



November 6, 2003
Visalia Convention Center, Charter Oak Ballroom
303 East Acequia Avenue, Visalia, CA

On November 6, 2003, over 60 people attended the first of five community workshops to participate in updating Tulare County's General Plan. Held at the Visalia Convention Center, 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 one of seven planning teams. Each team identified top issues facing the County today and what they thought would be leading issues in 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 and discussed which could be at risk. Following the group discussions, the planning teams shared their efforts and observations with the entire group. Below is a summary of top issues and assets from the teams' presentations.

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

- Air pollution
- Water availability and quality
- Urban growth and agricultural preservation
- Urban and rural interface
- Poverty

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

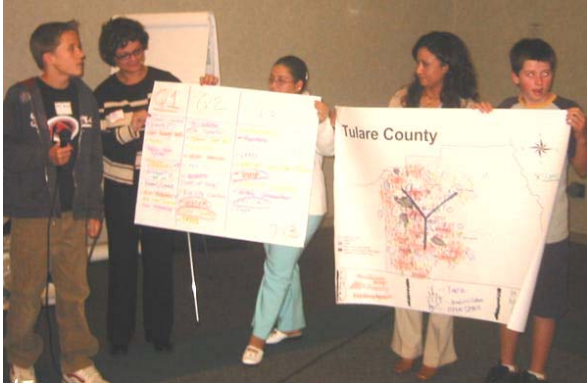
- Air pollution
- Growth
- Environmental quality
- Loss of agricultural land
- Economic development
- Infrastructure funding

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

- People
- Central California location
- Scenic landscapes
- Quality of life
- Agriculture and soils

The following pages summarize each planning team's issues and assets lists and maps.

Team Y (youth and youth advocate team)



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

- **Poverty**
- **Affordable housing**
- **Unemployment - more jobs**
- Schools crowded
- Not enough parks
- Roads
- Public transportation - 24 hours
- Gangs/crime
- Air pollution
- After school programs
- Teen pregnancy

