

# Preliminary Issues Report

*Tulare County General Plan Update*



March 2004



Tulare County General Plan Update



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## Tulare County General Plan Update

# Introduction

### Purpose of Report

The Preliminary Issues Report has three purposes. The report is to help the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors understand what issues are considered important to the county's diverse communities. Secondly, the issues identified will be included in the preparation of a planning analysis. Thirdly, these leading issues will be used in community workshops to define policy options.

### Planning Process

During preparation of the General Plan, input from the public will be a vital and ongoing component. There will be five series of community workshops during the development of the General Plan, organized into three steps. The first step is to identify leading planning issues facing the county. The second step provides an opportunity for communities to discuss and explore alternative policy futures. The third step will result in the General Plan 2025 policy document. All the steps include public participation opportunities. However, the first and second are the most interactive and intensive so that residents can have input at the beginning rather than reacting to a draft plan at the end. In the coming months, the community will address these issues in Alternative Futures, Economic and Scenic Landscapes Workshops.

### *The General Plan*

*Every county and city in California is required by state law to prepare and maintain a planning document called a General Plan. A General Plan is designed to serve as the jurisdiction's "constitution" or "blueprint" for future decisions concerning land use and resource conservation. Decision makers in Tulare County will use the General Plan to provide direction when making future land use and public service decisions. In addition, all community plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions must be consistent with the General Plan.*

*Given the long-term implications of the General Plan, it is vital that the General Plan reflects the vision and needs of the people who live and work in Tulare County.*



# Workshop Summaries

The following section presents a summary of the critical issues and assets that were identified by the public during the first series of public workshops. Building on this input, this section goes further to identify some initial policy choices that the General Plan will need to address.

## Leading Issues Facing Tulare County

The first community workshops identified issues common to the entire county and those unique to particular areas. Generally, all the workshops demonstrated the universal concerns about environmental and related human health due to air and water quality. The availability of water was also a key issue. There was also concern about the image and economic impacts of the continued conversion of agricultural land to residential development. As in many Central Valley communities, people identified the need to diversify the economic base, and provide higher paying year-round employment. Finally, many people felt poverty, housing, and education were social equity issues that could hold the county back.

## Tulare County's Top Assets

The leading assets identified at workshops featured the county's natural and cultural diversity. Scenic natural and working landscapes were passionately confessed to be important both to the quality of life but also as part of a growing visitor industry. Outstanding farming due to high quality soils was an obvious choice too. Interestingly, many people identified Tulare County's central location between the mountains and the ocean, and north and south California as an asset. The people and communities of the county were put forward as popular assets.

## Policy Considerations

Based on the input received from the workshops and comments from the General Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their meeting on March 3, 2004, the following policy questions were developed. These questions will be used to help focus discussions in the next series of public workshops on March 22 through March 24, 2004.

**Resource Protection**

- How can Tulare County protect the natural resources that are vital to the county's health, beauty, and economy?
- How can land use choices and patterns be designed to reduce air emissions and improve groundwater recharge and quality?
- What mechanisms are needed to assure long term protection of important natural habitat and other biological resources?

**Growth and Development**

- How can the county balance growth with its demand for natural resources (agricultural land and open space, water and air quality impacts)?
- Are there alternative land use scenarios that can better protect farmland from development such as infill, compact development and higher densities?
- Are there better ways to protect the best soils for agriculture?
- Should the county direct certain land uses to cities and established communities instead of developing in unincorporated areas?

**Economic Development**

- What type of technological and business innovations can make Tulare County more competitive in the global economy?
- How can the county and its partners create a business climate that attracts and grows new industries while retaining and enhancing existing businesses?
- What role can local businesses play in growing jobs and revenues in the county?
- How should the county balance the ratio between jobs and housing?
- How can the county support and promote a strong tourism industry?

**Social**

- What can the county do to provide job training that supports diversification of employment opportunities?
- What role can the county play to enhance educational opportunities in K-12, technical training, and attract a four year facility?
- What types of housing policies reflect the diverse needs of county residents?

**Infrastructure**

- How can the county provide basic infrastructure needed to encourage investment and economic development in rural communities?
- What type of transportation and utility infrastructure would be needed to support land-efficient development?
- How can the county pay for infrastructure development and maintenance?
- What does the county need to do to secure funding for transportation infrastructure?

- How can we plan and fund telecommunications capacity to support growth industries and new job growth (i.e., making the county more competitive)?
- How will the county work with the CSD's and Utility Districts to provide infrastructure?

### Workshop Overview

During preparation of the General Plan, input from the public will be a vital and ongoing component. County staff and the General Plan consulting team will host five community workshop series during the development of the General Plan, with each series held in multiple locations. The first series of workshops was designed to better understand the issues and opportunities facing Tulare County.

Starting in November 2003 and running through January 2004, the first series of eight public workshops were held throughout the County. At each workshop, the audience was invited to roll up their sleeves and assist in identifying overall planning issues and assets that should be focused on during the General Plan update. To encourage participation from throughout the County, workshops were held in Lindsay, Visalia (2 workshops), Goshen, Orosi, Springville, and Tipton. In addition, a joint workshop on issues and opportunities was held with the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission, and a workshop was conducted with the Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Commission.



*Over 250 people attended the first series of public workshops!*

### Workshop Format

Unless noted otherwise below, the participants at each workshop were divided into "planning teams". Each team worked together during the workshop to identify the top issues facing the County today and what they thought would be leading issues in the year 2025. In addition, each team 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, each planning team shared their efforts and observations with the entire group.

