



January 17, 2004
Springville Memorial Hall
35944 Hwy. 190, Springville, CA



On January 17, 2004, thirty-five people from Tulare County attended a planning workshop to participate in updating Tulare County's General Plan. Held at the Springville Memorial Hall, the workshop provided an opportunity for attendees to assist in identifying overall planning issues and assets that should be focused on during the General Plan update.

Participants worked as members of six planning teams. Each team identified top issues facing the County today and what they thought would be leading issues in the year 2025. In addition, they discussed what assets the County could enhance, protect, and build upon. Once they listed these, the teams mapped issues and assets within the County. They also identified their favorite scenic places in the County.

Following the group discussions, the planning teams shared their efforts and observations with the entire group. The following pages summarize each planning team's issues and assets lists and maps. For each of the questions, the team's top three items (as selected by the team members) are highlighted in bold type.

Team 1



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Population influx resulting in loss of prime agricultural land**
- **Water and air quality**
- **Increased taxation and increased regulation on industry**
- Unemployment
- Communication with County government
- Loss of industry and business

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **LA Syndrome and an overload of population – we will become like Orange County if we lose agricultural production**
- **Water and air quality issues (shortage and quality) will increase**
- **Increased regulations are runaway without increased service**
- Cost of living increase

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Agriculture**
- **Quality of life**
- **National Parks**
- Entrepreneurs and other people
- Work ethic
- Historical significance

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Springville**
- **Lake Kaweah**
- **Three Rivers and the Kaweah River**

Team 2



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Efficient use of water**
- **Air pollution from other places as well as from the County, that affect the County**
- **Where the population is located (Smart Growth)**
- Unemployment
- Economic development
- Agricultural viability
- Higher education
- Language and cultural barriers
- Financing for infrastructure
- Business attraction
- Workforce drug use and education
- Road maintenance
- Perception that Tulare County is a 3rd world country
- Preservation of scenic values
- Preservation of the resource base
- Integration with federal lands into a regional economy (tourist based)

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Population growth**
- **Water availability**
- **Job market declining with businesses pulling out**
- Language and cultural barriers
- Air pollution
- Agricultural viability
- Health care
- Road maintenance
- Road capacity (grid lock)
- Living with too many environmental regulations
- Destruction of natural resources

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Scenic beauty, open space and undeveloped land**
- **Agriculture**
- **Water**
- Recreation
- Low cost land and labor
- Forests
- Rural communities
- Diversity of culture
- Schools
- Family history

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Springville**
- **Sierra Nevada mountains**

Team 3



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Water**
- **Low tax base, unemployment & welfare**
- **Waste, including sewage, refuse, etc.**
- No certainty in housing availability
- Local control for rural areas
- Overpopulation
- Bad roads
- Rules not enforced

