables showing assets and favorite places are ordered according to the number of times each issue was mentioned by participants.

These results convey the relative importance of issues to participants, but this approach is not a science. The result, the Preliminary Issues Report, will summarize similar data from hundreds of participants Countywide.

## Question 1.

### What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

Issues Identified	Number of times listed in top three rank	Number of times listed not in top three rank
<b>Social and Law Enforcement Issues</b>		
<i>Poverty / lack of money / rising cost of living / high welfare roll</i>	5	9
<i>Teen pregnancy</i>	2	6
<i>Street gangs &amp; violence</i>	2	4
<i>Law enforcement / police enforcement / law enforcement funding / public safety</i>	2	4
<i>Drugs</i>	1	3
<i>Youth issues / social issues</i>	2	
<i>Self image</i>	1	1
<i>Crime in general</i>	1	
<i>Protection of agricultural population</i>	1	
<i>More services needed / social services management</i>	1	1
<i>Cultural equity</i>		1
<i>Morals</i>		1
<i>Day care / child health</i>		2
<i>Services for women</i>		1
<i>Stray dogs</i>		1
<b>Issues Relating to Economic Development and Jobs</b>		
<i>Jobs / unemployment / better jobs / wages</i>	17	5
<i>Economic development / job growth &amp; creation / need to attract business / small business development / business growth</i>	9	4
<i>Workers Compensation / Business Insurance</i>	1	2
<i>Slow, cumbersome permitting process</i>	1	
<i>Development in general</i>	1	
<i>Economic diversification</i>		1
<b>Issues Relating to Air and Water</b>		
<i>Air pollution / quality</i>	15	5
<i>Environmental concerns – air &amp; water pollution general</i>	3	2
<i>Pollution in general</i>	3	1
<i>Water availability / supply</i>	1	2
<i>Water quality / pollution</i>	1	2
<i>Water in general</i>	1	1
<b>Issues Related to Growth and Managing Growth</b>		
<i>Population growth and management / planned growth</i>	3	3
<i>Accommodating growing population / urban expansion / rapid urbanization</i>	2	2
<i>Growth in general</i>	2	2
<i>Infrastructure to support growth</i>	2	2
<i>Land use in general</i>	1	4
<i>Potential weakening of Rural Valley Lands Plan</i>	1	
<i>Overpopulation</i>	1	
<i>Clearer definition of urban / agricultural interface</i>	1	
<i>Conflicts between local governments related to growth issues</i>		1
<i>Protecting incorporated areas ability to grow</i>		1
<i>Natural resource protection</i>		1

<b>Issues Relating to Education</b>		
<i>Education at all levels / awareness / educational attainment</i>	7	7
Classroom size / bigger and more schools needed	1	2
<i>Need for a four year facility</i>		8
Schools in general		3
School budget		2
Leadership development		1
<b>Issues Relating to Finances</b>		
<i>Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government finance / need for improved funding of government operation</i>	7	1
Funds for improving schools and hospitals	1	
Need for more State support / State budgets		2
Tax base as revenue		1
<b>Housing Issues</b>		
<i>Lack of affordable housing / housing in general</i>	4	6
Homeless youth and families		1
<b>Issues Related to Agriculture</b>		
<i>Loss of agricultural land / agriculture preservation &amp; protection / agricultural survival</i>	4	3
Development on Class 1 agricultural lands	1	
Agriculture in general		2
Less reliance on agriculture for jobs		1
<b>Issues Relating to Transportation</b>		
<i>Transportation in general</i>	2	
<i>County streets and roads / street maintenance</i>	1	9
<i>Airports / cost of travel</i>	1	2
Traffic flow / circulation		2
Need for mass transportation		1
<b>Issues Relating to Health Care</b>		
Medical clinics	1	
Health care general		4
Medical care / adequate / available		2
Lack of competition in hospital care		1
Not enough physicians and specialists		1
<b>Issues Relating to Land Uses</b>		
Big Super Market needed (Goshen)	1	
Shopping	1	
More stores, including a big food store		2
<b>Issues Relating to Recreation</b>		
Recreational opportunities		2
Youth athletics		1