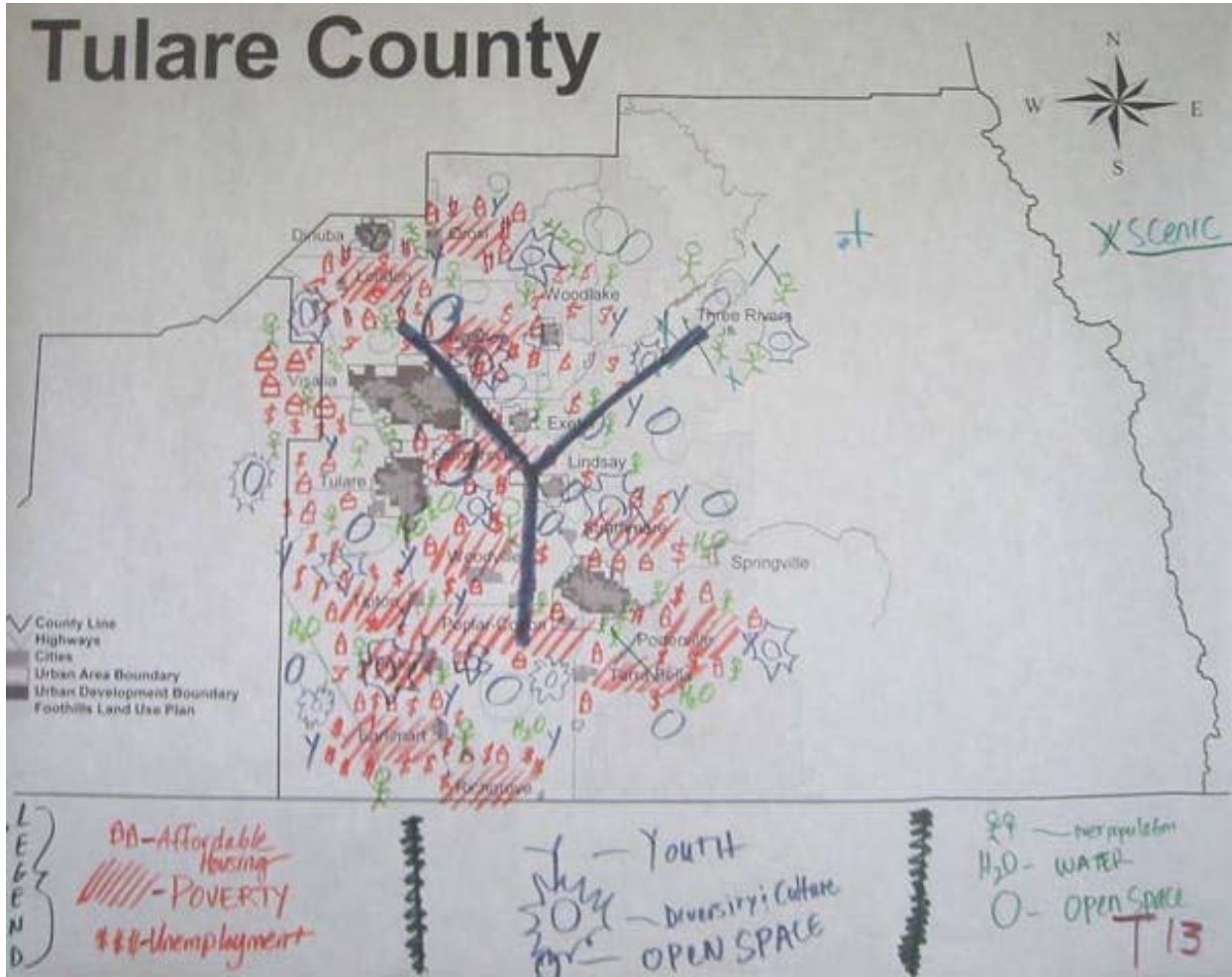
Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Over population**
- **Water**
- **Open space**
- Air pollution
- Balance land use
- Education
- More housing
- More jobs
- Poverty (cost of living)
- Big city problems
- Trees

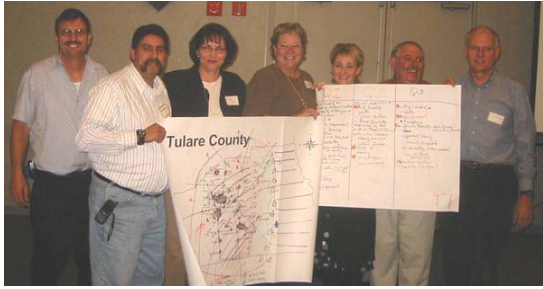
Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Youth**
- **Cultural diversity**
- **Open space**
- Entertainment
- Mountains
- People (small community atmosphere)
- Lakes
- Hwy 65 scenic view in spring
- Historic communities
- Crops

Tulare County



Team 1



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

- **Air quality**
- **Preservation of agricultural land & water**
- **Jobs**
- Urban/agriculture interface
- Circulation
- Affordable housing
- Alternative transportation
- Education - access to university/college
- Sustainable agriculture
- Land use consistency within County
- Lack of multi-family housing in some communities
- Waste water (how to get rid of)
- Crime/drugs
- Policy enforcement

