



March 22, 2004  
Orosi Memorial Hall  
41645 Road 128, Orosi, CA

On March 22, 2004, over 20 people attended a workshop in Orosi to explore policy choices for the future of Tulare County. Participants started the workshop with a review of planning issues and assets identified at previous General Plan workshops. The participants were then divided into “planning teams.” Working as members of these planning teams, participants developed concepts for Tulare County’s future to the year 2025. Their charge was to map out a future for the County that addressed the issues identified by the community at the previous workshops.



Each planning team used colored paper representing a variety of residential development, employment generating land uses (industrial and commercial), and public facilities. Their objectives were to accommodate the estimated 2025 population while balancing between preservation of farmland, rural and natural landscapes, housing, and new employment opportunities.

Each team had four assignments that addressed leading issues identified by participants at earlier workshops.

#### **Assignment 1: Preserving Natural and Working Landscapes**

Issue Identified by Public: Population growth and urban encroachment is impacting agriculture and natural landscapes.

Planning Team Assignment: The planning teams mapped development patterns and suggested overall connections and design framework for Tulare County in 2025.

### **Assignment 2: Economic Diversification**

Issue Identified by Public: Tulare County needs to create more higher paying, year-round employment opportunities.

Planning Team Assignment: The planning teams identified important economic development concepts and indicated on their maps the location of employment centers.

### **Assignment 3: Inclusive Future**

Issue Identified by Public: Poverty, poor housing, and lack of educational facilities for rural Tulare County residents can hold the County back.

Planning Team Assignment: The planning teams listed policies that would provide for a future that would advance all the people in the county.

### **Bonus Question:**

How can your team's ideas improve air quality and protect the agricultural, habitat and biological resources that are vital to the County's health, beauty and economy?

## **Workshop Highlights**

At the end of the workshop, each planning team presented their concepts to everyone at the workshop. There was consensus on some issues and different approaches used on others.

### Consensus Concepts and Ideas:

- Implement housing at higher densities, thereby requiring less agricultural land
- Jobs and education are considered social issues

### Variations:

- Growth should be focused in existing cities
- Growth should happen in both cities and in rural communities
- Employment and shopping should happen in rural communities
- The county should pay attention to the "road scape" experience
- Planning should be "community focused" rather than "landscape focused"



The following pages include written summaries and maps from each of the planning teams.

## Planning Team 1



### Where does urbanization happen?

- Infill should occur within the urban boundaries
- Develop south side of Highway 198 between Visalia and Exeter preserving Kaweah Oaks
- Develop area between Porterville and Lake Success