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

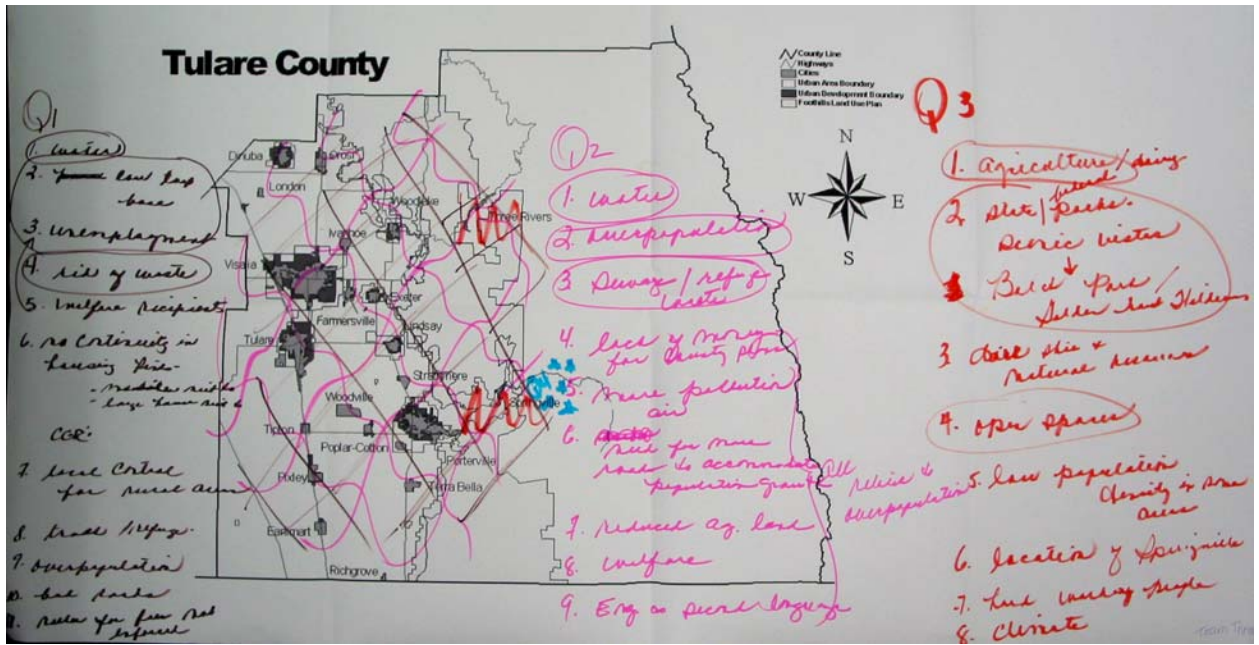
- **Water – we cannot create more water**
- **Overpopulation taking away from agricultural land**
- **Waste, sewage, refuse, etc.**
- Lack of money for County plans
- More air pollution
- Need for more roads to accommodate population growth
- Reduced agricultural land due to population growth
- Welfare
- English as a second language

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

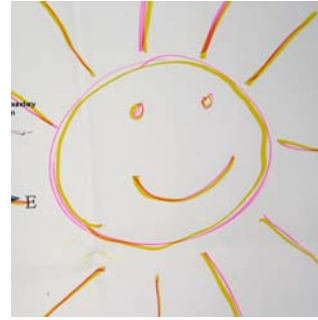
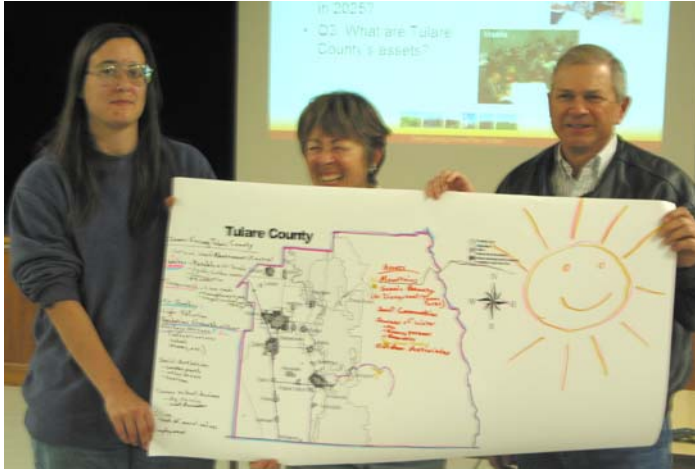
- **Agriculture, including dairy industry**
- **Natural resources, including State parks, wilderness areas, Balch Park**
- **Open spaces**
- Dark skies and natural resources
- Low population density in some areas
- Location of Springville
- Hardworking people
- Climate

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Springville**



Team 4



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Water – potable and not potable from aquifers and surface water, including contamination and gray water**
- **Population growth without infrastructure, schools and other ancillary services to support growth**
- **Transportation (Hwys. 190, 65, 99 are congested)**
- Noxious weed abatement control program – star thistles are on the loose
- Light pollution
- Threats to local business including agricultural and small business
- Crime and a lack of moral values
- Employment