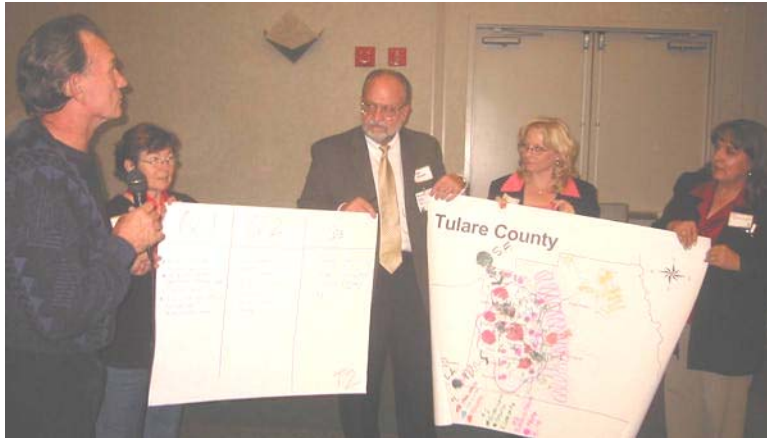
Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Air quality**
- **Jobs**
- **Infrastructure**
- Overpopulation
- Water
- Urbanization
- Road quality
- Growth of population
- Rich/poor people (differences)
- Farmland conservation
- Elderly services
- Alternative transportation
- Housing
- Low urban density

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

- **Agricultural land**
- **Soils**
- **Scenic beauty, open space, national parks & forests**
- Water
- People
- Affordable housing
- Community minded
- Ag industry (value added)
- Tulare Agri-Center, World Ag Expo
- Central location
- Diversity (cultures)

Team 2



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

- **Urban growth/agriculture**
- **Air quality & water**
- **Lack of 4 year education**
- Health care access
- Affordable housing/labor
- Transportation
- Pesticides, etc.
- Multi-cultural, ethnic

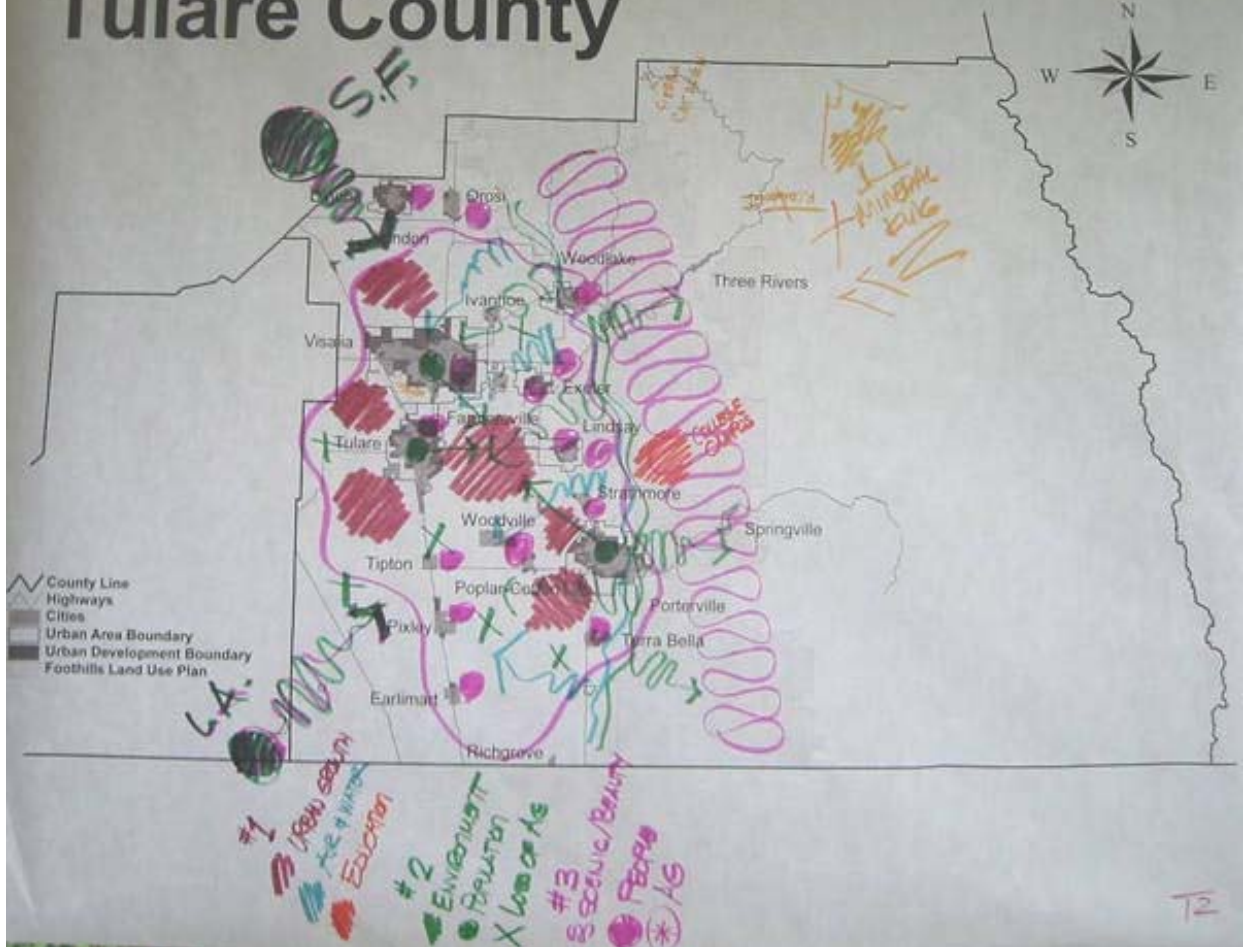
Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Environment**
- **Population**
- **Loss of agricultural land to housing**
- Transportation
- Growth
- Education
- Health care – access and cost

