



PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN VISION AND GOALS

*Revised Following Comments from GPAC,
Agencies, and County Departments*

September 2008

Purpose and Workbook Content

One purpose of upcoming Joint Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Hearing is to provide direction regarding goals and policies addressing the major planning issues identified in previous GPAC meetings and community workshops.

This workbook presents the Draft Community Vision, as well as the preliminary Goals associated with each element of the Vision.

Draft Community Vision

At previous GPAC meetings, committee members have provided input regarding the shared values, strengths, weaknesses, and issues that characterize Amador County. Based on that input, the following community vision was developed by the GPAC. Please refer back to this vision as you review and comment upon the materials located throughout the remainder of this workbook. Our objective is to ensure that subsequent goals, policies, and programs are responsive to the vision.

Vision 2030

We, the citizens of Amador County, envision the county in the year 2030 as a place known for its high quality of life, historic resources, healthy natural environment, sustainable local economy, scenic resources and vistas, and services that meet our people's needs.

Community

Amador County continues to be a place of small, distinct towns where neighbors know and can depend on one another, and where low crime rates foster a feeling of security and the residents are enabled to participate in the decision-making process. We have a sustainable economy – one that provides jobs with enough income to allow residents a reasonable quality of life, and encourages and supports business, especially locally-owned, unique businesses and our historic



business districts. We have created a livable community – one with a supply of housing affordable to those who live and/or work in our community.

Related Goals

- Goal LU-2: Enhance and maintain separate and distinct community areas within the county.
- Goal LU-3: Develop and maintain a favorable business environment in the county.
- Goal LU-4: Develop educational and training options for county residents.
- Goal LU-5: Improve the jobs-housing balance and maintain the fiscal health of the county.
- Goal LU-6: Promote cultural and economic development of rural communities throughout the county.
- Goal LU-7: Focus and improve economic development success.
- Goal LU-15: Guide future residential and local commercial uses into established cities and five unincorporated Town Centers.
- Goal LU-16: Focus services which cater to a regional market in Martell.
- Goal C-8: Maintain long term economic viability of agricultural land uses.
- Goal OS-1: Protect resources important to tourism and maintain the rural lifestyle valued by county residents.

Character

We protect and enhance our County’s unique character – its history, natural beauty, and rural lifestyle. Due to our successful efforts, our historic and cultural heritage; scenic vistas, agriculture, rivers, streams, and other natural areas; and historic buildings and towns continue to attract visitors.



Related Goals

- Goal LU-1: Attain a diverse and integrated mix of residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, recreational, public, and open space land uses.
- Goal CM-4: Maintain and enhance the visual quality and scenic views along both designated and eligible scenic corridors.
- Goal C-7: Maintain important farmlands in agricultural use.

Resources

We judiciously use and protect the County’s wealth of natural resources – mineral, agricultural, timber, surface and groundwater, soil, air, open space, and wildlife – conserving and enhancing our resources for present and future generations. We preserve our resources while also protecting our property and personal rights.



Related Goals

- Goal LU-17: Reduce the negative effects of new development on stormwater runoff and non-point source water pollution.
- Goal LU-18: Reduce fire risks to current and future structures. (See Goal S-2)
- Goal C-2: Minimize negative effects of sewage treatment on water quality.
- Goal C-3: Minimize negative effects of point and non-point sources on water quality.
- Goal C-4: Maintain the viability of mineral and aggregate resources in the county.
- Goal C-5: Reduce energy use and promote renewable and locally available sources of energy.

Policy Options: Hydroelectric power generation

Goal C-6.a: Maintain the viability of hydroelectric (dam) power generation in the County.

Goal C-6.b: Maintain the viability of existing hydroelectric (dam) power generation in the County.

- Goal C-10: Reduce the environmental effects of farming and ranching activities.
- Goal C-11: Preserve the County’s historical resources.
- Goal C-12: Preserve the County’s cultural resources.
- Goal C-13: Maintain and improve air quality.
- Goal C-14: Reduce GHG emissions from automobile travel.
- Goal C-15: Reduce GHG emissions from electrical power generation.
- Goal OS-4: Protect wildlife habitats, including sensitive environments and aquatic habitats.

- Goal OS-5: Protect special status species, including threatened and endangered species.
- Goal S-1: Prevent loss of life or property from flooding.
- Goal S-2: Reduce fire risks to current and future structures. *(See Goal LU-18)*

Services

We strive to serve current and future generations by providing utilities and services that are available, affordable, well-maintained, and well-planned while maintaining our rural character. We provide transportation choices through upkeep of our roadways, safe bicycle and pedestrian paths, and transit opportunities that respond to our needs. We have access to health services, professional, well-trained emergency service providers, quality child-care and senior services, and expanded opportunities for recreation and lifelong learning. Working with our local schools, we have created an excellent learning environment where both children and adults can obtain high-quality education and skills to achieve personal and economic success.



Related Goals

- Goal LU-8: Promote the availability of communications services to businesses and residents.
- Goal LU-9: Ensure the provision of effective law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and animal control throughout the county.
- Goal LU-10: Ensure adequate wastewater treatment capacity exists to serve the county's population
- Goal LU-11: Maintain efficient solid waste service.
- Goal LU-12: Ensure the provision of health care services accessible to the population.
- Goal LU-13: Maintain high quality schools and libraries.
- Goal LU-14: Ensure that land is available for future cemetery use.
- Goal LU-19: Ensure that safe and adequate water supply, wastewater disposal, and public services are available prior to development.
- Goal CM-1: Maintain adequate regional and local transportation facilities.
- Goal CM-2: Maintain a safe, efficient, and comprehensive traffic circulation system.
- Goal CM-3: Provide transportation alternatives to the automobile.

- Goal C-1: Ensure that all future development permitted in the county can be provided adequate amounts of water.
- Goal C-9: Encourage alternative means of providing water to agricultural users.
- Goal OS-2: Ensure provision of park and recreational facilities serving residents and visitors.
- Goal OS-3: Facilitate both the development and use of recreational and transportation trails within Amador County.
- Goal S-3: Maintain or improve fire response times.
- Goal S-4: Protect people and property from seismic hazards.
- Goal S-5: Protect people and property from landslides, mudslides, and avalanches.
- Goal S-6: Protect people and resources from hazards posed by mining facilities and hazardous materials sites.
- Goal S-7: Respond appropriately and efficiently to natural or human-caused emergencies.
- Goal N-1: Reduce noise levels throughout the county through land use planning and development review.
- Goal N-2: Minimize noise conflict with transportation sources.
- Goal N-3: Minimize noise conflicts with stationary noise generators.
- Goal N-4: Minimize noise conflicts between airports and surrounding land uses.