*At each of the community workshops, Spanish language translators were on-hand to help get everyone's input into the General Plan process.*

For most workshops, the questions asked were as follows:

- Q1. What are the top three issues facing Tulare County today?**
- Q2. What are the top three issues that will be facing Tulare County in 2025?**
- Q3. What are Tulare County's three top assets?**
- Q4. Bonus Question: What are the most scenic parts of Tulare County? How do they contribute to the quality of life in the County?**

The paragraphs that follow provide a description of each workshop, followed by a summary of top responses from participants at each workshop relative to Questions 1 through 3. The responses to Question 4 will be used at a later date in the planning process. The Appendix to this report provides a complete listing of the responses received during the workshops.

## Workshops Held

### **Lindsay Community Workshop**

On November 5, 2003, over 50 people attended this community workshop. Held at the Lindsay Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, participants worked as members of six planning teams.

### **Visalia Community Workshop**

On November 6, 2003, over 60 people attended this community workshop. Held at the Visalia Convention Center, participants worked as members of seven planning teams.

### **Goshen Planning Committee Workshop;** **Visalia Economic Development Corporation (EDC)**

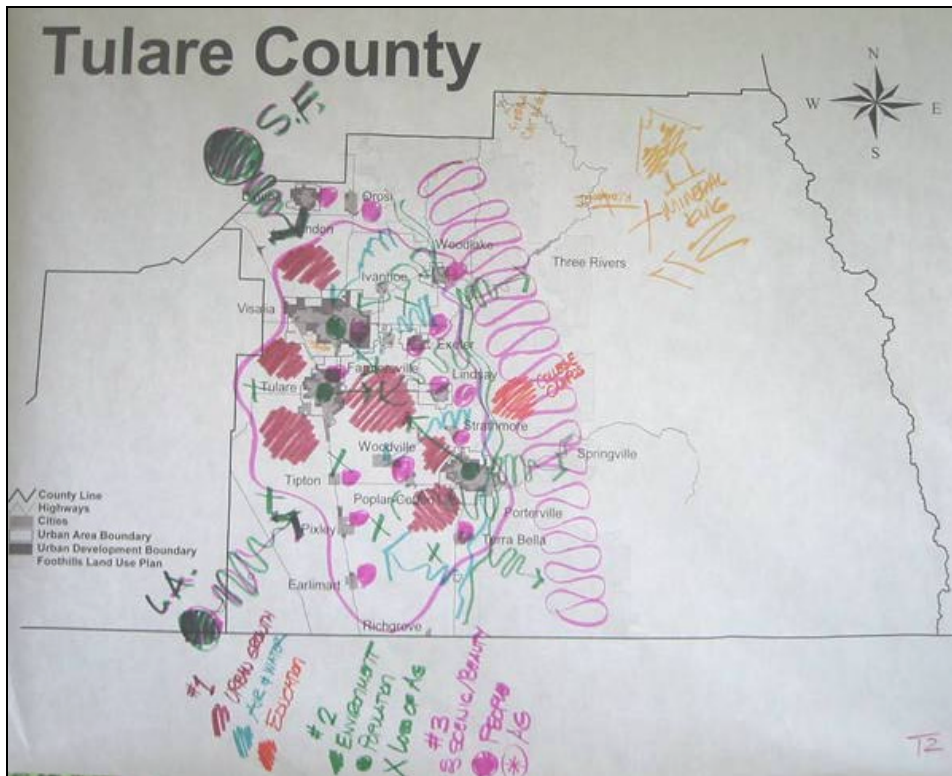
On November 18 and 19, 2003, forty-one people from the Goshen Planning Committee and the Visalia Economic Development Corporation respectively, attended one of two planning workshops. Unlike other workshops, attendees participated as individuals. The issues were recorded by each person on file cards.

### **Orosi Community Workshop**

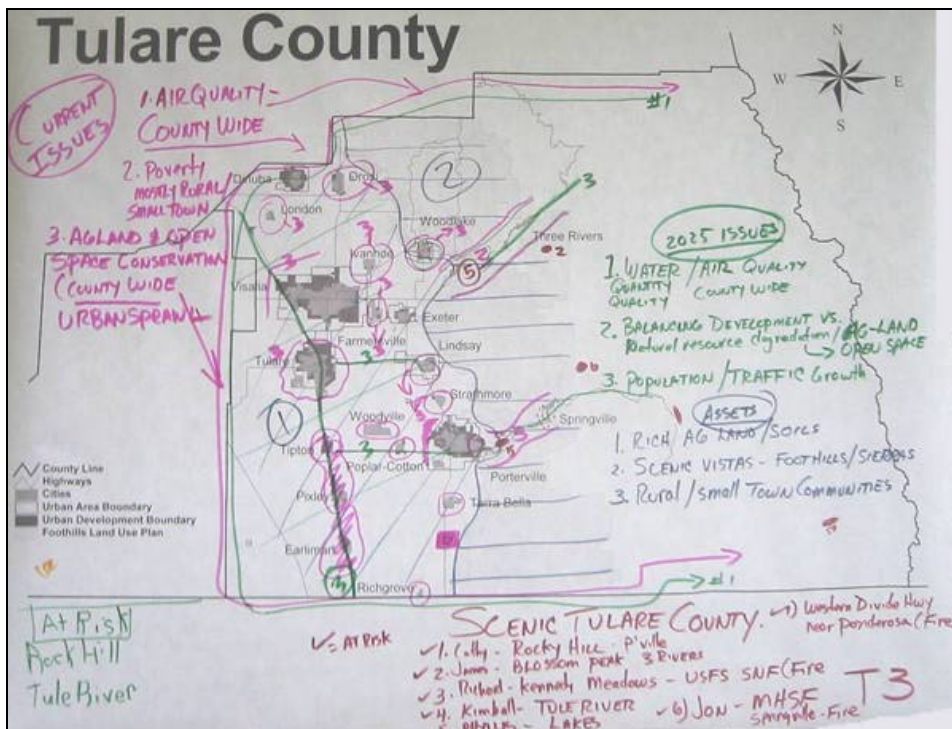
On January 15, 2004, thirteen people from Tulare County attended this planning workshop. Held at the Orosi Memorial Hall, attendees were asked to focus on the Culter-Orosi community rather than the County as a whole. Participants worked as members of three planning teams.