### How and where do we diversify our economy?

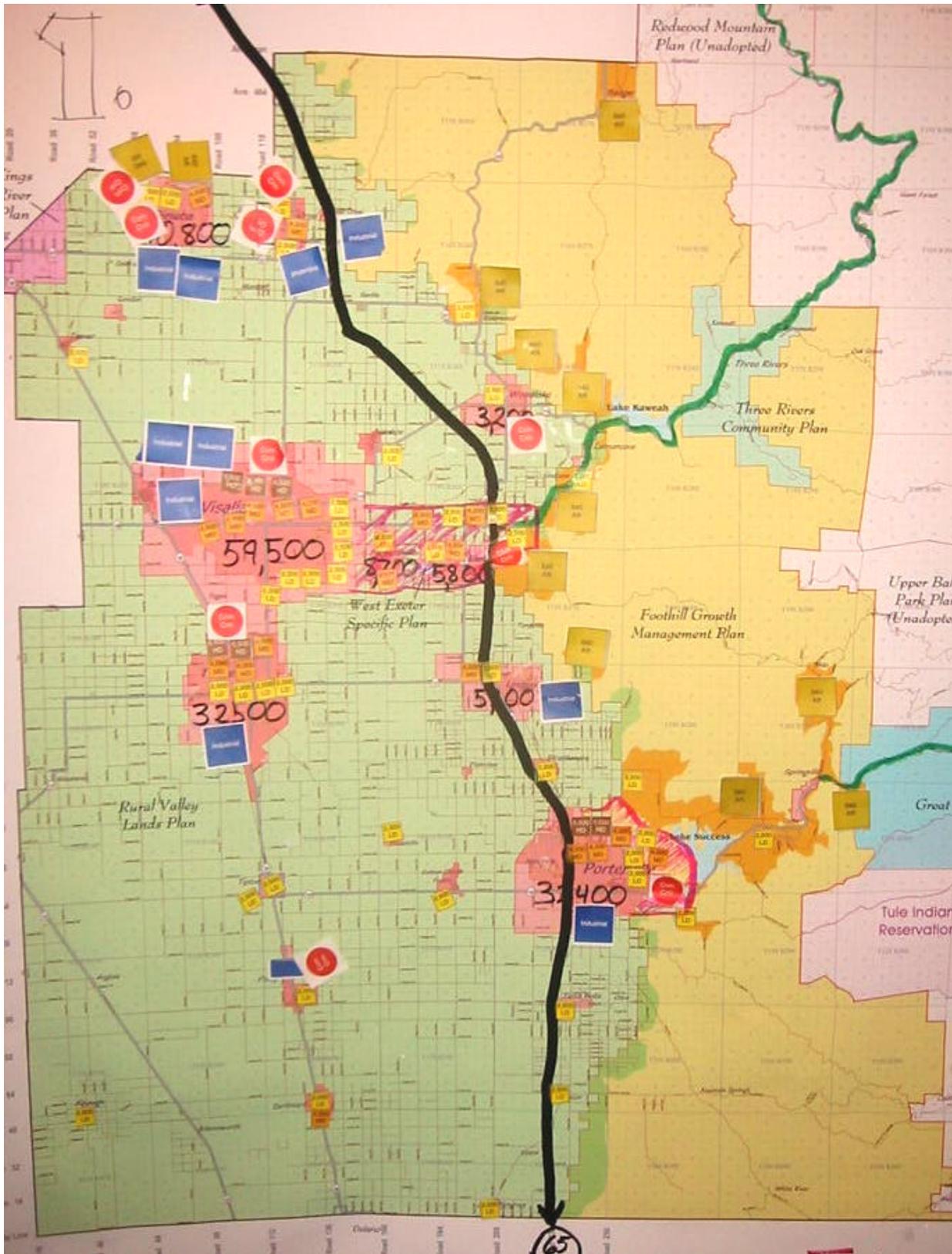
- Develop public transportation to the malls and industrial areas
- Develop business incubators for small business and agricultural enterprises
- Industries should be located where there is easy access to highways

### How can everyone have a stake in the future?

- Four-year university
- Vocational training schools in urban areas
- Broadband / high-speed internet in rural communities

### Bonus question: Making the environment healthy

- Infill within the urban boundaries to preserve surrounding agricultural land
- Develop public transportation to reduce emissions
- Develop tourist attractions to Sequoias, etc. and agricultural industry



## Planning Team 1 – Map

## Planning Team 2



### Where does urbanization happen?

- Community beautification
- Community facilities and parks with a focus on youth
- The gateway scenic route to the mountains is preserved