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

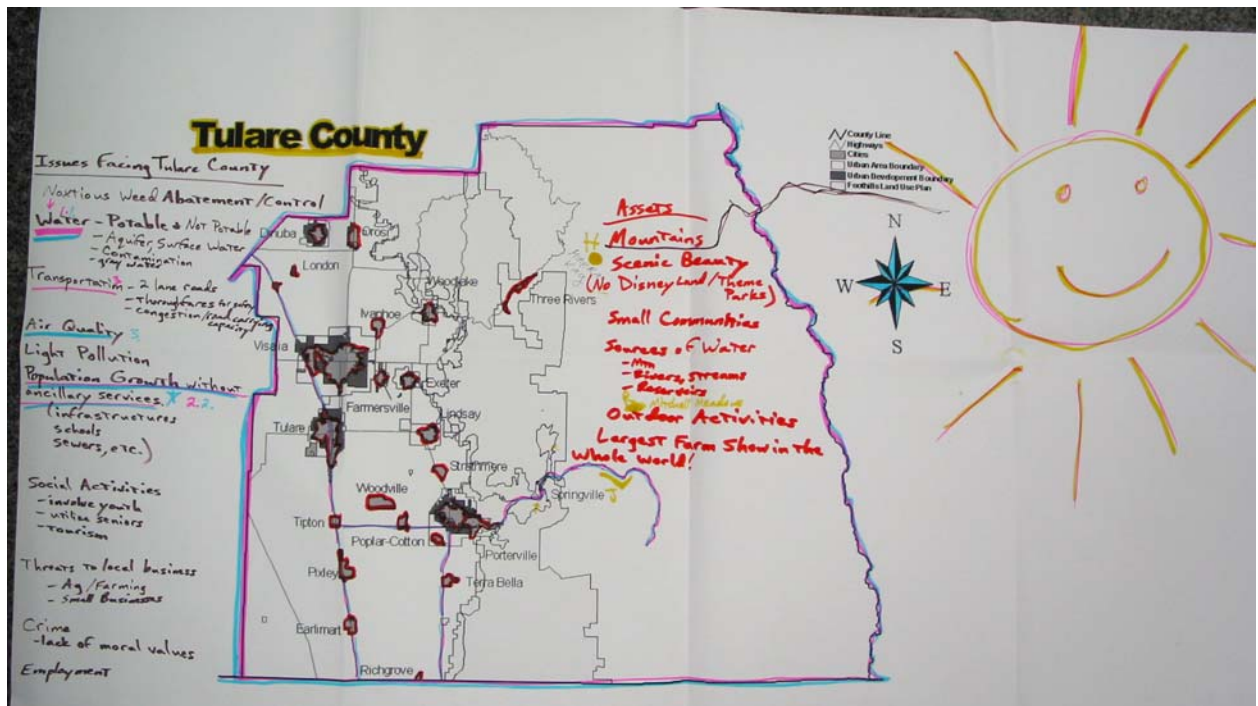
- **Water**
- **Population growth without infrastructure**
- **Air quality**

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

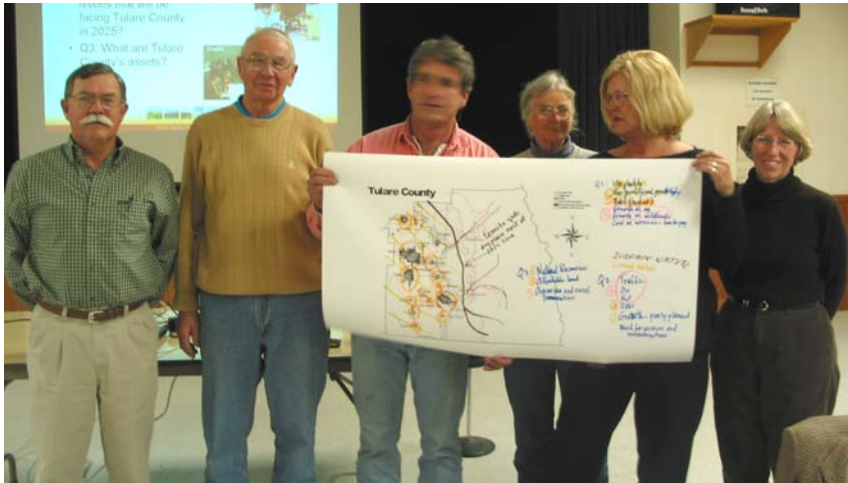
- **Mountains**
- **Mitchell Meadows**
- Scenic beauty (no Disney land theme parks)
- Small communities
- Sources of water including mountains, rivers, streams and reservoirs
- Outdoor activities
- Largest farm show in the world!!

