

March 23, 2004  
Pixley Memorial Hall  
718 North Park Drive, Pixley, CA

On March 22, 2004, over 20 people attended a workshop in Pixley 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:

- Locate industrial uses in the Highway 99 corridor
- Provide growth in major cities to save agricultural land
- Connect land use and public transit

### Variations:

- Growth should happen in existing cities
- Growth should happen in both cities and in rural communities
- Provide commercial services in rural communities
- Use infrastructure to support both growth and image enhancement in unincorporated communities

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



## Planning Team 1



### Where does urbanization happen?

- Limit growth in unincorporated county areas and promote growth in cities (retain agricultural land)
- No new transportation corridors
- Minimize growth and/or restrict growth to low density residential in mountains/foothills

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

- Industrial uses in major and minor urban areas
- Higher education
- Promote rail access and development

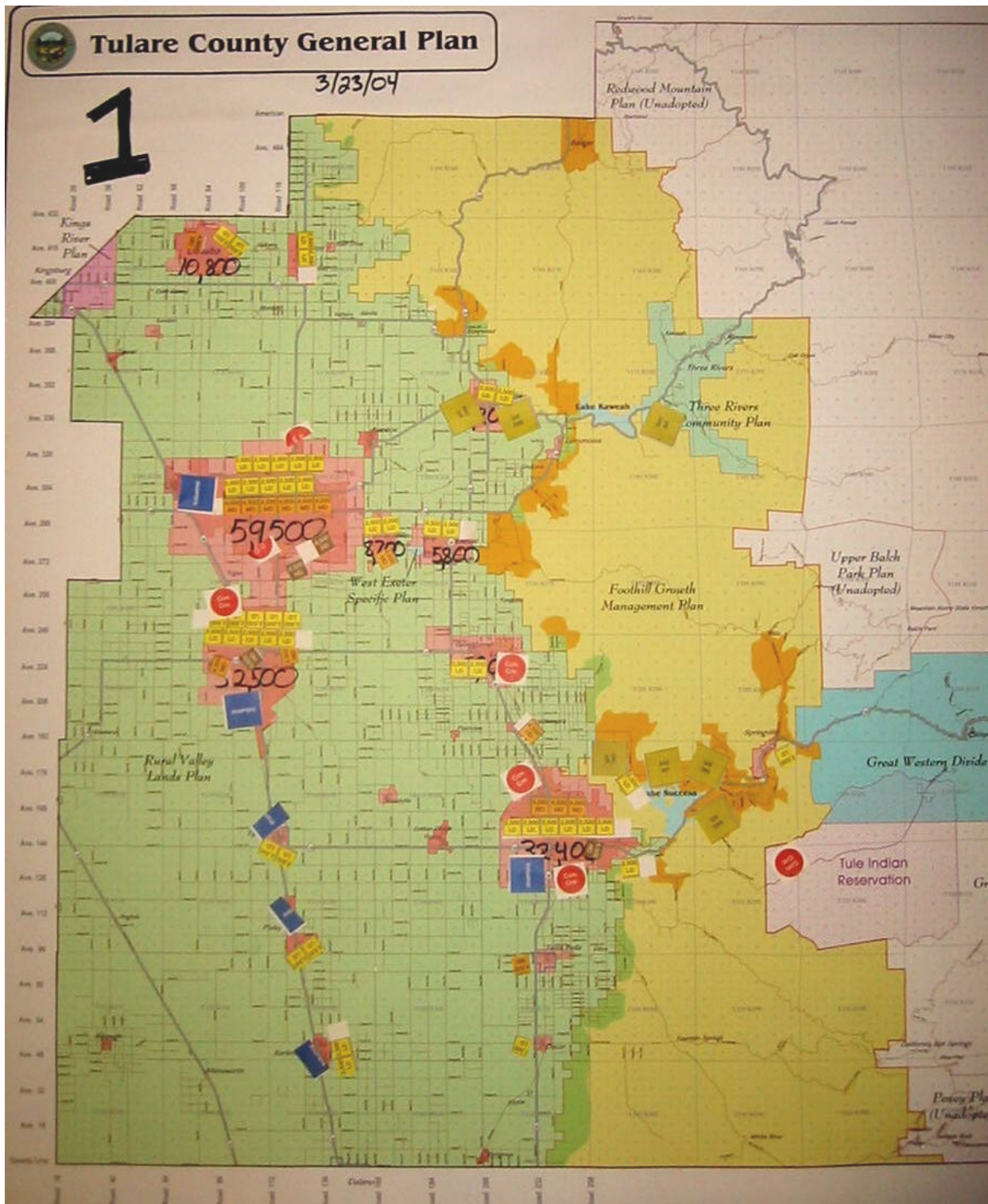
### How can everyone have a stake in the future?