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

- **Scenic beauty, mountains, parks**
- **Agriculture**
- **Diversity of people (diversity)**
- Affordability (housing especially)

Tulare County



Team 3



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

- **Environment**
- **Growth**
- **Population**
- **Economic**
- **Public safety**
- Poverty/lack of education
- Lack of master planning
- Air quality
- Ag preservation
- Sprawl
- Lack of "Can Do" attitude
- Water
- Transportation
- Equal opportunities
- Public safety/Sheriff, Fire

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

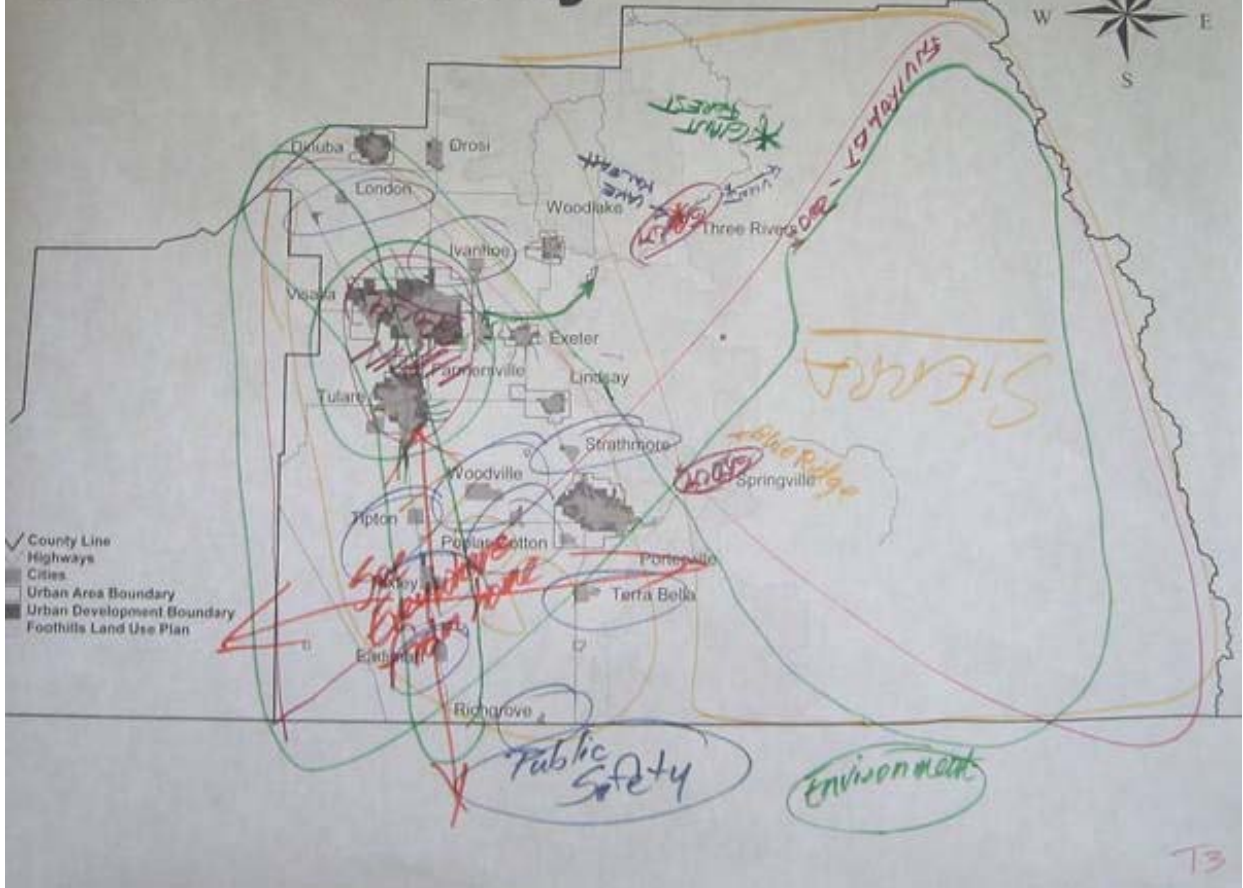
- **Population**
- **Economic development**
- **Environment**
- Air quality
- Transportation
- Water
- Farm/City issues
- Education
- Public safety/crime
- Agricultural preservation
- Affordable housing