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Mountains**
- **Mitchell Meadows**
- **Springville**



Team 5



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Water quality and quantity**
- **Growth impacting agriculture and wildlands**
- **Lack of jobs**
- Air quality
- Cost of services – how do we pay for them?

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

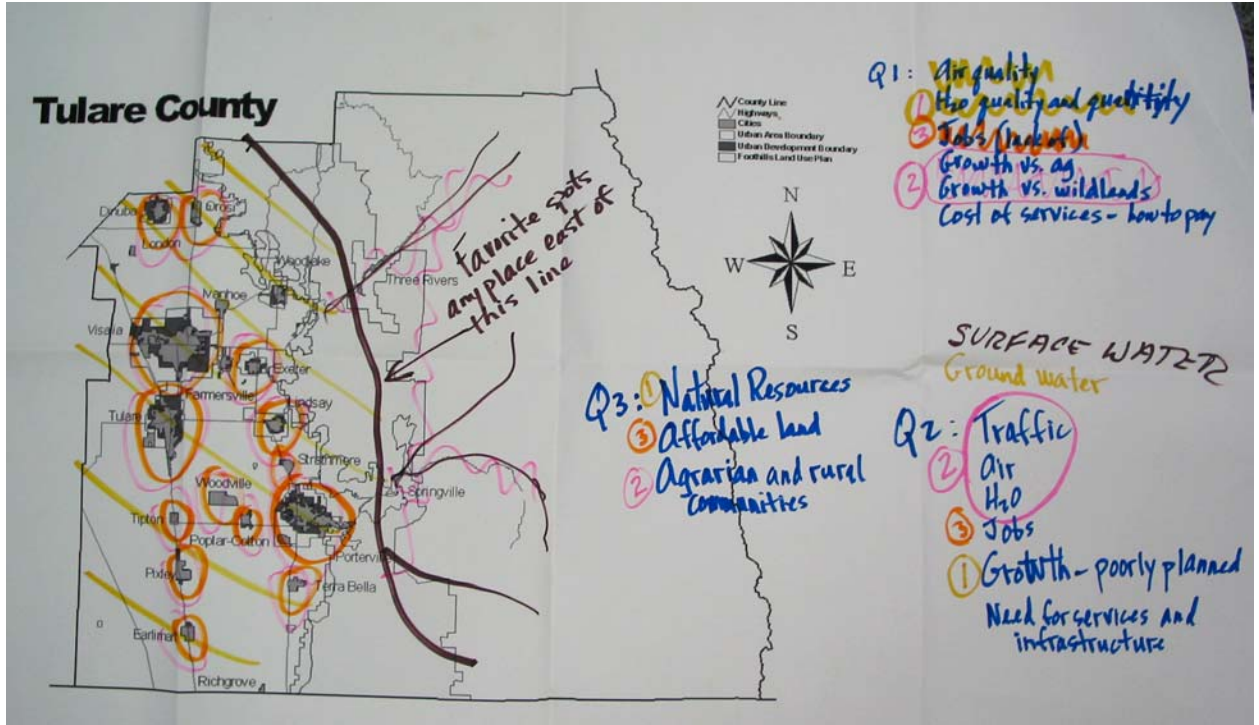
- **Traffic, air & water**
- **Growth, if poorly planned**
- **Jobs**
- Need for services and infrastructure

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Natural resources - open space, mountains and agricultural land**
- **Agrarian and natural nature of our communities**
- **Affordable land – Tulare County is an anomaly in the entire state**

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Any place from the foothills east**



Team 6



Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?

- **Water**
- **Employment**
- **Transportation (all roads and highways)**
- Historic preservation
- Foothills growth
- Loss of agricultural land
- Economic diversity
- Money and assets
- Scenic beauty preservation

Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Pollution, including unclean air and landfills**
- **Water**
- **Overpopulation, especially in Three Rivers, Lindsay, Porterville and Tulare**
- Transportation (roads and highways)
- Higher education
- Tourism
- Agricultural diversity
- Historic preservation
- Economic diversity
- Money and assets
- Scenic preservation

Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Agriculture**
- **Scenic beauty of the foothills and Sierra Nevada**
- **History of the area**

Bonus Question: What is Your Favorite Spot in the County?

- **Springville**
- **Three Rivers**