### How and where do we diversify our economy?

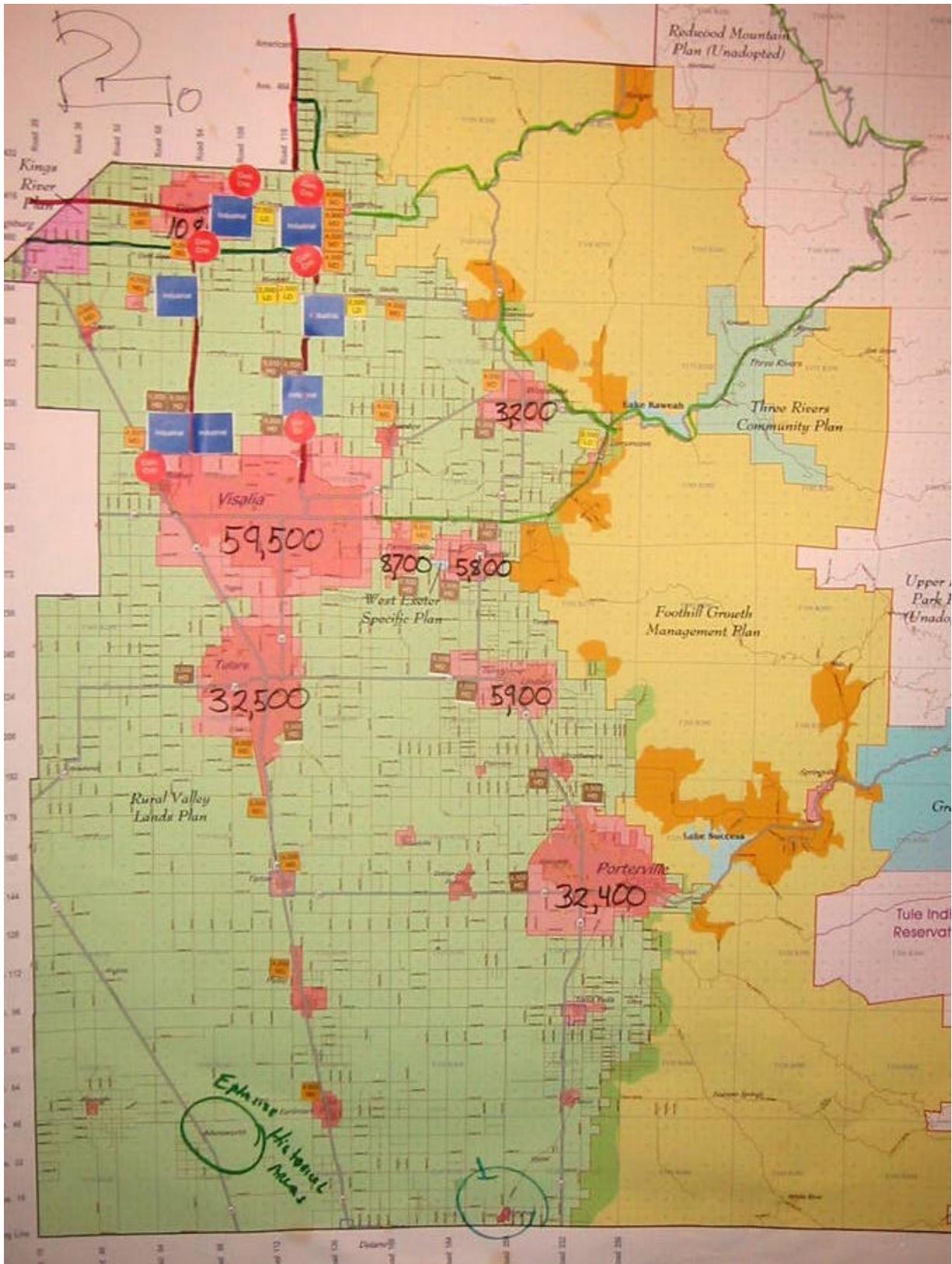
- Capitalize on cultural celebrations
- Increase non-seasonal jobs
- Capitalize on historical sites

### How can everyone have a stake in the future?

- Develop alternatives to agriculture
- Emphasize tourism
- Create a cultural attraction such as a museum

### Bonus question: Making the environment healthy

- Promote non-polluting industry
- Plant trees
- Pipe cow basin to central place for methane collection, and build a methane plant



## Planning Team 2 – Map

## Planning Team 3



### Where does urbanization happen?

- Create and expand Kaweah Lake for future water use recreation
- Create scenic route connecting Dinuba to Cutler-Orosi
- Preserve existing road-scape to national parks

