



Youth Leaders Shaping the Future

Tulare County General Plan Update

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2004

On May 15, 2004, over 120 young people attended a youth summit to discuss the future of Tulare County. There were nine communities represented including Culter-Orosi, Pixley, Visalia, Goshen, Dinuba, Tipton, Tulare, Porterville, Exeter, Ivanhoe, and Woodville.



Supervisors Connie Conway, Lali Moheno, and Steve Worthley welcome the youth leaders

The young people worked as members of 18 planning teams. The teams worked together to identify important issues, to imagine what it should be like in 2025, and what actions they might take to support the desired future.

DEFINING LEADERSHIP

At the beginning of the workshop, the youth discussed what it meant to be a leader. They identified many traits of being a good leader. They felt that the following are qualities of a good leader:

- Bilingual
- Has citizenship
- Good communicator
- Good listener
- Goal oriented
- Puts things in perspective
- Organized
- Participatory
- Patient
- Helps others
- Honest
- Sets a good example
- Takes responsibility
- Positive attitude
- Thankful
- Initiative
- Courageous
- Outspoken
- Flexible
- Fair
- Respectful



- Takes charge
- Cares about others
- Loyalty
- Equality
- Determined
- Proud
- Confident
- Original
- Good manners

- Tolerant
- Smart (skills & knowledge)
- Has fun
- Hard Worker
- Willful
- Good role model
- Teamwork
 - Open minded

- Experienced
- Charitable
- Kind
- A protector
- Good sense of humor

ISSUES

The teams worked on three questions to define issues that most concerned young people. They identified what was important to them, what they were most concerned about, and identified places in their communities that needed to be improved.

What is important to you?

- My family
- Friends
- Pets
- CSET Jr. Leadership
- School
- My community
- My boy/girlfriend
- Education
- Freedom of Speech
- Dreams
- Goals
- Electricity
- Drivers License
- Stores
- Teachers
- Team Leaders
- Being noticed and popular
- Music
- Laughing
- Doctors
- Having a voice
- Parent interaction
- Success
- Pride
- Nature
- Food
- H2O
- Clean air
- Homework
- Sports
- Communication
- Places to play



- Cleanup efforts
- Money
- TV
- Transportation
- Technology
- Trust
- Work
- Health and access to health resources
- Love
- Recreation
- The future
- My country
- Gang awareness

- Books
- The poor
- Youth voice
- Safety
- Community involvement
- Freedom
- Life
- Fun
- Respect
 - Graduation
 - Public transportation
 - Environment

- Shopping
- Lakers
- Vacation
- Diets
- Staying out of trouble

- Businesses
- Mall
- Crops and farming
- Six Flags
- Trees

- Better roads
- Better houses
- Child care and day care

What concerns you most?

- Gangs
- Violence
- Guns
- Drive by shootings
- Drugs and alcohol
- Animal control
- Pollution
- Bad streets
- Lack of businesses
- Too many dairies
- Lack of year round jobs
- New generations
- School budget cuts
- Neighbors
- Street fights
- Trouble
- Safety
- Tagging
- Death
- Construction work
- Abandoned houses

- Chemicals
- Jobs
- Bad influences
- War
- Cops
- Getting people involved
- Robbers and theft
- Teen pregnancy
- Kids dropping out of school
- Grafitti
- Street racing
- Alcoholics
- Toilet papering houses
- Cults
- Drunk driving
- Street racing
- Prostitutes
- Rapists
 - Child abuse

- Threats
- Divorce
- The Governor
- Taxes
- Gas prices
- War
- AIDS
- Lack of transportation
- Too many bars
- Pot holes
- Kidnappings
- Accidents
- Irresponsible parents
- On campus violence
- Trash
- Intolerance
- Animal control

What places in your community need to be made better?

- Schools
- Places to shop
- Sidewalks and street lights
- Curb and gutter
- Houses
- Parks
- Clinic
- Sports
- Goshen railway tracks
- Freeway walls
- Swimming pools
- Better streets
- Better police enforcement
- Alleys
- Memorial building
- Skate parks
- Restaurants



Social Wellbeing

One of the teams reminded everyone “we are the people” and that embracing our diversity was the most important part of seeking a desirable future. The teams understood there would be population growth, and people would need additional healthcare, better education, and more housing. They emphasized the need to include places for children such as parks and recreational opportunities. Several of the teams wanted to see expanded youth centers.



ACTIONS

The last assignment for the youth planning teams was to discuss what actions they could take to make a difference. They challenged each other by asking:

“So, what are you going to do about it?”

The discussion that followed resulted in most of the teams emphasizing pushing for better education. They wanted more teachers and tutors, better schools, increased educational budgets, and efforts that support young people to stay in school.

Other suggested actions included:

- Getting people more involved in their communities;
- Creating jobs;
- Improving the environment, such as reducing air pollution, moving from gas to electric cars, and increasing recycling; and
- Focusing on the needs of people.

