



COMMUNITY RESOURCES AGENCY

DAVID GONZALVES, C.B.O.
Director

Administration - Building - County Surveyor - Engineering - Environmental Health - Fleet Services - GIS - Housing - Planning - Roads - Solid Waste

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48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora
Mailing: 2 S. Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5633
(209) 536-1622 (Fleet)
(209) 533-5616 (fax)
(209) 533-5909 (fax - EHD)
(209) 588-9064 (fax - Fleet)
(209) 533-5698 (fax - Roads)
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in the future of Tuolumne County. As residents and visitors know, our County is a wonderful place to live, work, and recreate. One of the most wonderful things about Tuolumne County is our natural and cultural resources. Whether we work with them, play in them, or want to preserve them, we all live in and visit this County to enjoy a rural lifestyle based in the rich historical vibrant past of the California foothills and the Sierra Nevada Mountains rooted in our resources.

The format of the 2018 Tuolumne County General Plan was crafted to reflect the goal of simplicity. The prior General Plan was thick with programs and policies that overwhelmed both policy makers and planners alike. This 2018 Tuolumne County General Plan easily allows those who will experience life in Tuolumne County to understand what future decisions are based on. The 2018 Tuolumne County General Plan has been written in four volumes, separated into documents to best allow residents, County planners, business owners, and elected officials to make educated decisions based on the policies, information, and assessments contained in the updated General Plan. The following is a breakdown of the 2018 General Plan:

Volume I: General Plan Policy Document - This volume contains the required General Plan Elements by the State of California and the optional Elements that reflect the critical topics important to Tuolumne County. This volume should be used as the reference document when evaluating future decisions made by County decision makers and staff. A key concept of this volume is that the land use map and policies do not encourage or drive growth to the anticipated levels identified in the General Plan, but that the General Plan responds to that growth, should the private sector choose to pursue it.

Volume II: General Plan Technical Background Report - This volume contains the technical information to support the goals, policies, and implementation programs in Volume I. This Technical Background Report (TBR) is intended to serve as an all-inclusive reference document to be used by the County and other local agencies as needed. This TBR is a dynamic document, and will be updated as new, relevant, and scientifically accurate information is obtained and analyzed by County staff. Adopted local, State, and Federal legislation may also require updates to the TBR.

Volume III: Community Identity Element and Community Plans - One of the most unique features of our County is its historic and distinct existing and future communities. Tuolumne County has adopted five community plans for the following areas in the County: Jamestown, Columbia, East Sonora, Tuolumne, and Mountain Springs. To highlight the importance of these community plans, they have been moved into their own separate document, which still a part of the general plan, and is emphasized with a lead chapter, the Community Identity Element. It is the intention of County staff to complete updates to

these plans through intensive community-wide outreach efforts and multiple all-i

clusive planning charettes. While several of these communities are cemented in a historical narrative that makes them unique, these communities continue to re-invent themselves to keep their history alive and relevant. Amendments to these community plans would require a general plan amendment approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Volume IV: Environmental Impact Report – The final volume of the 2018 Tuolumne County General Plan is the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required under the California Environmental Quality Act. This EIR evaluates the impact of the projected growth, and as a part of that assessment will consider how the goals, policies, and may help to reduce any impacts.

Tuolumne County is an area that thrives on recreation, small businesses, natural resources, and agriculture. The challenge presented to decision makers is how will we grow while not changing the elements valued by residents of this County. Based on the goals, policies, implementation programs proposed in this plan, along with the potential modest growth rate, the General Plan can achieve the balance our residents expect, and our visitors escape to.

Through the General Plan Update process, it has become clear that Tuolumne County citizens passionate about its future have more in common with each other than they realize. This General Plan attempts to strike a balance between protecting the resources residents moved here to enjoy and attracting new opportunities that will allow our County to survive into the future. By acknowledging our differences and embracing our commonalities, Tuolumne County has a very bright future.

Again, we appreciate your interest in the future of the County. We are grateful for your participation in the local government process.

To our future,

David Gonzalves

David Gonzalves, CBO
Community Resources Agency, Director

Quincy Yaley

Quincy Yaley, AICP
Community Resources Agency, Assistant Director-Development