



Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission Joint Study Session #1 Summary

As part of the San Joaquin County General Plan Update, the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission held their first joint study session on February 24, 2009 to discuss the General Plan Update process and major emerging issues. The General Plan Consultants, Mintier Harnish, made a presentation regarding the overall General Plan Update process followed by a discussion of major emerging issues that the county is facing. After the presentation, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissioners asked questions related to the process for the General Plan Update and the emerging issues presented by the Consultants.

This summary includes the outstanding questions that were posed during the joint Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission study session for the General Plan Update held on February 24, 2009. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Ray Hoo, Senior Planner at 468-3164 or rhoo@sjgov.org.





What is the percentage of prime and non-prime farmland in the County?

The land within the County is broken up into the following categories:

Land Use Category	Acres	% of County (including cities)
Prime Farmland	407,609	44.6
Non-Prime Farmland	357,394	39.2
Urban and Built-up Land	87,833	9.6
Other Land	47,991	5.3
Water Area	11,773	1.3
TOTAL	912,600	100.0

Non-Prime Farmland includes the Department of Conservation agricultural land categories of Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land. Other Land includes rural residences, brush, timber, wetlands, and confined animal facilities.

Were the population estimates from the General Plan 2010 accurate?

The following table shows the comparison between the estimated County population from the General Plan 2010 and the actual population figures. The General Plan 2010 estimated the population for the years 2000 and 2020. The estimated population for 2008 was determined by extrapolating the figures between the years 2000 and 2020. Actual population figures include the unincorporated County and the incorporated cities, and were obtained from the California Department of Finance.

Year	Estimated Population from General Plan 2010	Actual Population (DOF)	Change (Actual to Estimated)
2000	544,827	563,598	+18,771 (+3.3%)
2008	655,637	685,660	+30,023 (+4.4%)
2020	821,851		

It appears that the estimated population figure for 2000 and the extrapolated estimate for 2008 were both fairly close to the actual numbers. The year 2000 was off by 3.3% and 2008 was off by 4.4%.

The vast majority of growth in the County occurs mainly within the incorporated cities, with the bulk occurring within the City of Stockton. Projected build-out within the County, as estimated by the General Plan 2010, has not been reached.

Why is the air quality in the County so bad?

There is speculation from various sources as to the answer to this question. The most common theories include the geography of the local landscape and the local weather patterns, agricultural operations, and the transportation sources that travel through the County. The consultant and sub-consultants are doing the research and analysis on this topic and a section of the Issues and Opportunities Report will address this important subject.