



COUNTY OF SOLANO
SUISUN VALLEY STRATEGIC PLAN
**STAKEHOLDERS WORKING
SESSION**

County Administrative Center
1st Floor Multi Purpose Room 1610/1620
675 Texas Street, Fairfield

April 20, 2009
6:30 – 9:00 pm

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome

Adam Cline of Solano County welcomed attendees and reviewed the comments received at the last meeting.

Before beginning the agenda items, Jeff Henderson of EDAW asked if there were additional questions relating to the topics covered in previous meetings. The following two comments were received:

- ▶ There should be more acreage kept in reserve.
- ▶ The right turn from Rancho Solano should be restricted.

2. Overview: Water/Sewer

Mr. Henderson presented information on water and sewer demands and some potential solutions applicable to the valley. After this presentation, he asked for and received the following comments:

- ▶ Consider the cost to treat and store water.
- ▶ Fairfield may not be able to provide enough water.
- ▶ Consider the entire relevant water infrastructure. The 24" main may not be able to be pressurized.
- ▶ The 24" main is old and failing in some locations.
- ▶ Connection fees are different and depend upon the jurisdiction.
- ▶ Consider using wells and think about how water can be delivered to areas further from the well.
- ▶ Use supplemental wells to reduce need for pipe size.
- ▶ The current treatment capacity is not enough to support current valley needs.
- ▶ Use wells in combination with storage.
- ▶ Package treatment plants are a better system.

- ▶ What is the average footprint for a package treatment plant? How far away from development can they be? How far away must they be?
- ▶ Packaged treatment plants also have monitoring costs that should be taken into account.
- ▶ Septic systems may be very viable if the soil percolates well. There cost less than packaged treatment plants.
- ▶ There is a sewer line from Fairfield that might be available in some places.
- ▶ What are the policies regarding maintenance of package treatment plants? The must be managed by a public agency.
- ▶ There is a condo project that uses treated wastewater for its golf course.

3. Overview: Roadway

Mr. Henderson presented information on roadway prototypes that could be appropriate in and around the Neighborhood Agricultural/Tourism Centers (ATCs).

- ▶ Create parking lots to serve the ATCs.
- ▶ Consider where the water line runs in relation to the roadway.
- ▶ Abernathy Road used to have walnut trees lining the road.
- ▶ Create roadways that make visitors feel comfortable.
- ▶ Improve Abernathy Road for cyclists with safety for all.
- ▶ Address safety concerns and keep the rural look of roads.
- ▶ Consider undergrounding utilities. Costs may be a factor.
- ▶ Keep the existing ambience of the roadways.
- ▶ Where would bus stops be located on updated roadways?
- ▶ The left-turn lane shown on the prototype diagram for Abernathy Road is a good idea.
- ▶ Drainage is very important. Surface drainage is not a good solution at Gomer School as Abernathy Road floods.
- ▶ The North Connector will cause additional traffic on Abernathy Road.
- ▶ Decrease the speed limits.
- ▶ What type of trees would be used for the updated roadways?
- ▶ Could there be a map that shows where traffic accidents occur in the valley?

4. Presentation: Marketing

Elizabeth Boyd of EDAW presented the overarching goals of the Suisun Valley Fund Advisory Committee's marketing plan and presented a few ideas of how the County could contribute to the success of their efforts. She encouraged the stakeholders to respond with their own ideas. The following comments were received:

- ▶ The Suisun Valley Fund has been very successful and should be a model for any future action.
 - Organized grape growers.
 - Additional efforts should be led by people in the valley, not the County.
- ▶ The County could aid valley businesses and farmers to get funding or provide matching funds.
- ▶ People in the valley know what is best for the valley.
- ▶ Increase awareness of the Suisun Valley. Encourage growers to market goods as "Suisun Valley" products.
- ▶ Work with the City of Fairfield.
- ▶ Take advantage of what is going on in other cities and communities. For instance, San Francisco was creating a foodshed study and encouraging the use of local foods. There needs to be leadership that collaborates with communities to promote Suisun Valley as a local food source.
- ▶ Suisun Valley fund ends in 2010. Extend its timeframe by two to three years with funding from the County.
- ▶ Create more special days like "Family Farm Days".
- ▶ Is there a Suisun Valley brand? If so, make sure it is known.
- ▶ Make the valley green with agriculture. Encourage people to continue using their land for active farming.
- ▶ Grape growers did a great job in marketing as a brand and Harvest Trails are starting to make an impact.
- ▶ Suisun Valley fruit growers need to coordinate. The valley used to be mostly fruit trees with shipping and packaging.

5. Presentation: Infrastructure and Roadway Financing Options

Jeff Goldman presented various methods of financing roadway and infrastructure improvements in the valley and asked for input.

- ▶ Suisun Valley is a benefit for a broader area. Could the fees be structured so as to target a broader audience?
- ▶ Could the fees be structured so that Fairfield, Vacaville and Suisun City could help support the infrastructure costs? It could be done in combination with marketing.

- ▶ Everyone benefits as events create jobs.
- ▶ Involve the City of Fairfield and the school district.
- ▶ Share infrastructure with the cities.
- ▶ Could gas tax be used? The regional transportation plan (RTP) already plans for the uses of the gas tax. A project could be submitted for consideration for the RTP.
- ▶ Use an assessment district.
- ▶ Don't include a bike path on Abernathy Road.
- ▶ Measure T was voted on by the cities, too. They should help contribute to the cost of preserving the farmland.
- ▶ involve infrastructure from cities which creates jobs locally (i.e., Fairfield sewer plant)
- ▶ Take small steps. Get revenue before more bonds are used. Deal with the parking issues, get more visitors. Keep the look rural. Don't have curbs and gutters.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Louie closed the meeting and reminded attendees of the community meeting on June 22, 2009.