

September 20, 2006

# Emerging Solano County Vision Statement

## A Vision for Solano County in 2030

### **Preamble**

*The Vision for Solano County is expressed in future terms—who we are and what we want to be 20 to 30 years from now. The Vision is founded on the principles of “The Environment,” “The Economy,” and (Social) “Equity.” We cannot achieve the future we desire unless each of these three principles is achieved. The Vision is for the County as a whole, recognizing that Solano County must work collaboratively with the cities and other public agencies to achieve the Vision it desires.*

*The Vision uses words and phrases that may be subject to differing interpretations. These words and phrases will be defined in more concrete terms as policies in the various elements of the General Plan.*

### **The Environment**

The people of Solano County will act wisely as stewards of our natural resources. Although we live between the San Francisco Bay region, with a projected population of over eight million in 20 years, and the Sacramento region, with a projected population of nearly three million in 20 years, we will maintain and enhance much of our County’s environmental resources for the enjoyment of future generations. We will focus on creative and innovative solutions to meet both human needs and the needs of the natural environment.

Our respect for human and environmental needs will guide our land use decisions and where development takes place. We will continue to guide most growth into our cities and collaborate with officials in those cities to promote compact development. By continuing this practice, we can sustain the unique character and identity of our communities. We will use our natural habitat, farmlands, and water resources to maintain separation among our cities and unincorporated communities. These features will continue to contribute to our identity and economy and help to protect our people from flooding and other natural hazards.

Because we value the quality of our air, soil, water, and other finite natural resources, we will continue to support practices that use renewable and recycled resources and reduce energy consumption and pollution as much as possible. We will reduce our reliance on automobiles to meet our daily travel needs. We will provide abundant and diverse recreation opportunities that are compatible with the natural environment yet provide our residents and visitors with an opportunity to enjoy nature.

By considering human and environmental needs equally, we can create a place where people may choose to live, work, and play within close proximity; a place where nature, farmlands, and water are close by and accessible to all our residents; and a place where people have choices for housing, employment, transportation, and recreation.

## **The Economy**

We will seek to diversify our local economy so that many activities contribute to our prosperity. This diversity will provide opportunities for small and large businesses to thrive in a variety of industries. We will nurture businesses that employ our residents and offer opportunities for local ownership. We will encourage businesses that support our communities and provide our people with sufficient incomes to meet their basic needs. While we protect our current economic assets, we will prepare for economic change as we compete in an increasingly global marketplace.

We will use our natural and agricultural resources as economic opportunities while also recognizing their environmental value. We will strive to enhance the quality of our natural and agricultural resources as visitor attractions and contributors to our economy while giving equal weight to their environmental value. We will support small family farms and large agricultural businesses alike. We will encourage Solano County residents to visit and learn about our local farms and encourage them to buy from local farmers. By doing so, we may also encourage farmers to provide sustainable goods and services for our community.

## **(Social) Equity**

People are our greatest assets and should be treated equitably. To achieve an equitable society, we will support access to opportunities so that individuals may thrive and achieve their full potential. We will support housing opportunities for all residents at all income levels. We will provide our citizens with an opportunity to succeed through quality education, skills training, and lifelong learning. We will also promote public health, safety and security, and environmental justice as part of an equitable society.

Access to open government is vital to our society. We will ensure that all our residents have access to their local governments and vital information affecting their lives. We will nurture civic participation through informed citizens and seek collaboration to identify common goals and solutions. We will give equal consideration to public and private interests in our government decisions. We will promote access to civic culture and the arts as part of a healthy community. We will also seek fiscal responsibility in our government while supporting a wide range of public services that make Solano County a desirable place to live.