Sample map from the Visalia Community Workshop



Sample map from the Lindsay Community Workshop

The maps on this page are a sample of the public input received on the location of issues and assets being described.



**Springville Community Workshop**

On January 17, 2004, thirty-five people from Tulare County attended a planning workshop. Held at the Springville Memorial Hall, participants worked as members of six planning teams.

**Tipton Community Workshop**

On January 22, 2004, fifty-six people from Tulare County, including the communities of Tipton, Earlimart, Poplar, Woodville, and California Hot Springs, attended this planning workshop. Held at the Tipton Memorial Hall, participants worked as members of 11 planning teams during the workshop.

**Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee**

On January 29, 2004, a short presentation was made to the Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee. Given the shortened time available at this meeting, the committee was only asked to respond to the first question. This group did not identify their key issues and assets (i.e., their top three) from their input. This group's input is included in the section labeled "Comprehensive List of Issues and Assets."

**Key Issues and Assets**

During the workshops, everyone was encouraged to provide input on each of the four questions. After everyone's issues were noted, each planning team was asked to identify the top three issues and assets from the lists prepared. While most groups found it hard to list just three issues/assets, each group did a good job in identifying their primary concerns.

The following section provides a listing of these top issues and assets identified by the workshop participants. This list was provided for each workshop in order to identify any geographically specific items that need attention in the General Plan.

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

- Air pollution
- Water availability and quality
- Population growth
- Agriculture and open space conservation
- Poverty and employment



**Visalia**

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

**Goshen and Visalia EDC**

- Jobs/ unemployment/ better jobs / wages
- Air pollution and quality
- Education at all levels / awareness / educational attainment
- Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government / finance / need for improved funding of government operation
- Poverty / lack of money / rising cost of living / high welfare roll

**Orosi**

- Community image
- Safety- police station
- Housing

**Springville**

- Water quality and quantity
- Population growth and impacts on infrastructure and agriculture
- Employment
- Shift in tax base from low income to industry

**Tipton**

- Employment
- Transportation/circulation
- Education

**Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

- Air quality
- Water quantity and quality
- Urban encroachment
- Government regulations

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

**Lindsay**

- Water and air quality
- Urban growth
- Transportation
- Balancing agriculture, natural resources and urban development

**Visalia**

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

**Goshen and Visalia EDC**

- Air pollution / quality
- Loss of agricultural land / agriculture preservation and protection / agricultural survival
- Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government finance
- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty / lack of money / rising costs of living

**Orosi**

- Alternative agriculture
- Population and effects on agriculture
- Sewer/ water and transportation infrastructure needs

**Springville**

- Population growth and the need to plan the growth
- Water resources; water pollution, sources and wise use
- Air quality
- Employment

**Tipton**

- Air pollution
- Population growth
- Employment

**Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

- Population growth will take agricultural land out of production
- Air quality will increase regulations and result in increased costs (chipping; pumps), and could limit growth of the dairy industry
- Water quantity will decrease as urban conversion results in increased groundwater withdrawals
- Urban encroachment will increase land values
- Our agricultural preservation methods are outdated
- Cost of labor

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

**Lindsay**

- Scenic landscape and National Parks
- Small towns
- Agriculture
- People

**Visalia**

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

**Goshen and Visalia EDC**

- Number one farming county in the US/ quality land for agriculture/ dairies
- Location- in the Central Valley/ in the middle of the state/ close to mountains and the coast/ from north and south California
- Recreation and scenic areas - the landscape including mountains (Sierras) and lakes, valley floor, big trees, National Parks and Forests
- Tipton
- Agriculture/dairies
- Recreation
- Location (central to mountains and ocean)/Hwy 99 access

**Orosi**

- Cultural Diversity
- Ferial lands/diversity of crops
- Quality of life
- Tourism and National Parks

**Springville**

- Scenic, open spaces and parks
- Agriculture
- Community and people

**Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

- The future vision for the County must include a healthy and competitive agricultural economy
- A commitment must be made to agriculture as a priority over other land uses
- Innovation in agricultural business and technologies
- Value-added agricultural businesses (example—dairies and cheese plant)
- Synergies between agri-business and power generation
- Vertical integration of farm activities is essential
- Choice of crops could change
- Be proactive regarding our choices
- We have a competitive advantage with good soil and (current) access to water

**Comprehensive List of Issues and Assets**

As part of the workshops, everyone's input was recorded and will be used in the General Plan update process. The Appendix to this report provides a verbatim record of the issues and assets noted by everyone who participated in the workshops. These issues were grouped by topic area to make the items easier to compare. An issue listed with a number in parentheses represents the number of people that raised the same issue.