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

- **Location**
- **People**
- **Quality of life**
- Sierra - mountains
- Agriculture/land rich
- Fertile
- Highway 99
- Railroad

Tulare County

QUALITY OF LIFE =
PER COUNTY (VA HHS)



Team 4



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

- **Water & air**
- **Urban & rural boundaries, protection of both**
- **Poverty/economic development**
- **Scenic resources**
- Water overdraft
- Air pollution & water pollution
- Balance between urban & rural development
- Poverty
- Protection of city growth boundaries
- Water & use of land
- Lack of signage guidelines along 198 etc.
- View of Sierras from the valley floor

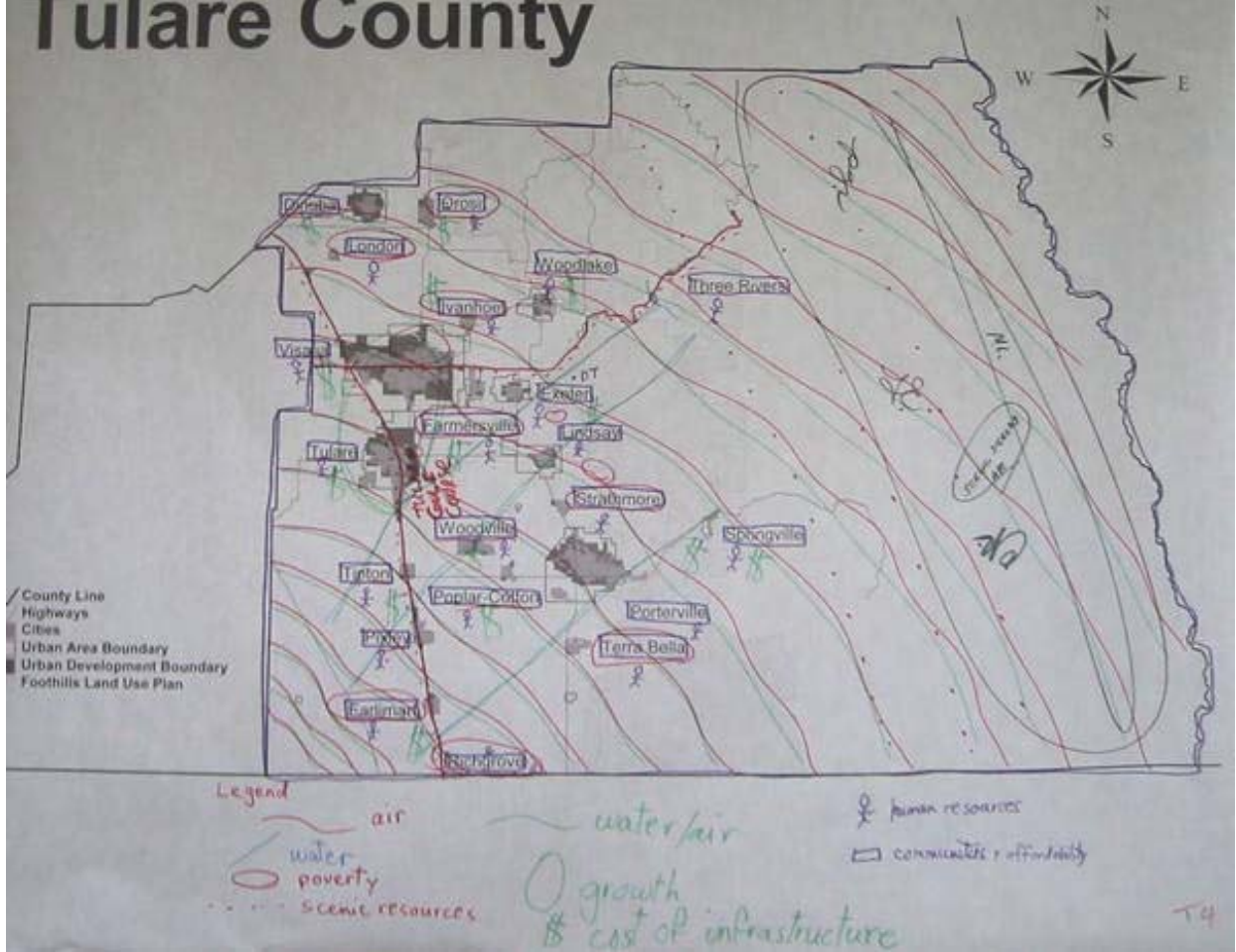
Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?

- **Water resources & air quality**
- **Dealing with growth**
- **Cost to support infrastructure**
- Water resources & air quality
