

Tanya's Group

Which Discussion Topics Are of Most Interest to You?

- Growth Management and Development [[↔page](#)]
- Accessibility and Circulation [[↔page](#)]
- Ecology, Sustainability, and Climate [[↔page](#)]
- Utilities [[↔page](#)]
- Economy and Tourism [[↔page](#)]
- Culture, History, and Community [[↔page](#)]
- Protection of Natural Resources [[↔page](#)]
- Agriculture and Food [[↔page](#)]
- Open Space and Scenic Qualities [[↔page](#)]

Topic 1

Growth Management and Development

- What are important issues regarding development, growth, and use of land in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Address cumulative impacts of new development and make information about development numbers accessible to the public.
 - Jobs affect how much housing is needed; when big employers come in, they need a lot of housing. How do we get that balance right?
 - There are not many tech companies that would bring in younger families and it seems like the 0-18 age group is declining. What can we do to change that?
 - Schools are being closed, which does not support bringing in more families.
 - Permit Sonoma should put climate change and the safety of people who currently live here at the forefront. If a project would create an evacuation problem, it needs to be prioritized. Policies need to be updated.

- Asphalt should be a separate industry in permit requirements because of the possibility of explosion (chemical fire). It should only be allowed in areas where emergency equipment can access it.
- We have a fair share of gravel pollution and trucks.
- Maintain a focus on safety, even if expensive or inconvenient.
- Expand the scope of what we cover in the General Plan to go beyond the past, including risk. Do not rebuild homes in areas that burned. Look at history to see that some things tell us we should not build here and start building risk and population planning into decisions. We need to think about population, risk, and similar factors instead of just development. Take a historical and larger view in our visioning. Use data from the census and our history when thinking about what we are designing for in the future.
- State mandates affordable housing. How many of them are outside of city limits?
- Support for keeping dense housing in cities and agriculture, open space, parks, and community separators in the unincorporated county.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding development and growth in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 2

Accessibility and Circulation

- What are important issues regarding access, circulation, and how you move around in your community and the county and connect to other parts of the region?
 - We need to continue to get people out of cars. Better, more affordable, and more connected transit. Design places in a way that it is easier to walk, bike, and roll. That is happening but slowly; do more. Electrical vehicles are not the only answer.
 - High-density apartments only provide parking for one vehicle which makes people park along the street; this affects the community. People need cars, including for evacuation. Have vision (read above bullet), but keep this in mind.
 - Continue to make the Smart Train easy for people to use. Great that it is free for seniors but expensive for others (including parking). No evening service.
 - Increase local bus transportation such as electric and shuttle buses to get people from point A to point B but do not support mass transportation because it is less convenient for local needs.

- Make more protective and safer bike lanes. Provide more opportunities to have fun alternative mobility options (e.g., electric carts).
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding access and circulation within your community and to other communities?

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Topic 3

Ecology, Sustainability, and Climate

- What are important issues regarding open space and natural resource preservation, sustainability, and climate change impacts in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Fire insurance access and air quality monitoring.
 - How to plan for climate changes over the next 20 years, consider State regulations. Use climate change considerations as criteria to evaluate each issue covered in the General Plan. Do not isolate topics; consider everything through a climate change lens.
 - Water
 - Greater emphasis on the concepts of flow and spread. Consider strategies like infiltration and promoting underground water storage. Permaculture methods can be applied to farms and backyards.
 - Water storage is an issue. Large cisterns can store water during water years and landscaping can help absorb and soak water. However, there is also a

need to take down dams to support fish populations and protect endangered species like salmon.

- Water quality concerns including regulation of pesticides from winery businesses. This raises health issues for winery workers and impacts water supply.
- The County needs adequate staff and expertise to implement the General Plan. For example, if a neighbor is complaining about pollution, a pool of experts should be available to assess the impact, including on local businesses and industries.
- Protect forests. Improve the Tree Ordinance. Fear of wildfire is leading to removing trees and vegetation management. We need to keep evacuation routes free of trees that are threatening powerlines and homes. Trees far from these areas should remain. Increase protections for trees, woodlands, and forest ecosystems. Trees also mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fight climate change.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding ecology, sustainability, and climate in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 4

