

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 •
- ΤV •
- 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

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

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- Bad influences
- War

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

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



- Street racing Prostitutes

Businesses

Six Flags

Trees

Crops and farming

Mall

- Water parks
- Cleaner fields
- Less stray animals
- More trees
- Improve health clinic
- Jobs
- Road 159
- Goshen Park
- Malls
- Fast food

- Tipton school
- Clubs
- Tipton Park
- Woodville Park
- Fire station
- Youth centers
- After school programs
- Better streets
- Police station

- Beautification of the community
- Movie theatre
- Clean canal pipes
- Main streets
- Clean up
- Church
- Overpass at 198
- Care of easements

2025 TULARE COUNTY

The planning teams tackled the day's main event of envisioning Tulare County in 2025. Each team prepared an overall vision for the county and then told three stories about key features in their 2025 vision. Overall, the young people emphasized improving the environment, creating jobs, and improving social and educational opportunities.

The Environment

Most of the teams emphasized improving the environment. The focus on clean air and water topped the list. Several of the teams offered solutions such as electric cars, recycling, planting trees, and reducing the number of dairies. They also saw their environment as a result of investments that made their communities more beautiful. One team demonstrated this by drawing before and after pictures of a community that was cleaned up, had new investment and places for children.

Economic Opportunity

The importance of creating economic opportunity was featured in their visions of the future. The teams talked about being able to shop in their communities in malls and grocery stores. They emphasized the connection between a future "University of California Tulare", transportation, and new buildings with creating new jobs. The importance of maintaining farming was also mentioned by several of the teams.



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.