- Higher density/urban sprawl & rural sprawl & encroachment
- Overpopulation
- Infrastructure
- Land use & water

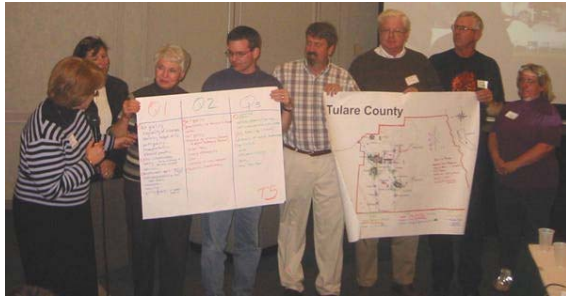
Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?

- **Central location with fertile soil and beautiful scenery**
- **Human resources and diversity**
- **Affordability & distinctly defined communities**
- Quality of life
- Cultural diversity
- Location in the State
- Affordability
- Habitat/natural beauty
- Agriculture
- Community identity

Tulare County



Team 5



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

- **Air quality**
- **Rural infrastructure**
- **Employment opportunities—quality vs. just any jobs**
- Inequality of incomes
- Operating budget of County
- Water quality
- Transportation
- Planned growth
- Zoning—review & change to be more current
- Education
- Methamphetamine & all side issues
- Recreation
- Recycling
- Quality/quantity of water supply