Utilities

- What are important issues regarding water supply and waste management in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding utilities in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 5

Economy and Tourism

- What are important issues regarding economic development in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Try not to bring in too many people for economic reasons if they will use too many resources.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding the economy and tourism in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 6

Culture, History, and Community

- What are important issues regarding the culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 7

Protection of Natural Resources

- What are important issues regarding water resources, soils, forests and timberlands, biological resources, geothermal resources, mineral resources, and energy resources in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding natural resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 8

Agriculture and Food

- What are important issues regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Growing real food, not just wine and cannabis. Support small diverse family farms, especially those that grow food.
 - Concerns regarding the scale of cannabis.
 - More food; less wine and cannabis.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 9

Open Space and Scenic Qualities

- What are important issues regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Vision

- What is your vision for the county over the next 20 years? How would you like to see the county change or stay the same?
 - A younger population.
 - Balance housing needs (in particular, providing housing options for families) with hazards (e.g., fire).
 - Education. Transform our communities into places of learning about how to adapt to climate change. Invest in public education. Learning is “magic sauce.”
 - Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) Safety Network plug: Telecommunications, particularly cell tower applications, need clearer zoning regulations for both public and cellular companies. Strengthen this ordinance.
 - Will my kids be able to stay and live here?

Haleigh's Group

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Topic 1

Growth Management and Development

- What are important issues regarding development, growth, and use of land in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Focus on city-centered growth in urbanized areas.
 - Balancing development and traffic circulation in advance of development.
 - Concern over required housing numbers from the housing element, any reconsideration during the update?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding development and growth in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Infrastructure improvements.
 - Considering the current state of infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, groundwater) and whether it needs to be improved to accommodate development.
 - Consider the WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) when developing.

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Topic 2

Accessibility and Circulation

- What are important issues regarding access, circulation, and how you move around in your community and the county and connect to other parts of the region?
 - Limited access for senior citizens in rural areas, consideration of “hub” for services such as mobile medical services or meals.
 - State law (AB43) preservation of scenic highways.
 - Arterial roads with higher speed limits make it difficult for pedestrians, consider reducing speed limits.
 - Evacuation routes and programs.
 - Forest preservation, also consider prescribed burning, and the cultural importance of this practice.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding access and circulation within your community and to other communities?
 - More bicycle lanes and facilities.
 - Accommodate additional alternative transport modalities.

- Improve connectivity between eastern and western county, there are a limited number of roads that will take you from the coast to Sonoma Valley. Public transit connectivity between the eastern and western portions of the county also needs to be improved.

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Topic 3

Ecology, Sustainability, and Climate

- What are important issues regarding open space and natural resource preservation, sustainability, and climate change impacts in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Water quality and quantity.
 - Forest health and watersheds.
 - Preservation of resources for future generations.
 - Protection of agricultural soils.
 - Prescribed burning as a form of land management.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding ecology, sustainability, and climate in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Continuation of protective and restorative policy for green spaces.
 - Sustainable natural resource development.
 - Efforts of the viticultural industry to preserve water and water quality.



- There is a large amount of land in the county dedicated to grape growing compared to other food. Support regenerative agriculture.
- Limit pesticide usage.

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Topic 4

Utilities

- What are important issues regarding water supply and waste management in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Survey of sewer hookups, data collection for sewer capacity, and carrying capacity for future development, specifically the Penngrove area.
 - Infrastructure struggles in small communities in the west county.
 - Pressure on aging infrastructure.
 - Cost of delivering water and processing waste.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding utilities in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Concurrent ability to provide services if an area is to be developed.

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Topic 5

Economy and Tourism

- What are important issues regarding economic development in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Economy and tourism should be separate topics, economy is a larger topic.
 - Cottage industries in the county are important.
 - The County's economy is currently healthy, continue to support this.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding the economy and tourism in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Maintain and support a diverse economy.

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Topic 6

Culture, History, and Community

- What are important issues regarding the culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Preserve the culture of Sonoma County.
 - Large breadth of cultures within the county.
 - It is important to educate residents about the story and history of their community.
 - Recreation relates to many topic areas, consider separate topic areas or how this fits into other areas (e.g., bike races, etc.).
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Education surrounding this topic; “educational hub,” may include community centers or cultural centers.
 - Support for cultural institutions at all levels and special events highlighting these stories.