## Tulare County General Plan Update

# Appendix

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

#### **Lindsay**

##### Economic Development and Jobs

- Economic development
- Workforce and unemployment (3)
- Tourism
- Small town viability
- Poverty/economics
- Oppressive business climate (2)
- Local tax return
- Funding for government services
- Financial support of County infrastructure
- Declining tax revenues

##### Environment

- Water (4)
- Air quality (7)
- Environmental clean-up of air, soil
- Water shortages
- Groundwater
- Loss of natural resources – habitat and biological resources
- Environmental control
- Water quality (2)
- Poor resource protection
- Pollution

##### Growth and Managing Growth

- Too rapid growth
- Population (2)
- Managed growth (2)
- Idea of diverting growth to foothills bad

##### Agriculture

- Agriculture
- Saving agriculture (3)

- Cooperation and agricultural industry
- Declining agricultural land

Transportation

- Scenic highway
- Public transportation
- Road maintenance
- Lack of public transportation
- General trends in traffic flow
- Transportation

Land Uses

- Federalization of public lands
- Town - farm interface
- Poor zoning
- Land use planning, agriculture, open space, development
- Poorly planned development
- Loss of open space & planning (2)
- Urban sprawl
- Undirected and unmonitored growth
- Lack of quantified build-out in FGMP

Other

- Big cities rule over us
- Cooperation between City vs. County government
- Rural life
- Mineral King problems/ issues
- Crime & gangs, methamphetamine labs, drugs
- Culture gap
- Understanding of cultural diversity
- Gang problems
- Social/cultural image
- Infrastructure
- Public safety
- Education
- Telecommunications
- Poor county image
- Unincorporated areas
- Coordination of State and County permit process
- Increasing growth of fixed income retirees
- Lack of medical services
- Fire protection, police protection county services
- Poverty (2)
- Housing
- Energy costs

## **Visalia**

### *Economic Development and Jobs*

- Unemployment - more jobs (3)
- Economic
- Poverty/economic development
- Employment opportunities–quality vs. just any jobs
- Inequality of incomes

### *Environment*

- Air pollution/air quality (4)
- Air quality & water (3)
- Pesticides, etc.
- Environment
- Water quality (2)
- Scenic resources
- Water overdraft
- Water & use of land
- View of Sierras from the valley floor
- Recycling
- Quality/quantity of water supply
- Water quantity & quality
- Habitat preservation

### *Growth and Managing Growth*

- Urban growth/agriculture
- Growth/sprawl (4)
- Population
- Urban & rural boundaries, protection of both (2)

### *Agriculture*

- Preservation of agricultural land & water
- Ag preservation (2)
- Sustainable agriculture

### *Transportation*

- Roads
- Public transportation - 24 hours
- Alternative transportation
- Circulation/transportation (4)
- County roads

### *Land Uses*

- Not enough parks
- Urban/agriculture interface
- Land use consistency within County
- Balance between urban & rural development
- Zoning–review & change to be more current

Other

- Affordable housing (2)
- Schools crowded
- Gangs/crime/drugs (2)
- Methamphetamine & all side issues
- Public safety/Sheriff, Fire
- After school programs
- Teen pregnancy (2)
- Education - access to university/college
- Education (2)
- Early childhood lack of quality programs
- Lack of multi-family housing in some communities
- Waste water (how to get rid of)
- Policy enforcement
- Lack of 4 year education
- Health care access
- Affordable housing/labor
- Multi-cultural, ethnic
- Public safety
- Poverty/lack of education
- Lack of master planning
- Lack of "Can Do" attitude
- Equal opportunities
- Poverty (3)
- Lack of signage guidelines along 198 etc.
- Rural infrastructure
- Operating budget of County
- Recreation
- Social/ economic justice
- Noise

**Goshen and Visalia EDC**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Jobs / unemployment / better jobs / wages
- Economic development / job growth & creation / need to attract business  
/ small business development / business growth / Workers  
Compensation / Business Insurance
- Economic diversification

Environment

- Air pollution / quality
- Environmental concerns – air & water pollution general
- Pollution in general
- Water quality / pollution

- Water in general
- Natural resource protection

Growth and Managing Growth

- Population growth and management / planned growth
- Accommodating growing population / urban expansion / rapid urbanization
- Growth in general
- Infrastructure to support growth
- Overpopulation
- Conflicts between local governments related to growth issues
- Protecting incorporated areas ability to grow

Agriculture

- Protection of agricultural population
- Loss of agricultural land / agriculture preservation & protection / agricultural survival
- Development on Class 1 agricultural lands
- Agriculture in general
- Less reliance on agriculture for jobs

Transportation

- Transportation in general
- County streets and roads / street maintenance
- Airports / cost of travel
- Traffic flow / circulation
- Need for mass transportation

Land Uses

- Land use in general
- Potential weakening of Rural Valley Lands Plan
- Clearer definition of urban / agricultural interface