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

- **Air quality**
- **Population vs. farmland vs. transportation**
- **Economic diversification**
- Water
- Soil quality
- Flexible agricultural economy (be able to adjust to changing demands)
- Bullet train
- Housing affordability
- Jobs
- Influence of "urban refugees"

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

- **Centralized location**
- **Diversity of natural landscapes**
- **Big trees (Sequoias & Oaks)**
- **Agriculture**
- Cultural diversity/ heritage
- Self-contained economic base
- Water
- Affordable housing
- Youth
- "Small town feel"

Tulare County



Team 6



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

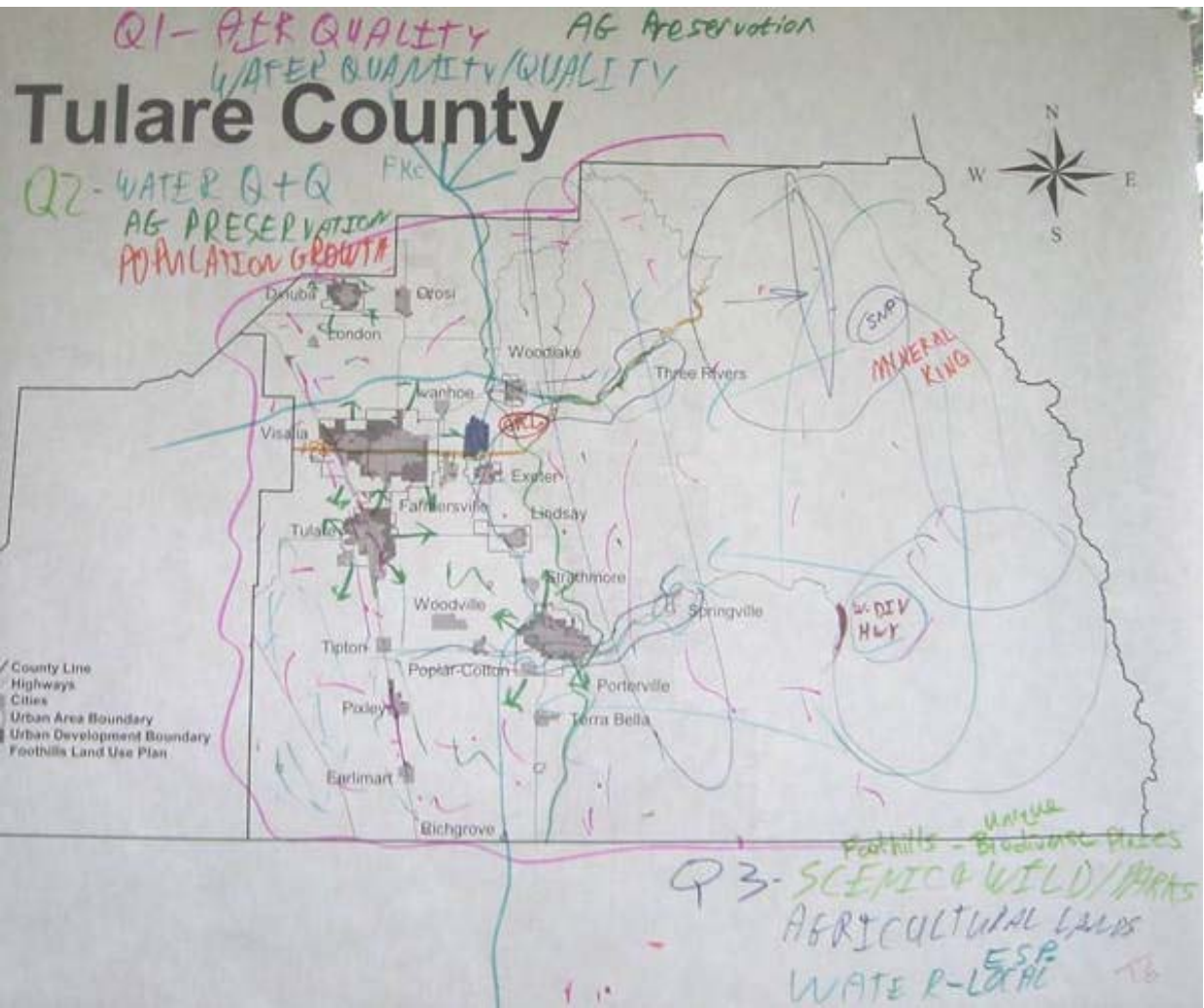
- **Air quality**
- **Agricultural preservation**
- **Water quantity & quality**
- Early childhood lack of quality programs
- Job creation
- Social/ economic justice
- Education
- Teen pregnancy
- Habitat preservation
- County roads
- Noise
- Urban sprawl
- Poverty
- Growth/ population
- Drugs/crime