- Voluntourism as a form of public involvement and education.

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Topic 7

Protection of Natural Resources

- What are important issues regarding water resources, soils, forests and timberlands, biological resources, geothermal resources, mineral resources, and energy resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Maybe programs to support culturally prescribed burns and what that may look like.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding natural resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 8

Agriculture and Food

- What are important issues regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Preservation of agricultural land.
 - Access to infrastructure and public utilities.
 - Agricultural processing has been reduced and taken over by development.
 - Improve opportunities for agricultural activities.
 - Water access in agricultural lands and access to grants or resources related to water catchment systems etc.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Less industrial agricultural.
 - More access for younger generations to agricultural land.

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Topic 9

Open Space and Scenic Qualities

- What are important issues regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Vision

- What is your vision for the county over the next 20 years? How would you like to see the county change or stay the same?
 - Do not want to see the elimination of the agricultural industry.
 - Do not want to see “elitist” policies that limit diverse populations.
 - Avoid monoculture (e.g., grapes) and maintain a diverse agricultural industry (dairy, vegetable farming, cheese making, etc.).
 - Ensure and maintain funding for agriculture and open space.
 - Maintain the unique characteristics of the County.

Alisa's Group

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Topic 1

Growth Management and Development

- What are important issues regarding development, growth, and use of land in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Accessory dwelling units and the possibility of subdivision after development.
 - Flexibility in parcel size to accommodate family and future generations.
 - Allowing different types of housing units on agricultural parcels to accommodate multiple families.
 - Reconsider parcel sizes, particularly in the context of wildfire hazards.
 - Relationship between congestion, evacuation, and the location of senior housing in areas with difficult and limited transportation.
 - Identify underutilized sites that may be housing opportunities, and that may have access to services.
 - Reevaluate existing general plan goals. Are they appropriate given current conditions?

- In general, how do we make an adaptable document that allows room to learn and change over time?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding development and growth in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 2

Accessibility and Circulation

- What are important issues regarding access, circulation, and how you move around in your community and the county and connect to other parts of the region?
 - Consider autonomous vehicles.
 - Well-maintained roads are important for general use, safety, and evacuation.
 - Are buses accessible to all users? Coordination and matching of accessible buses to riders.
 - Need to balance the pros and cons of air transportation. Convenience is great but jets overhead sometimes feel out of place and/or noisy.
 - Transit options are poor, less auto-focused, user-friendly, and accessible.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding access and circulation within your community and to other communities?

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Topic 3

Ecology, Sustainability, and Climate

- What are important issues regarding open space and natural resource preservation, sustainability, and climate change impacts in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding ecology, sustainability, and climate in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 4

Utilities

- What are important issues regarding water supply and waste management in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding utilities in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 5

Economy and Tourism

- What are important issues regarding economic development in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Importance of diversification; do not rely too heavily on tourism.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding the economy and tourism in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 6

Culture, History, and Community

- What are important issues regarding the culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 7

Protection of Natural Resources

- What are important issues regarding water resources, soils, forests and timberlands, biological resources, geothermal resources, mineral resources, and energy resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Costly to manage forested lands in private hands. How do we support beneficial management and fire-safe practices despite the high cost?
 - Consider how wildfire affects the stability of soils and slopes. How can the county help ensure that areas are safe when they are developed?
 - Does the county have the resources necessary to maintain county-owned and/or managed lands?
 - Opportunities to improve knowledge, capability, and enforcement ability regarding appropriate management of large and forested properties. Are there opportunities for public and private partnerships?
 - Importance of enforcement of stormwater and runoff issues associated with development.

- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding natural resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Inspired ownership, large properties being managed responsibly and safely to reduce fire risk.
 - County seeks funding and resources to support property management where there is potential for mutual community benefit.

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Topic 8

Agriculture and Food

- What are important issues regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Gratitude for the history of agriculture in the county.
 - How to sustain agriculture? Changes to the Williamson Act?
 - Consider restaurant workers, labor, and the needs of farmworkers, including housing and safety.
 - How do we make it affordable to live here?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Keep farmer's markets and expand them as they provide healthy and local choices.
 - Consider the role of agriculture in wildfire resiliency. Are there opportunities for mutual benefits? Zoning to allow agriculture with consideration for fire risk.