## Question 2.

### What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

Issues Identified	Number of times listed in top three rank	Number of times listed not in top three rank
<b><i>Social and Law Enforcement Issues</i></b>		
<i>Poverty / lack of money / rising cost of living</i>	4	3
Crime in general	2	1
Street gangs & violence	1	4
Law enforcement / public safety	1	4
Drugs	1	
Food	1	
Teen pregnancy		1
Social issues general		1
Stray dogs		1
Homicide		1
Ethnicity		1
<b><i>Issues Relating to Economic Development and Jobs</i></b>		
<i>Jobs / unemployment / better jobs</i>	8	3
<i>Economic development / job growth &amp; creation / need to attract business / small business development / business growth / diversification</i>	7	4
Technological development	1	
Workers Compensation / Business Insurance		1
Building tourism base		1
Agricultural / industrial link		1
<b><i>Issues Relating to Air and Water</i></b>		
<i>Air pollution / quality</i>	11	4
<i>Environmental concerns – air &amp; water pollution general</i>	4	3
Pollution in general	3	1
Water availability / supply	2	1
Water in general	2	
Water wars	1	
Water quality / pollution		3
<b><i>Issues Relating to Education</i></b>		
<i>Education at all levels / awareness / educational attainment</i>	3	6
Need for a four year facility		3
Schools in general		2
<b><i>Issues Related to Growth and Managing Growth</i></b>		
<i>Population growth and management / planned growth</i>	5	2
<i>Overpopulation / overcrowding / population control</i>	5	2
Infrastructure to support growth	3	2
Growth in general	2	1
Accommodating growing population	2	
Environmental / natural resource protection and use	1	3
Maintenance of planning boundaries around cities and unincorporated communities / transition from rural to urban	1	1
Protecting incorporated areas ability to grow	1	

Balancing needs of incorporated and unincorporated areas	1	
Land use in general		2
Communications with cities		1
Regional planning issues		1
Urban growth from Fresno		1
<b>Issues Relating to Finances</b>		
<i>Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government finance</i>	4	4
Funds for improving schools and hospitals	1	1
Need for more State support		1
Tax base as revenue		1
Personal taxes		1
<b>Housing Issues</b>		
<i>Lack of affordable housing</i>	4	3
Housing in general	2	3
Homeless youth and families / housing shortage		2
<b>Issues Related to Agriculture</b>		
<i>Loss of agricultural land / agriculture preservation &amp; protection / agricultural survival</i>	5	3
Agriculture in general		2
<b>Issues Relating to Transportation</b>		
<i>Transportation in general</i>	3	4
Traffic flow / circulation	2	2
County streets and roads	2	1
Freeways	1	
Need for mass / public transportation		3
High speed rail		1
<b>Issues Relating to Health Care</b>		
Health care general	1	2
Medical care / adequate / available	1	1
<b>Issues Relating to Land Uses</b>		
Upgrade street lights for safety	1	
Shopping		1
<b>Issues Relating to Recreation</b>		
Youth athletics		1

**Question 3.**  
**What are Tulare County's top three assets?**

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<b>Asset Identified</b>	<b>Number of times listed</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	
<i>Number 1 farming County in the US / quality land for agriculture/ dairies</i>	29
<b>Location</b>	
<i>Location - in the Central Valley / in the middle of the State / close to the mountains and the coast / from north and south California</i>	22
<b>People, Community and Governance</b>	
<i>People / many people of good character / youth / families</i>	9
<i>Diversity / increasing cultural diversity</i>	6
Community values / strong sense of community	4
Entrepreneurs / less government	3
Talent / perseverance / resiliency	3
Good local government / conservative local government	2
Sound leadership / community leadership / leaders	2
Vision for the future	1
Ability to see mistakes made by other regions	1
Public participation	1
Good city planning	1
Strong work ethic	1
<b>Natural Resources</b>	
<i>Recreation and scenic areas – the landscape including mountains (Sierras) and lakes, valley floor, big trees, National parks and forest</i>	14
<i>Available water</i>	6
Resources	2
Natural resources	1
Open space	1
Good climate	1
Abundant gravel	1
<b>Economic Opportunity</b>	
<i>Available non-union workforce / affordable labor / large work force</i>	8
Pro business climate / good business base	4
Tourism	2
Economy	2
Highway access	1
Utilities	1
Economically sound	1

<b>Character / Quality of Life</b>	
Available / inexpensive land	3
Lower / affordable cost of living	3
Quality education and school system / COS / dedication to education	3
Rich history	2
Small towns	1
Rural character	1
Middle America life style	1
Safe	1
Quality of life	1
Affordable housing	1
<b>Growth</b>	
<i>There is room for a growing population / land for expansion / abundant / affordable land</i>	9
Cohesiveness	1
Control of growth	1

**Question 4.**  
**What is your Favorite Spot in the County?**

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<i>Sequoia or Kings Canyon National Parks (including Moro Rock, view of Great Western Divide,</i>	11
<i>Sierra Nevada mountains (including Ponderosa, Quaking Aspen,</i>	8
<i>Three Rivers (including the golf course</i>	6
Foothills	5
Visalia (including downtown,	3
Kaweah River	3
Pumphouse	3
Mineral King	3
Home (including the backyard,	2
Mooney Grove Park	1
Lake Kaweah	1
Open farm land	1
Doyle Springs	1