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

- **Air quality**
- **Water supply**
- **Agricultural preservation**
- Adequate housing
- Traffic and transit
- Parks and recreation facilities
- Funding for transportation/ roads
- County & City revenue
- Lack of infrastructure
- Coordinate planning for public transit
- Funding for public education
- Economic development
- Biological diversity
- Growth population

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

- **National parks, National Forest**
- **Scenic and wild places**
- **Unique biological diversity, world renowned**
- **Agricultural lands**
- **Water supplies**
- Climate
- Our rural setting
- Small town sense of community, unique character/ structures
- Willing public servants
- Farm workers
- Tourism



Discussion Regarding Community Outreach and Participation

Following the planning team presentations, the entire group was asked to help improve on the public outreach program.

Community Participation Approach

- Hold a one-day workshop with Board of Supervisors, City Councils and Planning Commissions
- Talk to the Hispanic Chamber
- Opportunity to visit and share General Plan efforts at other community events and functions
- Reach out to the Southeast Asian community
- Include early childhood development community
- Provide information at libraries
- Set up a microphone at Farm Show to record stories about Tulare County
- Website
- State representatives

Who is Not Here That Should Be?

Group

Building Industry Association
Biologist (biodiversity instructor)
Visalia Youth Committee
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
CSET Junior Leadership Groups
Family Healthcare Network
Three Rivers CSD
Goshen Roundtable
City of Tulare
Sequoia Leadership
CMAC (Construction Association of California)
Friant Water Users Association
Connect-Cutler/Orosi
Early Childhood (young families and parents)
Environmental Organizations
 TCAS, CS, SRT, SVPC, CNPS, FCSC
Minority churches
Earlimart Schools and Community
Farmersville Kiwanis
City of Visalia
Tulare Sunrise Rotary
Tulare Ministerial Association
Salvation Army
Emergency Aid
Indian Reservations
Tulare County Farm Bureau
Service Clubs and Organizations
Cultural Understanding Committee
Delano Earlimart Irrigation District
Sequoia Regional Visitors Council
Tulare Kiwanis
Tulare Golf Course
League of Women Voters
Cutler-Orosi Vision Committee
Three Rivers Monthly Town Hall Meeting

Contact

(Note: Bob Keenan was in attendance for BIA)
Rob Hansen (COS Biology)
City of Visalia
Soapy Tompkins
Mary Alice Escarsega, Raquel Acuria, Lily Rivera
Harry Foster
Margie Ewen
Jennifer (@CSET)
Mark Kielty
Vicki Stasch
Dave Harrald

Carolyn Kehrli S. Sup
Mary Wright COS Child Development Center
Brian Newton

Pam Rovda
Paul Boyer
Steve Solomon
Eric White
Louis Sparks Tulare Four Square
Captain Scott
Luna De Silva

Dale Broger
Judi Kaiser, Forest Service
Bonnie Simones
Bob Clark
Dorothy Osak
Francisco Rivera
Three Rivers School