

Sonoma County Workshop — May 18, 2011

Plan Bay Area Participant Comment Sheet

Step 1: County Growth and Place Types

(A.) thoughts and comments about place types in the area closest to where you live or work.

MEETING	COMMENT
Sonoma	More walkable neighborhoods, safe routes to school
Sonoma	Diverse and walkable, with access to transit
Sonoma	Vacant lands within City of Santa Rosa are future growth areas
Sonoma	Podium (?) type buildings to implement high densities envisioned for Santa Rosa North Station Area will not likely be economically viable for many years. This should not be allowed to impede development of this area at current General Plan densities in the interim.
Sonoma	Links from lag areas to central areas
Sonoma	Accessibility to neighborhood services
Sonoma	(11) While the Eighth Street corridor is appropriate for small industry, housing and/or transportation to serve that area needs to improve. (14) The area should include Sonoma proper as well.
Sonoma	The pictures are misleading and there are too many categories. Simplify.
Sonoma	Diverse areas/cities - place types vary dramatically in our county. Regional center is probably too dense, but city center appropriate in most of our cities. Some cities might still have rural town center but most accept density in landforms.
Sonoma	I live in a rural type of neighborhood 5 minutes from a suburban shopping center. It's nice!
Sonoma	Developments close to my neighborhood. (1) Mixed-use corridor
Sonoma	Wonderful parks — close to all types of parks. Not very accessible for shopping and other services. Very nice neighborhood setting.
Sonoma	My place types are rural centers.
Sonoma	To sum it up, the more transit towns in the county, the better. A light rail from Sebastopol to Petaluma, Sebastopol to Sonoma, and Cloverdale to Petaluma (SMART plan already in place).
Sonoma	OK - Sonoma as rural ??? use — so long as it includes light rail — not more cars!

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(B.) What are your priorities for conserving land in the county/region?

MEETING COMMENT

Sonoma	I want ranchers'/farmers' rights to continue to be respected. Eminent domain is not an acceptable way to "conserve" land.
Sonoma	Preserving local open space, state parks
Sonoma	State and county-owned land
Sonoma	Work with open space district
Sonoma	Mixed suburban/rural spaces
Sonoma	Mixed suburban/rural spaces/public parks
Sonoma	Increased dedicated agricultural land; watershed protection; increase local economic activity and jobs; develop "energy sheds" (e.g., wind, solar farms)
Sonoma	Keep our farmland and parks intact and functional.
Sonoma	Preserve agricultural land/riparian corridors/mountain tops, greenbelts.
Sonoma	Save all current farmland. Local food supply will become crucial in the future.
Sonoma	Sonoma County has several programs to preserve our rural heritage.
Sonoma	Keeping existing parks — city, regional and state
Sonoma	High priority for farmland preservation and reducing suburban sprawl.
Sonoma	Higher density development will keep our open spaces available for recreation, agriculture, protected habitat, etc.
Sonoma	Sonoma City has a large rural mixed-use area. Way too much land consumed for minimal population growth and marginal GHG reduction from this non-transit-friendly growth along Hwy. 12.
Sonoma	Vineyards are beginning to fail - convert to orchards - nuts and fruits - ___ to rocky grape growing soil.

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(C.) What resources do you think would be needed to support growth and high-quality development in your community?

MEETING	COMMENT
Sonoma	Less government. Allow business including agriculture to do their thing!
Sonoma	I would like to see some transit-centered planned communities and/or pedestrian-friendly town squares.
Sonoma	\$ for planning
Sonoma	SB 375 (circled)
Sonoma	Community level planning forums; community mapping workshops; local development/community development support/funding
Sonoma	Car-share. Employer tax break for hiring local (i.e., within 5 miles) of workplace. Employer incentives for non-driving employees, work from home, etc.
Sonoma	\$ for infrastructure for transportation, alternative transit (and operating funds), bicycle facilities/lanes/paths. Flexible in zoning to integrate jobs, services, schools and houses.
Sonoma	Build a bike pedestrian bridge that connects Santa Rosa Jr. College/East Santa Rosa to West Santa Rosa/train station.
Sonoma	SMART up and running will increase tourist trade and other businesses. Maintain existing infrastructure - roads in good shape. Accommodating growth in existing footprint.
Sonoma	Adequate infrastructure including water-sewer and energy facilities and distribution systems. Transportation alternatives and upgrade 101 north of Windsor.
Sonoma	A more educated public. We need to somehow present the process of developing the plan for the Bay Area's future in a manner that simultaneously informs the public while providing choices and minimizing the political volatility of the public forum. (I acknowledge that you appeared to be attempting this — not a bad job.)
Sonoma	Light rail — elect up

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Step 2: Transportation Investment Strategies

Comments about top transportation investment strategies

MEETING	COMMENT
Sonoma	Note by C: Increase funding to repair or purchase new buses, train cars, tracks, etc. — If we had the money
Sonoma	SMART is not a good investment. It should be scrapped!
Sonoma	Get the train running! Support SMART and local transit.
Sonoma	I want my freedom! Get rid of ICLEI/SMART/sustainable development/Agenda 21 et al. I want to be free!
Sonoma	There should be some improvements to the existing transit system.
Sonoma	Fix assets in place is of utmost importance
Sonoma	Need to consider transportation system needs to support Bay Area commerce. Widening freeway (US 101) isn't only about cars and commuting — it's about movement of goods and services also.
Sonoma	Diversion/reduction of transportation
Sonoma	Prioritize local development of jobs, food, energy, water, etc.; education at all levels; community building; ride-share, shuttle services
Sonoma	Make it safer to bike/bus/walk. Make it more expensive to drive.
Sonoma	One all-transit monthly passes. Create incentives for low-income ridership. Incentivize public transport options. City Bus → County Bus → Train = one transit pass for all three
Sonoma	Move goods using rail to get trucks off the road. Maintain existing infrastructure - particularly roads.
Sonoma	Stop the expansion of highways; it takes away from the character of Sonoma County. Make Sonoma County a rail county, not highway.
Sonoma	On C: Increase funding to repair or purchase new buses, train cars, tracks, etc. — circled train cars, tracks

