



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO
PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES

3224 Southside Road
Hollister, CA 95023
e-mail: sbcplan@planning.co.san-benito.ca.us

Phone: 831-637-5313
Fax: 831-637-5334

TO: Members of the General Plan Advisory Committee
FROM: Michael Kelly, Associate Planner, and Art Henriques, Director of Planning
DATE: September 22, 2009
RE: **Drafting a General Plan Vision Statement**

At its September 10 meeting, the Committee discussed a vision statement for the development of the updated General Plan and for the evaluation of Plan alternatives. Committee members present at the meeting shared their ideas for the statement's content, and members Noble and Roemer were then designated an ad-hoc subcommittee with the responsibility of creating a draft of the statement. This draft appears below. The Committee is requested to discuss this draft and, if any members feel it is necessary, suggest edits:

At pace with the changing world, but still rural in nature, our vision of the San Benito County in 2035 is of a positive and prosperous future, in which balance is maintained between business and residential growth without surrendering our rich natural beauty, valuable agricultural assets, active country character, or our historic heritage.

Where possible, walkable neighborhoods, parks, business districts, and job centers are linked to one another by a sensibly-sized, well-maintained transportation network, suitable for foot, bicycle, auto, bus, or sometimes horse. Connection to distant destinations is readily available by auto, bus, train, or plane, or "virtually" by way of computer enhanced telecommunications.

Downtowns are not taken for granted. Established local businesses, not just the buildings they inhabit, are understood to be important foundations to thriving prosperous downtowns. To ensure continued relevance of the downtowns, infill development containing compatible enterprises is supported. Visitors find ample retail and dining prospects, welcoming accommodations, and unmatched outdoor recreational opportunities.

The county continues to widen the spectrum of business and industry, enhanced educational opportunities, and broadened leisure time activities available for a population that is diverse in age, culture, education, and lifestyle. Environmentally sustainable technologies are embraced, and businesses of any size are encouraged to come, hire local talent, and grow in the rich soil, clean water, beautiful climate, and rural atmosphere of San Benito County.