### How and where do we diversify our economy?

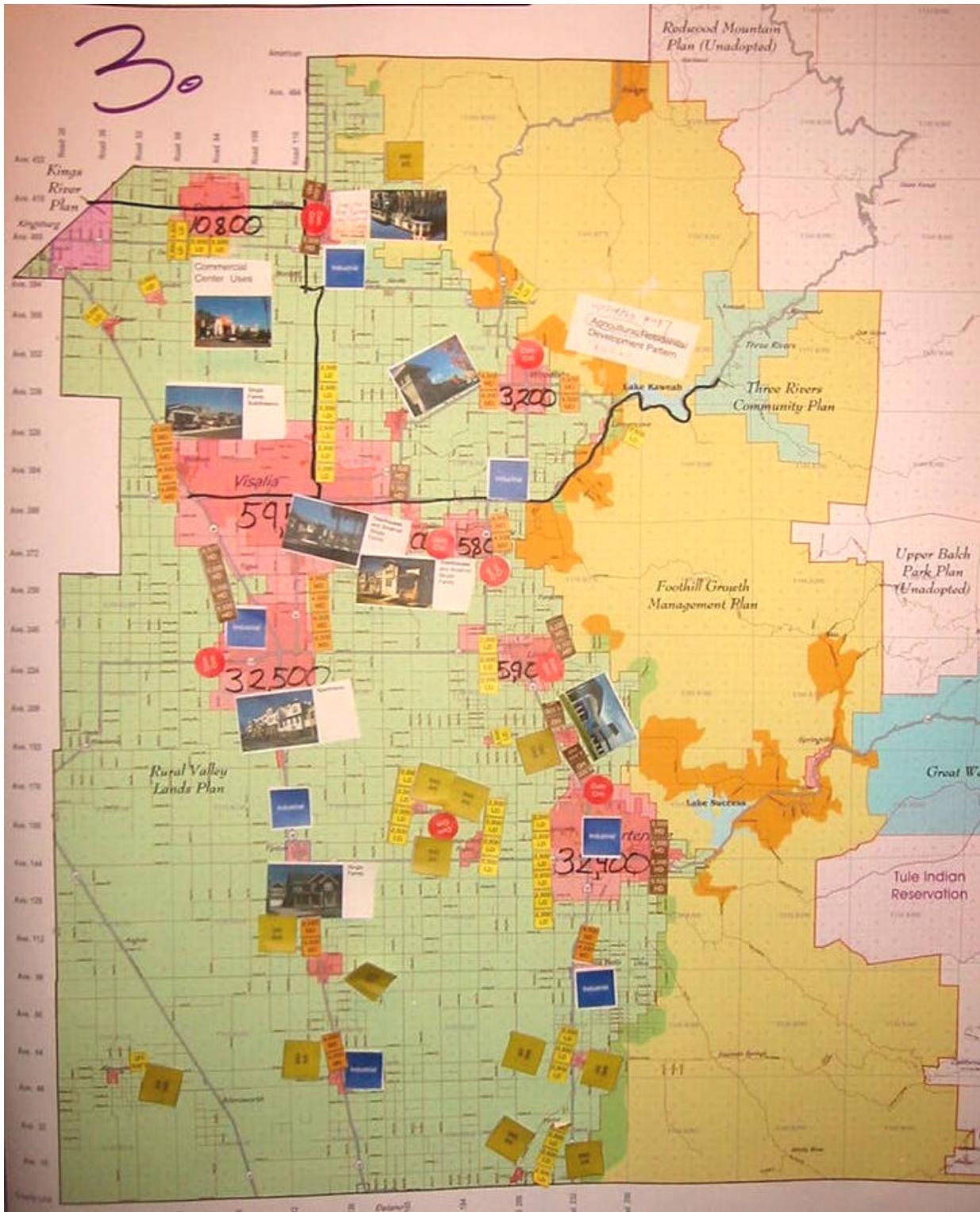
- Build four-year university in Tulare County
- Build a mall in Dinuba for surrounding communities
- Attract new diversified industry

### How can everyone have a stake in the future?

- Build four-year university to educate labor pool
- Expand transit system to accommodate outlying areas, and provide university access
- More low rental houses and apartments with maximum seven-year residency

### Bonus question: Making the environment healthy

- Plant more trees throughout county—each house should have at least three trees and schools, parks and businesses should beautify their areas
- Solar and wind generators in areas closer to mountains
- No new homes built with fireplaces



## Planning Team 3 – Map

## **Other Issues**

Following the planning team presentations, a few additional comments were raised.

### **Farmworker Housing**

An issue raised for consideration in the preparation of the General Plan related to the apparent unregulated development of farmworker housing in the form of house trailers. Participants felt the units were developed as speculative ventures and did not have adequate extended urban services.

### **Community Outreach**

The participants offered suggestions for improving outreach. These included providing better flyers with more information about the process and workshop objectives, and better coverage in the local newspapers.