Other

- Poverty / lack of money / rising cost of living / high welfare roll
- Teen pregnancy
- Street gangs & violence
- Law enforcement / police enforcement / law enforcement funding / public safety
- Drugs
- Youth issues / social issues
- Crime in general
- More services needed / social services management
- Cultural equity
- Morals
- Day care / child health
- Services for women



- Stray dogs
- Slow, cumbersome permitting process
- Development in general
- Water availability / supply
- Issues relating to education
- Education at all levels / awareness / educational attainment
- Classroom size / bigger and more schools needed
- Need for a four year facility
- Schools in general
- School budget
- Leadership development
- Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government finance / need for improved funding of government operation
- Funds for improving schools and hospitals
- Need for more State support / State budgets
- Tax base as revenue
- Lack of affordable housing / housing in general
- Homeless youth and families
- Medical clinics
- Health care general
- Medical care / adequate / available
- Lack of competition in hospital care
- Not enough physicians and specialists
- Big Super Market needed (Goshen)
- Shopping
- More stores, including a big food store
- Recreational opportunities
- Youth athletics

## **Orosi**

### *Economic Development and Jobs*

- Lack of jobs and industry – There is a need to develop an economic base for the community
- Orosi needs to attract industry and affordable housing
- Clean up the towns of Cutler-Orosi

### *Environment*

There were no issues identified for this category.

### *Growth and Managing Growth*

There were no issues identified for this category.

### *Agriculture*

There were no issues identified for this category.

Transportation

There were no issues identified for this category.

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Housing
- Health issues including crime, air quality, and groundwater contamination
- Poverty
- Image of Tulare County cities and communities
- Redevelopment
- The community image needs improving
- Public safety concerns need address
- The community (Cutler-Orosi) needs a police station
- Fiscal issues – where is the money going to come from?
- Need more School Boards and monthly meetings – there is only one school board with lots of kids
- Need more school rooms and a swimming pool for the kids
- The Chamber of Commerce should get involved more in the community and community issues as a pillar of the community

**Springville**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Unemployment (4)
- Loss of industry and business
- Unemployment
- Economic development
- Business attraction
- Perception that Tulare County is a 3rd world country
- Threats to local business including agricultural and small business
- Employment
- Economic diversity

Environment

- Water and air quality
- Air quality
- Air pollution from other places as well as from the County, that affect the County
- Preservation of scenic values (2)
- Preservation of the resource base
- Water (2)
- Water – potable and not potable from aquifers and surface water, including contamination and gray water
- Water quality and quantity
- Noxious weed abatement control program – star thistles are on the loose

- Light pollution

Growth and Managing Growth

- Overpopulation
- Population growth without infrastructure, schools and other ancillary services to support growth
- Growth impacting agriculture and wildlands
- Foothills growth

Agriculture

- Population influx resulting in loss of prime agricultural land
- Agricultural viability
- Loss of agricultural land

Transportation

- Road maintenance
- Bad roads
- Transportation (Highways 190, 65, 99 are congested)
- Transportation (all roads and highways)

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Increased taxation and increased regulation on industry
- Communication with County government
- Efficient use of water
- Where the population is located (Smart Growth)
- Higher education
- Language and cultural barriers
- Financing for infrastructure
- Workforce drug use and education
- Integration with federal lands into a regional economy (tourist based)
- Low tax base, unemployment & welfare
- Waste, including sewage, refuse, etc.
- No certainty in housing availability
- Local control for rural areas
- Rules not enforced
- Crime and a lack of moral values
- Cost of services – how do we pay for them?
- Historic preservation
- Money and assets

**Tipton**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Lack of work, particularly opportunities for women
- Jobs Housing

- Jobs Growth
- Equitable pay and better wages
- Investment and jobs
- Money
- Lack of jobs
- Diversification to bring businesses into the area
- Lack of zoning in rural communities for industry to create jobs
- High unemployment in record amounts
- More jobs and industry
- Unemployment
- Loss of industries such as timber and mining
- Redevelop the community (lights and streets)
- Tourism and development in the mountain communities
- Lack of development of tourism
- Development of first dollar industries
- Need for industry that provides finished products

Environment

- Environmental contamination and health effects
- Air quality (3)
- Dust problems and air quality
- Water contamination
- Smog

Growth and Managing Growth

- Lack of stimulated growth

Agriculture

- Urban conversion of agricultural land

Transportation

- Transportation (3)
- Roads are ugly
- Under funded transportation infrastructure - potholes, curbs, gutters and sidewalks are needed
- Repair of Hwy. 99
- Road and street repair (3)
- Roads
- Sidewalks
- Road conditions
- Traffic and speed limit on Hwy. 65

Land Uses

- Zoning changes are needed in the rural areas to attract commercial development and retail
- Lack of zoning for commercial and industrial uses
- Land development

Other

- Housing (2)
- Affordable housing
- Child care (3)
- Crime (2)
- Poverty
- Family education and resources to access education
- Recreation areas
- Equal medical access needed
- Bills are too high
- County does not have enough money
- Information and orientation is needed
- Small town leadership
- Public safety – police, fire, water quality and sewer issues, especially in rural communities
- Infrastructure
- Drugs – methamphetamine labs
- Schools (high school) in south County area
- Hwy. 99 industrial park
- Services in the County, especially the towns
- Health access
- Intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation
- Supermarkets and restaurants
- Big cities helping small towns
- Full service truck stop
- Tax base
- Money Water Employment
- Schools (2)
- Need a local university
- New Post Office
- Medical services
- Potential exportation of valuable water
- Trash collection
- Graffiti / lighting
- Youth activity

**Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee**

- Are the options for the placement of new landfills?
- Traffic, its cause and its effect
- Social issues
- The amount and quality of available water
- The conveyance and reliability of water



- Growth in the foothills may require more water
- There is a medical crisis in the County.
- High-speed rail route
- Balancing water with types of development
- Air pollution is a double whammy. We bring in industry but limit agricultural emissions.
- What are the pros and cons in comparison with neighboring counties, regarding socio-economic issues?
- Create industry that supports what we have here
- There are no short-term band-aids. We need to look at the long term.

**Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

- Unemployment
- Support of infrastructure
- Transportation (roads, trucking and rail freight)
- Zoning not matching economic and market opportunities
- Workers compensation
- Reliable energy sources
- Population growth

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

**Lindsay**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Economic distribution/development
- Economic development that does not degrade resources
- Economic diversity

Environment

- Water quality/quantity major
- Air pollution major problem
- Water/air (2)
- Water shortage and air quality
- Soil depletion
- Pollution and allergies
- Pollutions
- Balancing development & resources
- Air quality (2)
- Water (2)
- Loss of open space
- Loss of scenic resources
- Agriculture vs. urban
- Natural resource depletion

- Water table loss

Growth and Managing Growth

- Management of over-population
- Population/ traffic/growth
- Growth/population
- Population density
- Growth containment

Agriculture

- Viable agriculture and value added industry
- Loss of agricultural land (2)

Transportation

- Transportation - traffic, light rail, heavy rail (2)
- Transportation
- Gridlock – massive traffic
- Traffic
- Mass transportation
- Roads and highways
- Traffic congestion

Land Uses

- Planned land use

Other

- LA will have our water
- Separated bounded cities
- Separate two world society
- Local food shed
- Less understanding
- Crime
- Crime and poverty
- Timely planning processes
- Change to Hispanic majority
- Limited resources
- Foothill development - fire problems
- Higher education facilities
- Medical facilities
- Quality of life
- Poor urban/rural planning
- Health issues such as adequate access to medical services
- Equal access to education
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Higher education opportunities
- Education – 4 year university, job trade

## **Visalia**

### *Economic Development and Jobs*

- Water
- Open space
- Air pollution
- Jobs (3)
- Economic diversification
- Economic development (2)

### *Environment*

- Trees
- Air quality (3)
- Water (2)
- Water resources & air quality
- Water
- Soil quality
- Environment
- Air quality
- Agricultural preservation
- Biological diversity

### *Growth and Managing Growth*

- Over population (3)
- Population growth (4)
- Growth
- Higher density/urban sprawl & rural sprawl & encroachment
- Dealing with growth

### *Agriculture*

- Agricultural preservation (2)
- Loss of agricultural land to housing
- Flexible agricultural economy (be able to adjust to changing demands)

### *Transportation*

- Road quality
- Alternative transportation
- Transportation (2)
- Bullet train
- Traffic and transit
- Funding for transportation/ roads
- Coordinate planning for public transit

### *Land Uses*

- Balance land use
- Farm/City issues

### *Other*

- Education

- Housing (3)
- Affordable housing (2)
- Poverty (cost of living)
- Big city problems
- Infrastructure
- Urbanization
- Rich/poor people (differences)
- Elderly services
- Low urban density
- Education (2)
- Health care – access and cost
- Public safety/crime
- Cost to support infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Land use & water
- Population vs. farmland vs. transportation
- Influence of "urban refugees"
- Water supply
- Parks and recreation facilities
- County & City revenue
- Lack of infrastructure
- Funding for public education

### **Goshen and Visalia EDC**

#### *Economic Development and Jobs*

- Jobs / unemployment / better jobs
- Economic development / job growth & creation / need to attract business / small business development / business growth / diversification
- Workers Compensation / Business Insurance
- Building tourism base

#### *Environment*

- Air pollution / quality
- Environmental concerns – air & water pollution general
- Pollution in general
- Water in general
- Water quality / pollution
- Environmental / natural resource protection and use
- Water availability / supply

#### *Growth and Managing Growth*

- Population growth and management / planned growth
- Overpopulation / overcrowding / population control
- Infrastructure to support growth

- Growth in general
- Accommodating growing population
- Maintenance of planning boundaries around cities and unincorporated communities / transition from rural to urban
- Protecting incorporated areas ability to grow

Agriculture

- Loss of agricultural land / agriculture preservation & protection / agricultural survival
- Agriculture in general

Transportation

- Transportation in general
- Traffic flow / circulation
- County streets and roads
- Freeways
- Need for mass / public transportation
- High speed rail

Land Uses

- Agricultural / industrial link
- Balancing needs of incorporated and unincorporated areas
- Land use in general

Other

- Poverty / lack of money / rising cost of living
- Crime in general
- Street gangs & violence
- Law enforcement / public safety
- Drugs
- Food
- Teen pregnancy
- Social issues general
- Stray dogs
- Homicide
- Ethnicity
- Technological development
- Water wars
- Education at all levels / awareness / educational attainment
- Need for a four year facility
- Schools in general
- Communications with cities
- Regional planning issues
- Urban growth from Fresno
- Funding / money / grants / budget restraints / local government finance
- Funds for improving schools and hospitals

- Need for more State support
- Tax base as revenue
- Personal taxes
- Lack of affordable housing
- Housing in general
- Homeless youth and families / housing shortage
- Health care general
- Medical care / adequate / available
- Upgrade street lights for safety
- Shopping
- Youth athletics

## **Orosi**

### Economic Development and Jobs

#### Environment

- Air quality

### Growth and Managing Growth

- Overpopulation

#### Agriculture

- The County is too dependent on traditional agricultural uses and need alternate agriculture, such as corn for medicinal purposes or fuel sources. Imports from around the world are challenging us in traditional, therefore we need to turn to new sources.

