

# VISION STATEMENT

## A Vision for Our Future

Sutter County in 2030 is best distinguished by its livable nature – a place that is sustained in the long term by striking a suitable balance between strong agricultural traditions, natural resource preservation, and economic growth opportunities.

Sutter County’s character is defined by its rural lifestyles, small town charm, and a longstanding agricultural heritage. Its economy is vibrant and diverse, with high quality jobs and an emphasis on agricultural related businesses. Significant natural assets such as the Sutter Buttes and river corridors are preserved, while outdoor recreational opportunities are enhanced. Future urban development is managed and directed to the County’s cities, as well as other clearly defined and comprehensively planned growth areas, to ensure that development occurs in a logical fashion and maximizes the preservation of farmland and open space. The County is a safe place to live with reliable flood protection and superior law enforcement. Adequate community services and infrastructure are provided equitably to all residents and businesses, including efficient roadways supplemented by bicycle and pedestrian paths and transit. Additionally, there is a focus on conserving renewable resources and reducing our impact on the environment. Above all, Sutter County is a great place to live and work, with strong and collaborative leadership that ensures opportunities for future generations to thrive.

## A Framework of Guiding Principles for Our Future

### Maintain a High Quality, Rural Lifestyle

- Preserve the County’s rural, small town character, high quality of life, and agricultural heritage including quality farmlands.
- Promote uses that support the economic, cultural and scenic values of agriculture.
- Ensure opportunities for existing and future generations to live, work and succeed in Sutter County.
- Value and respect the County’s cultural diversity and traditions.

### Support a Vibrant and Sustainable Economy

- Create a healthy and diverse economy by providing a regulatory climate that attracts new industries and a broad range of jobs with livable wages and opportunities for advancement.
- Maintain a viable agricultural industry by sustaining existing agricultural operations, diversifying the agricultural economy, and promoting agricultural businesses that utilize “cutting-edge” technology.
- Enhance local shopping, services, and opportunities for small businesses.

### Ensure Managed and Efficient Growth

- Focus new urban growth to the County’s cities and other clearly defined and comprehensively planned development areas.
- Promote efficient development patterns that promote orderly growth and discourage sprawl.
- Ensure new development is compatible with agricultural operations and open space preservation.

### Protect and Enhance Natural Resources

- Protect environmental resources including the Sutter Buttes, river corridors, fish and wildlife habitats, and other significant resources for future generations.
- Enhance public access to the rivers and maximize opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy this resource.

### Provide a Safe Place to Live

- Improve the levee system and provide sufficient and reliable flood protection for County residents and businesses.
- Increase law enforcement’s presence to reduce crime, minimize youth delinquency, and improve the sense of security.

### Support a Variety of Mobility Options

- Provide a safe and efficient transportation system that links communities within Sutter County, and connects the County to the rest of the region.
- Ensure new development does not adversely impact traffic flows.
- Enhance transit and commuter rail service to encourage higher ridership and reduce automobile dependence.
- Provide additional interconnected bike lanes, pedestrian paths, and trails to promote alternative transportation choices and added recreational opportunities.
- Improve roadway maintenance and safety.

### Provide Adequate and Equitable Community Services and Infrastructure

- Promote quality education, libraries, fire protection, health and other community services to adequately provide for existing and future residents and businesses.
- Work in partnership with the cities and other public and private entities to provide additional parks and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors, with priority in areas that are underserved.
- Explore opportunities to expand higher education in Sutter County.
- Enhance water and sewer services within the County, and preserve existing water rights.

### Promote Resource Conservation and Sustainability

- Promote alternative energy use, water conservation, solid waste reduction and recycling, and other strategies to ensure a more sustainable County.
- Support land use patterns, alternative mobility systems, “green” building and energy options, and other measures that reduce carbon emissions.

## Overview

A vision statement and guiding principles have been formulated to help direct Sutter County’s General Plan update process. The vision for the future captures Sutter County’s key values and aspirations, and paints a picture of what the County will be in the year 2030. It is intended to inspire decision makers and the public about the future of Sutter County. The guiding principles provide an overall framework that supports the vision for the future. These principles help define how growth and conservation will occur in Sutter County, as well as provide guidance for the development of land use alternatives and updated General Plan policies.

The vision statement and guiding principles have been formed by an extensive public involvement program that included input through a series of four community workshops held in April 2008, stakeholder interviews, General Plan Advisory Committee meetings, and a joint Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors workshop.