

# Vision Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Following an introductory meeting and tour of the southern portion of the County, a 2-part work session with the Vision Advisory Committee (VAC) was held to solicit input for the Area Plan Update. Part 1 of the meeting was focused on issue identification. Part 2 was focused on capturing preliminary ideas from the group about their vision for Lassen County in the future. Participants in the exercises included those members of the Committee that were present along with John Ketelsen, County Chief Administrative Officer, and Jack Hanson, County Supervisor.

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## Part 1: Issues Exercise

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During Part 1, participants were asked to list the issues they believe should be addressed as part of the Area Plan Update. Upon completion of the exercise, issues were organized under the following general topic headings: Economic Development and Sustainability; Infrastructure / Services; Code Enforcement; Zoning and Land Use; Agriculture; Water Supply / Quality; Open Space / Natural Resources; Recreation and Culture; Transportation; Fire Suppression / Protection; Regional Coordination; and Other.

This list of issues will serve as the foundation for the Area Plan Update process and will be further refined based on feedback from VAC members and the community over the coming months.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Encourage job development, employment, and business growth
- Encouraging small business
- Develop fairgrounds to attract tourists
- Sustainable income
- County should solicit new industry to move to Lassen County and not rely on only farmers/ranching
- Encourage business in rural areas
- Make County attractive to potential homeowners and businesses
- Community development (productive growth of areas)
- Agri-tourism
- Renewable/clean energy, compatible with community
- Good schools/expand college
- Capitalize on Herlong Airport

### INFRASTRUCTURE/ SERVICES

- Need for water and or sewer systems (especially before subdividing)
- Development considerations and water/ sewage availability
- Water quality and availability
- Clean water supply for every community
- Need for community water systems in developing communities to alleviate septic issues and provide fire protection
- Lack of infrastructure water, sewer, roads (what size should be allowed?)
- Statewide sewage requirement needs to remain under local authority
- Availability of schools/services and associated impacts
- Water Plan
- Water conservation/Water Plan/BMO's

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Property maintenance and clean-up
- Create pride in ownership to maintain land and dwellings
- Appropriate code enforcement consistent with direct area needs
- Clean towns up
- Enforce existing regulations (more lax in outlying communities)

## ZONING AND LAND USE

- Laws for orderly development
- Need areas for commercial uses
- Encourage town center development
- Lack of industrial zoning
- Focus development on 395 from south county line to Johnsonville
- 395 development- should residential development be allowed everywhere agriculture is not economical?
- Conflicts between agriculture/open space and residential uses
- Develop good housing areas for future development
- Development in uniform and well planned manner
- Need for residential zoning
- Affordable housing
- Compact town-centered development (discourage growth outside centers)
- Development consistent with the neighborhood
- Agriculture/urban interface
- Aesthetics for neighbors (building out the neighbors great views)
- Encourage style

## AGRICULTURE

- Preservation of agriculture land
- Impacts of development on agriculture
- Weed management
- Agricultural growth opportunities
- Agricultural land protection
- Perennial Pepperweed (white top) invasion
- New crops and ag products

## OPEN SPACE/ NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

- Open space access/ protection
- Protection of wildlife corridors and natural resources
- Preserve the beauty of Lassen County (open spaces, agriculture, forest, mountain views, wildlife, etc.)
- Black Oak restoration
- Rezone TPZ parcels that have burned and will not produce timber
- Habitat conservation

## RECREATION AND CULTURE

- Lack of recreation development
- Expansion of recreation opportunities - rural recreation, trails
- Lack of cultural venues

- Lack of activities for children, teens, families
- Preserve historic and historical buildings, etc.
- Park in Doyle
- Interpretation, museum and roadside
- Develop historic context/cultural programs and events, cowboy poetry, ag. Gatherings
- Tourism, based on county assets – cultural center
- Promote hunting clubs/wildlife viewing
- Hunting/fishing/private land
- Promote Bizz Johnson Trail

#### TRANSPORTATION

- Hwy 395 left hand turns are dangerous to existing residents
- Access to homes
- Traffic issues (mostly safety issues – especially fire and emergency access)
- Future Hwy 395/ Hwy 36 expansion and alignment
- Looping and continuity of local road/street system
- Road conditions
- Utilize/expand rail/trails
- Reroute Hwy 395 to east of Honey Lake

#### FIRE SUPPRESSION / PROTECTION

- Fire safety/access/protection
- Fire suppression planning
- Wildland fire issues
- Roads in rural areas need to be accessible to fire trucks

#### REGIONAL COORDINATION

- Develop relationship with Nevada to ensure our resources are protected
  - Coordination with Nevada/California
  - What should be Lassen County's approach to Washoe County's development?
  - Dovetail Reno/Washoe County growth and influence

#### OTHER

- Community diversity (each community has its own specific needs/ values)

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## Part 2: Visioning Exercise

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During Part 2, participants were asked to work in groups and consider three questions:

- What do you like about Lassen County that you would keep the same?
- What would you like to change or improve? In what way?
- What kind of place would you want the County to be in 20 years?

