DRAFT VISION

Unincorporated Sonoma County is home to small towns and rural communities united by a deep appreciation for its natural beauty, native ecosystems, and iconic agricultural and open space lands, that together shape the County's landscape and identity.

Residents share a commitment to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and resilient community. We embrace thoughtful development that expands housing and economic opportunity, with a focus on city and community centered growth, conservation of natural resources, protection of agricultural and open space lands, and celebration of our unique unincorporated communities.

Our future is grounded in responsible growth, climate resilience, resource stewardship, and sustainable infrastructure to support a high quality of life for current and future generations.

DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Equity, Inclusion, and Community Identity

Celebrate the character, culture, and identity of Sonoma County's people and places, ensuring all residents have equitable access to housing, services, and opportunity - and meaningful ways to participate in shaping their future.

Sustainable Land Use and Resource Stewardship

Prioritize city-centered growth, while focusing development in unincorporated communities on meeting local needs including housing, infrastructure, and economic opportunities that support long-term community vitality. Promote thoughtful growth to accommodate the County's fair share of regional needs, meet the needs of residents, and protect Sonoma County's iconic agricultural lands, open spaces, rural character, natural beauty, and ecosystems. Conserve water, wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural lands to ensure long-term ecological health and preserve nature-based services like clean water, healthy soil and climate resilience.

Resilient and Diverse Economy

Foster a thriving and diverse local economy by enabling conditions for good-paying jobs, workforce development, and the success of small businesses and agriculture—expanding opportunities that meet local needs and build long-term community resilience.

Robust and Adaptable Agriculture and Local Food Systems

Celebrate Sonoma County's deep agricultural roots and the essential role agriculture continues to play in the County's landscape. Support the viability and adaptability of agricultural lands and operations in the face of changing environmental and economic conditions. Support innovation, diversification, and sustainable practices that protect natural resources and strengthen climate resilience. Ensure the stability, adaptability, and productivity of the County's agricultural lands and industries. Expand access to healthy, local food by supporting producers, farmworkers, and food systems that connect communities to the land. Ensure that agricultural workers and families have safe conditions, access to opportunity, and access to housing.

Complete, Connected, and Healthy Communities

Facilitate housing, mobility, parks, services, and infrastructure that support vibrant, inclusive communities while protecting open space and working lands. Ensure that all residents, including in rural and underserved areas, can safely and efficiently access daily needs and opportunities.

Climate Action and Long-Term Resilience

Prepare for a changing climate and environmental challenges through proactive planning: reduce emissions through climate-smart infrastructure, prioritize development in low-hazard areas, support emergency preparedness, and harness the protective and restorative benefits of nature. Support the well-being of current and future generations by protecting communities from wildfire, flooding, drought, and other climate hazards.

Tribal Partnership and Cultural Stewardship

Honor the sovereignty, history, and living cultures of Native American Tribes and Indigenous Peoples in Sonoma County. Continue and expand government-to-government engagement with Sonoma County's federally recognized tribes through intergovernmental agreements, regular consultation, and co-management arrangements, building on CAO-led Tribal Affairs and Climate Action initiatives. Prioritize early notice, enforceable agreements, incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and capacity-building support for tribal participation.