#### Transportation

There were no issues identified for this category.

#### Land Uses

- City growth versus agricultural land use
- Sewer, water and transportation needs, not just in Cutler-Orosi but growth in the cities will affect Cutler-Orosi

#### Other

- Air and sewer extension

## **Springville**

### Economic Development and Jobs

- Jobs
- Economic diversity
- Job market declining with businesses pulling out
- Cost of living increase

#### Environment

- Water and air quality issues (shortage and quality) will increase
- Air pollution (2)
- Air quality
- Living with too many environmental regulations

- Destruction of natural resources
- Water – we cannot create more water (3)
- Pollution, including unclean air and landfills
- Scenic preservation

Growth and Managing Growth

- Population growth
- LA Syndrome and an overload of population – we will become like Orange County if we lose agricultural production
- Overpopulation taking away from agricultural land
- Need for more roads to accommodate population growth
- Reduced agricultural land due to population growth
- Population growth without infrastructure
- Growth, if poorly planned
- Overpopulation, especially in Three Rivers, Lindsay, Porterville and Tulare

Agriculture

- Agricultural viability

Transportation

- Road maintenance
- Road capacity (grid lock)
- Transportation (roads and highways)

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Increased regulations are runaway without increased service
- Water availability
- Language and cultural barriers
- Health care
- Waste, sewage, refuse, etc.
- Lack of money for County plans
- Welfare
- English as a second language
- Traffic, air & water
- Need for services and infrastructure
- Higher education
- Tourism
- Historic preservation
- Money and assets

**Tipton**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Economy

- More factories would take away from agriculture
- Jobs (2)
- Unemployment

Environment

- Water contamination
- Water (2)
- Air quality/pollution (3)
- Smog
- Lack of water

Growth and Managing Growth

- Population
- Population growth resulting in loss of farmland and more air quality issues
- Population growth outpaces services delivery and jobs
- Overpopulation from the Bay area and LA
- Growth
- Population increases due to LA losing their water. We must protect the water with
- Development and industry to compete with LA for the purchase of water
- Population increases

Agriculture

- Lack of farmland – it is used for housing
- Land development where agriculture is lost

Transportation

- Transportation
- Traffic and infrastructure including poor condition of roads and congestion
- Roads and transportation (2)
- Highways
- Traffic

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Housing, poverty, work and overpopulation are all interrelated
- Public safety and health
- Infrastructure
- Housing
- Traffic, Jobs
- Lack of housing for the handicapped and elderly who want to stay in rural communities
- Safety
- Schools (2)



- Lack of money
- Elderly and handicapped services
- Lack of recreation, especially for youth
- Social security
- Recreational parks
- Access to higher education sources
- Development and retention of a qualified and skilled labor force
- Funding of government services
- Health care and delivery of services
- An aging population

#### **Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee**

Given time constraints, this group did not have an opportunity to work on Question 2.

#### **Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

There were no additional issues identified (all issues are shown under the section labeled “Key Issues and Assets”).

#### **Q3. What are Tulare County’s three top assets?**

##### **Lindsay**

##### **Economic Development and Jobs**

- Rural communities and tourism potential
- Available, large workforce

##### **Environment**

- Land water climate
- Rural areas – scenic
- Sierra Nevada Mountain Monument
- Mountains
- Open space
- Abundant Sierra water
- Rivers
- Soil
- Wild places
- Scenic vistas, Sierras, foothills
- Climate (good for agriculture), solar energy
- Unique habitat zones/ Sequoias, etc.
- Historical/archeological assets
- Pacific flyway
- Rivers & lakes
- Natural environment (agriculture)
- Sierra Nevada & foothills

- Visual impact of mountains
- Environmental resources
- Water climate
- Soils

Growth and Managing Growth

- People

Agriculture

- Agriculture
- Agricultural productivity
- Rich agricultural land/soils
- Agriculture
- Proximity to open space
- Scenic beauty (wild land parks, agriculture, public lands, working landscapes)
- Ag industry

Transportation

- Highway 99 – goods transport

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Work ethic is “Can Do”
- Central location
- Murals/beautification
- Individuality/ independence
- Recreation opportunities
- Small towns
- Communities – rural, small town
- Sense of community
- Access to national parks
- Rural atmosphere
- Character and diversity of people
- Location
- Rural aspect
- Location
- People (hardworking population)
- Cultural diversity (2)
- Prison/State hospital employees

**Visalia**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Tourism

Environment

- Mountains
- Lakes
- Soils
- Scenic beauty, open space, national parks & forests
- Water (2)
- Scenic beauty, mountains, parks
- Sierra - mountains
- Fertile
- Central location with fertile soil and beautiful scenery
- Habitat/natural beauty
- Diversity of natural landscapes
- Big trees (Sequoias & Oaks)
- National parks, National Forest
- Scenic and wild places
- Unique biological diversity, world renowned
- Open space

Growth and Managing Growth

There were no issues identified for this category.