- Redevelop existing communities
- Do not create new communities
- Develop a regional transit agency

### Bonus question: Making the environment healthy

- Limit growth in unincorporated county areas and promote growth in cities
- Redevelop existing communities
- Develop a regional transit agency





## Planning Team 1 – Map

## Planning Team 2



### Where does urbanization happen?

- Increase population in existing urban areas
- Concentrate commercial (stay out of agricultural areas)
- Stay out of the foothill areas

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

- Transportation
- Agricultural/99 corridor/railroad
- Tourism

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

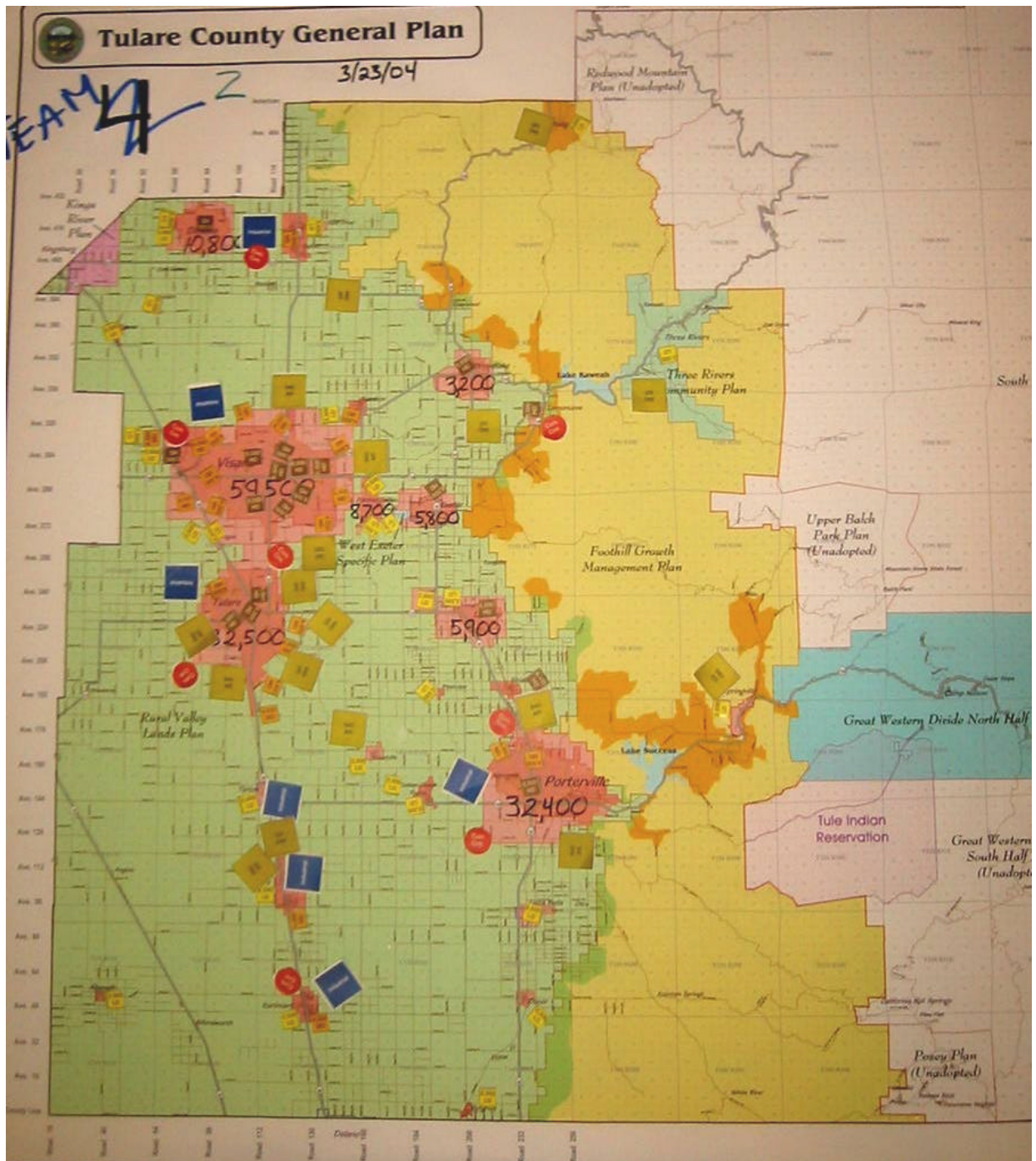
- Incorporate Quimby Act
- Small business development (rural areas; stop exporting dollars to commercial centers)
- Specialty agriculture (non-traditional innovative agriculture)

### Bonus question: Making the environment healthy

This plan results in:

- Decreased commute
- Maintained green areas
- Beautification within communities
  - As a contexts to create incentive
  - Develop a policy to plant trees with each new residential unit





**Planning Team 2 – Map**