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Step 3: Policy Initiatives

Comments about top policy initiatives

MEETING COMMENT

Sonoma	Again, government is too intrusive and too regulatory. Also, we need to focus on current economic issues, not future growth!
Sonoma	Transit
Sonoma	I think that employers should emphasize mass transit use and other ways of commuting!!!
Sonoma	Do not force builders of new homes to pay more fees for more initiatives
Sonoma	Linkages between the neighborhoods by the fairgrounds/southwest Santa Rosa and the future train
Sonoma	More options for specific ideas such as "New Requirements for Employers." More time should be allocated to understanding the concepts before laying the cards down in the games. Also, I would like to propose consideration of a technological platform to vote directly on these issues as we did in this forum. A Web-based app could gather real-time data to vote directly on the evolving plan.

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WILD CARDS

Step 2: Transportation Investment Strategies

Step 3: Policy Initiatives

MEETING	WILD CARD — Investment Strategies	WILD CARD — Policy Initiatives
Sonoma	Maintain what we have	Some of these are good ideas above but they should not be mandated, but voluntary
Sonoma		Prioritize local food sources
Sonoma	Public transportation options that facilitate a car-free lifestyle	
Sonoma	Intercity-town electric light rail to whole Bay Area	Electric light rail everywhere or non-fossil fuel
Sonoma	Incentive car + vanpooling. Traffic.	Greenhouse gases don't matter much because global warming is a hoax.
Sonoma	Cab vouchers for disabled patrons for emergency night/weekend/holidays	Green building/transit mix economic with environmental
Sonoma	Discounted bus passes for disabled/students/seniors or 30-pass tickets for frequent riders	Audible sounds on electric vehicles
Sonoma	Mini-buses for neighborhood short trips	Make carpooling actually carpooling. A mom with her baby is NOT a carpool - we don't encourage people to carpool when anyone and everyone can cheat it.
Sonoma	Appropriate road development to appropriate housing growth, especially rural	Downtown parking in Santa Rosa should be discounted for government workers and business workers.
Sonoma	Enhancement of existing public transit	Lessen restrictions on new small businesses.
Sonoma	Demand transportation agencies that are already doing stuff to complete and improve the current transportation situation. Make the SMART train do what all were promised it would do.	Repeal NAFTA.
Sonoma	Realign MTC/ABAG boundaries with commute sheds, not county boundaries.	Make all freeways toll roads with congestion-based pricing.
Sonoma	Cities to lower fees and decrease land use restrictions for builders to <u>invest</u> without public funds.	Increase bridge tolls for SO vehicles and decrease bus fares to encourage transit ridership and carpooling.
Sonoma	Use collected funds to fix the roads.	We need more local jobs!!
Sonoma	Put all redevelopment areas to a vote with a full explanation of the impacts to general fund and county/state services.	Require Prius-like gauges in all cars to show people what they could save when gas reaches \$8 a gallon. They still have the option to be a cowboy but some will learn and change behavior.
Sonoma	Adopt public policy to encourage public/private partnerships for incentivizing infrastructure and private development investment.	We need alternatives that do not result in the individual worker paying for new fees, tolls or costs.
Sonoma	Create a public transportation system that supports car-free lifestyles.	Lower electric use. See Refusesmartmeters.com
Sonoma	Incentives for fleet turnover to greener energy.	Stop the geo-engineering program CO ² cause
Sonoma	Eliminate unnecessary agencies that are unelected violating our Constitution.	Credits for reduction of energy; solar \$ incentives to cities for all economic classes/homeowners. Energy reduction incentives - \$ to the cities to do solar loans.
Sonoma	Don't spend money we don't have.	Economic Development - Incentivize place-based economic development in agricultural and industry to support community/lifestyle total economics.
Sonoma		Mobility Management to maximize use of private, nonprofit and public vehicles.
Sonoma		Take transportation funding to give cities grants to create car-share programs for residents with low monthly fees.
Sonoma		Prioritize local food sources; e.g., local farms, ranches
Sonoma		Free bus ridership for SRJC college students

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Step 2: Transportation Investment Strategies

Step 3: Policy Initiatives

MEETING	WILD CARD — Investment Strategies	WILD CARD — Policy Initiatives
Sonoma		Link all neighborhoods with bike lanes and greenways to create safe routes for commuting/shopping.
Sonoma		Develop inter-town/city light rail - electric - to get anywhere in the Bay Area.
Sonoma		Option #5 (Other Pricing Strategies) with following stipulation: Monies collected go 100% toward clean transportation infrastructure (light rail, fuel cell, electric, renewable grid, etc.)
Sonoma		Free bus passes for students, seniors, some employees
Sonoma		Gas tax - If GHG reduction must happen at local level, so must gas tax.
Sonoma		Build or subsidize downtown high-rise development to decrease need to drive.
Sonoma		Support small businesses. "The Mystery of Capital" by Hernando de Soto. Third-world countries remain third world because they don't have personal property rights.
Sonoma		Eliminate downtown parking meters that are destroying our local business because people now to Montgomery Village to shop because there are no parking meters.
Sonoma		Economic Development - Increase parking garages. Reduce zoning parking spaces.