- Find opportunities to support creative business concepts and approaches, including farm-to-table concepts, etc.

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Topic 9

Open Space and Scenic Qualities

- What are important issues regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Start considering why we want open space. What is the benefit? Is it for scenic qualities? Other values? Let us define it and drill down.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Vision

- What is your vision for the county over the next 20 years? How would you like to see the county change or stay the same?
 - Change is constant, we should be open-minded to the potential for the future to look different than the past and we must be able to adapt to change.
 - Hope that Sonoma County remains a place where we can all continue to enjoy the things that we each enjoy, coexisting with others and new residents while recognizing the importance that there are many people with different ideals and visions.
 - A place where people of all ages can live, thrive, and achieve their utmost potential - healthy, happy, and safe.

Levan's Group

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Topic 1

Growth Management and Development

- What are important issues regarding development, growth, and use of land in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Increase in airplane noise in all of the west county.
 - The price of land and development is increasing. Residential development is encroaching on rural and agricultural areas. Protect the agricultural character and unique character of unincorporated communities.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding development and growth in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Enhanced fire resilience for new development.

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Topic 2

Accessibility and Circulation

- What are important issues regarding access, circulation, and how you move around in your community and the county and connect to other parts of the region?
 - The quality of roads in the west county needs improvement. Joy Road needs repair, as it is a critical path for evacuation.
 - Penngrove traffic congestion and safety concerns. High traffic flow erodes rural character and sense of place.
 - Better connectivity of bike trails, and better separation from traffic in the west county.
 - High traffic flows create safety concerns and erode community character. Better road maintenance, bike trail connectivity, and safety for bikes and pedestrians.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding access and circulation within your community and to other communities?
 - Less reliance on cars and better alternative transportation.

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Topic 3

Ecology, Sustainability, and Climate

- What are important issues regarding open space and natural resource preservation, sustainability, and climate change impacts in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding ecology, sustainability, and climate in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 4

Utilities

- What are important issues regarding water supply and waste management in your community or other parts of the county?
 - The cost of annexing sanitation districts is prohibitive. The capacity of local sanitation districts is insufficient. What are the obstacles to expanding service?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding utilities in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Undergrounding electric lines for safety. Decentralized power grid and local generation.

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Topic 5

Economy and Tourism

- What are important issues regarding economic development in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Balance tourism with the needs of residents.
 - Concerns about the increase in airplane noise in airport surroundings.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding the economy and tourism in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 6

Culture, History, and Community

- What are important issues regarding the culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding culture and history in your community or other parts of the county?

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Topic 7

Protection of Natural Resources

- What are important issues regarding water resources, soils, forests and timberlands, biological resources, geothermal resources, mineral resources, and energy resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Forest management to reduce fire risk, prescribed burns, firebreaks, etc. Prohibit clearcutting.
 - Sustainable use of resources such as water. Curtail frivolous use of water like golf courses.
 - Promote water recycling, permaculture, and water retention to replenish groundwater.
 - More groundwater monitoring; consider well depths.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding natural resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - A more regional approach to sustainability that considers differences between the west county and other areas.

- More support for alternative technologies like composting toilets, greywater usage, solar, etc.

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Topic 8

Agriculture and Food

- What are important issues regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Do more to support small agricultural operations. Provide incentives for diversified farming. Reduce regulatory restrictions on agriculture and housing for farmworkers.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding agriculture and food in your community or other parts of the county?
 - More support for cooperative agricultural processing for multiple agricultural operators.

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Topic 9

Open Space and Scenic Qualities

- What are important issues regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?
 - Preserve and enhance open space. Strike a balance between new development and open space preservation.
 - Provide better access to open space and trail connectivity.
- What would you like to see happen over the next 20 years regarding open space and scenic resources in your community or other parts of the county?

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Vision

- What is your vision for the county over the next 20 years? How would you like to see the county change or stay the same?
 - More policies to support resiliency and self-sufficiency in the climate crisis.