Responses to each question are grouped under general topic headings. These ideas will serve as a foundation for further discussion as part of the Envision process during Step 4 of the Area Plan Update.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LASSEN COUNTY THAT YOU WOULD KEEP THE SAME?

### BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- Local economic diversity and strength, vibrant business climate, employment options (potentially renewable/alternative energy sector)
- Attract new folks by promoting the area as a destination
- Quiet prosperity
- Local businesses
- Strong local economy
- Healthy agricultural community

### LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Access to public lands without infringing on private property rights
- Water resources
- Clean air
- Quiet open space/wildlife
- Night Skies/scenery is stunning – guard it
- Geological diversity

### COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE

- Open space
- Rural setting
- Safe to live here
- Good neighbors
- Lifestyle-recreation, scenery, natural resources, open space, slower pace
- People – friendly, safe for kids, sense of community, vested interest in maintaining and improving lifestyle
- Neighborly/sustain small town atmosphere
- No traffic
- Good schools
- Cultural diversity

### OTHER

- Minimal change/like it was years ago
- Streamlined county/city processes
- Recreation destination area (skiing, golf, motorbikes, fishing, hunting, 4-season resort at Dyer mountain)
- Public pool
- Activities for youth
- Small town newspaper

## WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE OR IMPROVE? IN WHAT WAY?

### BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- Increase industry by using/developing existing natural resources
- “Clean” and/or non-toxic industry would be supported
- Create an environment that supports/ promotes investment

- Make Lassen County a destination area for tourism vs. drive thru tourism
- More retail options-support for local businesses
- Balance and diversify local job base – private employment opportunities (private employers can't compete with pay from gov't jobs)

#### RECREATION AND CULTURE

- Fairgrounds utilized for more events
- Activities for youth
- More access to public lands
- Build cultural center/theatre

#### COMMUNITY APPEARANCE AND DESIGN

- Clean/neat/aesthetic with code enforcement and pride of ownership
- Improve appearance – clean up what now exists
- Improved development standards
- Would like to make a law to make treatment of storage containers uniform

#### LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Stimulate planned growth/development in areas that are not suitable/sustainable for agriculture
- Streamline processes with city/county
- Viable communities with affordable infrastructure in South County with prevalence of maintained open spaces
- Centralized communities surrounded by open spaces/ agriculture
- Clear zoning laws
- Sustainable water supply
- Protect Eagle Lake
- Remove Co. Airport in Herlong
- Use the Amedee Air Strip for future aviation purposes

#### OTHER

- Improve/expand education system and opportunities, including Lassen College
- Coordination among all county departments
- Better rural road maintenance
- Clean up!
- Fire safety activities
- More senior services
- Better medical services

### WHAT KIND OF PLACE WOULD YOU WANT THE COUNTY TO BE IN 20 YEARS?

#### BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- Local economic diversity and strength, vibrant business climate, employment options (potentially renewable/alternative energy production)
- Attract new folks by promoting the area as a destination
- Quiet prosperity
- Local businesses
- Strong local economy

- Healthy agriculture program
- Fairgrounds utilized for more events
- Controlled logging
- Quality development

#### **LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT**

- Stimulate planned growth/development in areas that are not suitable for agriculture
- Viable communities with affordable infrastructure in South County with prevalence of maintained open spaces
- Access to public lands with out infringing on private property rights

#### **COMMUNITY ATMOSPHERE**

- Like it was 20 years ago! Employment, pride of ownership, neighborly
- Neighborly/sustain small town atmosphere
- Clean, neat properties
- Safe

#### **AGRICULTURE**

- Healthy agriculture

#### **RECREATION AND CULTURE**

- Opportunities for destination recreation area (skiing, golf, motorbikes, fishing, hunting)
- 4-season resort at Dyer Mountain?

#### **OTHER**

- Streamlined county/city processes
- Public pool
- Activities for youth