Agriculture

- Agriculture/land rich
- Agriculture (3)
- Crops
- Agricultural land
- Ag industry (value added)
- Tulare Agri-Center, World Ag Expo
- Agricultural lands
- Farm workers

Transportation

- Hwy 65 scenic view in spring
- Highway 99
- Railroad

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Youth
- Cultural diversity of people (3)
- Entertainment
- People Small town sense of community, unique character/ structures (3)
- Historic communities
- People
- Affordable housing

- Community minded
- Affordability (housing especially)
- Location/Centralized location (3)
- People
- Quality of life
- Human resources and diversity
- Affordability & distinctly defined communities
- Quality of life
- Cultural diversity
- Location in the State
- Affordability
- Community identity
- Self-contained economic base
- Affordable housing
- Youth
- Water supplies
- Climate
- Our rural setting
- Willing public servants

### **Goshen and Visalia EDC**

#### Economic Development and Jobs

- Economic Opportunity
- Available non-union workforce / affordable labor / large work force
- Pro business climate / good business base
- Tourism
- Economy

#### Environment

- Natural Resources
- Available water
- Recreation and scenic areas – the landscape including mountains (Sierras) and lakes, valley floor, big trees, National parks and forest
- Natural resources
- Open space
- Good climate

#### Growth and Managing Growth

- Growth
- There is room for a growing population / land for expansion / abundant / affordable land
- Control of growth

#### Agriculture

- Number 1 farming County in the US / quality land for agriculture/ dairies

Transportation

- Highway access

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Location - in the Central Valley / in the middle of the State / close to the mountains and the coast / from north and south California
- People, Community and Governance
- People / many people of good character / youth / families
- Diversity / increasing cultural diversity
- Community values / strong sense of community
- Entrepreneurs / less government
- Talent / perseverance / resiliency
- Good local government / conservative local government
- Sound leadership / community leadership / leaders
- Vision for the future
- Ability to see mistakes made by other regions
- Public participation
- Good city planning
- Strong work ethic
- Resources
- Abundant gravel
- Utilities
- Economically sound
- Available / inexpensive land
- Lower / affordable cost of living
- Quality education and school system / COS / dedication to education
- Rich history
- Small towns/Rural character
- Middle America life style
- Safe
- Quality of life
- Affordable housing
- Cohesiveness

**Orosi**

Economic Development and Jobs

There were no issues identified for this category.

Environment

There were no issues identified for this category.

Growth and Managing Growth

There were no issues identified for this category.

Agriculture

- Fertile land
- Agriculture
- Diversity of crops such as pomegranates

Transportation

There were no issues identified for this category.

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Quality of life
- Proximity to coast or mountains
- Feeling of family in community
- Tourism and natural parks
- Cultural diversity (2)

**Springville**

Economic Development and Jobs

There were no issues identified for this category.

Environment

- National Parks
- Water
- Forests
- Natural resources, including State parks, wilderness areas, Balch Park
- Open spaces
- Dark skies and natural resources
- Climate
- Mountains
- Mitchell Meadows
- Sources of water including mountains, rivers, streams and reservoirs
- Natural resources - open space, mountains and agricultural land
- Agrarian and natural nature of our communities
- Scenic beauty of the foothills and Sierra Nevada
- Scenic beauty, open space and undeveloped land
- Scenic beauty (no Disney land theme parks)

Growth and Managing Growth

There were no issues identified for this category.

Agriculture

- Agriculture (3)
- Agriculture, including dairy industry
- Largest farm show in the world!!

Transportation

There were no issues identified for this category.

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Quality of life
- Entrepreneurs and other people
- Work ethic
- Historical significance
- Recreation
- Low cost land and labor
- Rural communities
- Diversity of culture
- Schools
- Family history
- Low population density in some areas
- Location of Springville
- Hardworking people
- Small communities
- Outdoor activities
- Affordable land – Tulare County is an anomaly in the entire state
- History of the area

**Tipton**

Economic Development and Jobs

- Water
- Tourism
- People

Environment

- Water (2)
- Natural Resources
- Open areas
- Land
- Mountains and forests
- Climate
- Natural resource diversity

Growth and Managing Growth

- Room for growth

Agriculture

- Agriculture Dairies (2)
- Number one or two in farming
- Number one in dairy
- Agriculture (3)
- Prime agricultural land and dairies

Transportation

- Ease of commuting
- Scenic routes
- Highway access to both east and west (mountains and ocean)
- Highway 99 corridor (2)

Land Uses

There were no issues identified for this category.

Other

- Diversity of people
- Access to recreation
- Unity in the small towns
- Hardworking people
- Hospitals
- Mooney Grove Park
- Casinos and entertainment
- National parks and tourism
- Rural living
- Location between the mountains and ocean
- People are the key asset
- Low cost of living makes Tulare County affordable
- Diversification in industries
- Lakes and parks
- Cheap property
- Central location
- Lack of adverse earthquake patterns
- Healthy population
- Slower pace of living
- Lower cost of living
- Location is central between LA and San Francisco

**Tulare County Farm Bureau Land Use Committee**

Given time constraints, this group did not have an opportunity to work on Question 2.

**Tulare County Agricultural Advisory Committee**

There were no additional issues identified (all issues are shown under the section labeled "Key Issues and Assets").