



kern regional blueprint program

Kern Quality-of-life Survey

In January 2007, Kern Council of Governments surveyed residents on their attitudes and perceptions about the quality of life in the Kern region.

- 70% agreed that Kern's population is growing too fast.
- 66% do not believe that the county's roads are safe and adequate to handle the current population.
- 78% agreed that Kern has serious air pollution problems.
- 88% agreed with the statement, "We should require local governments to work together to have a common plan for transportation and housing development and land use in their region."
- 51% agreed that Kern lacks well-paying jobs.

To find out more about the survey results, please visit www.kerncog.org.

Help shape your Community's Future - Join us at a follow-up town hall meeting!

Kern County's population is expected to double by 2050 to 2,106,024 people. How will we manage this growth? What progress are we making toward a shared vision for our communities and the region? Residents throughout the county are asking these questions as part of the Kern Regional Blueprint Program.

Now that we've heard from residents about values and preferred general approaches for future growth, we turn our attention to specific ideas and preferences for addressing these important issues. What are the best solutions as we plan for growth?

Your ideas and answers are critical to shaping your community's future! This fall, Kern Council of Governments (COG) will be hosting 16 more town hall meetings throughout the county (*see schedule on back*). Using interactive and fun exercises, we will present a variety of options to solving your community's growth-related challenges, and ask for your priorities. There are always trade-offs between different solutions, and we need your input to find the right balance!



Spring 2007 Town Hall Meetings

From March to June, more than 400 community members gathered at 12 town hall meetings conducted throughout the region. Kern COG hosted the meetings as part of the Kern Regional Blueprint Program’s first phase. Participants from diverse backgrounds joined their neighbors in conversations about their concerns and ideas for their communities’ future.

What do we value most about where we live? What do we have today that should be preserved for our children and grandchildren? Participants agreed that each community in the Kern region has its own distinct character. Many people enjoy their community’s small-town feel, sense of community spirit, safety, and rural tranquility. The region’s education systems, location, and open spaces also make Kern special.

For the future, many participants envisioned:

- Expanded and improved educational opportunities and youth activities;
- More economic diversity and jobs;
- Planned development that accommodates growth and yet curbs sprawl and preserves agriculture and ranching;
- Improved medical services;
- More parks and recreation programs;
- Walkable neighborhoods and improved infrastructure, including better roads, bikeways and public transit;
- More housing choices and affordability; and
- Better air quality.

After a visioning exercise, participants played a card game and ranked nine issue areas by their level of importance to the Kern region’s future. Participants then indicated the level of change necessary to address each issue (see Figure 1 below).

Of course, each community in the region has unique challenges. For example, air quality is less of a concern in the eastern desert region than in the valley, while mountain communities are very concerned about preserving open space and habitat.

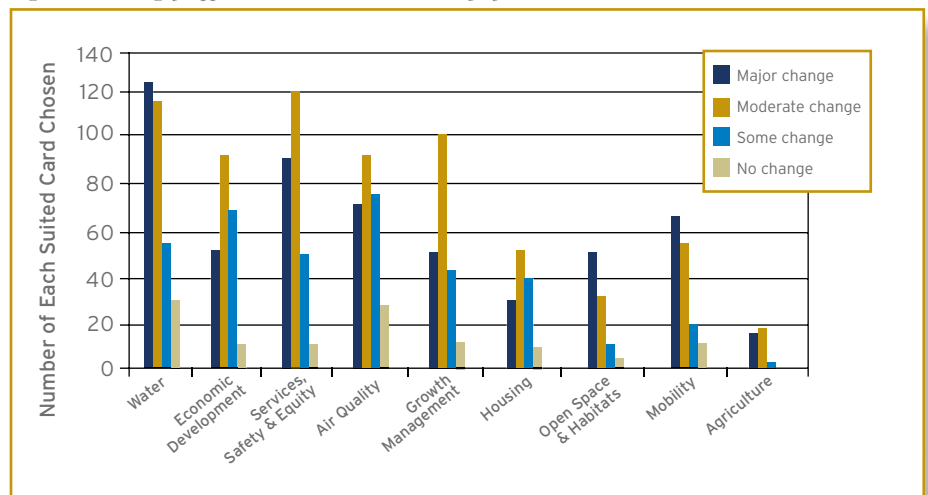
- Providing additional public services for all ages, including recreation and community events, childcare, youth activities, and senior services;
- Planning proactively for growth, with an emphasis on curbing sprawl, providing adequate infrastructure, and preserving agriculture and open space;
- Reducing traffic and increasing public transit, bicycle paths, and road maintenance;
- Controlling crime;
- Improving air quality;
- Increasing educational opportunities and job training;
- Using alternative energy; and
- Identifying new sources of funding.

May 2007 Metropolitan Bakersfield Town Hall Meetings

In May 2007, Kern COG also collaborated with Vision 2020, the City of Bakersfield, and the County of Kern on a series of four public workshops as part of the process to update the Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan. The General Plan addresses similar questions to the Blueprint Program about growth that is expected in the Bakersfield area. In those meetings, participants identified the following priorities for their communities:



Figure 1: Ranking of approaches to issues in Kern County’s future.*



*These results do not include outcomes of the Metropolitan Bakersfield meetings.

Town Hall Meetings

Reuniones de la comunidad



Please visit www.kerncog.org, or contact Becky Napier at Kern COG at (661) 861-2191 for more information. **We hope to see you there!**

Para obtener más información, por favor visite www.kerncog.org o comuníquese con Raquel Pacheco, del Kern COG, al (661) 861-2191. **¡Esperamos verle en una reunión!**

**Mojave/Rosamond/
California City**
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Mojave Veterans Building
15580 "O" Street
Mojave, CA

Tehachapi
Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Tehachapi High School Cafeteria
801 South Dennison Road
Tehachapi, CA

Taft/Maricopa/Buttontwillow
Wednesday, October 10, 2007
The Historic Fort
915 North 10th Street
Taft, CA

Lamont
Tuesday, October 16, 2007
David Head Center
10300 San Diego Street
Lamont, CA

(En español with English translation)

Town Hall Meeting Details

Registration, Open House
and Light Meal: 6:00 p.m.

Presentation and Community
Discussion: 6:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Spanish interpretation will be available

Arvin
Wednesday, October 17, 2007
Veterans Hall
414 4th Street
Arvin, CA

Delano
Tuesday, October 23, 2007
Delano VFW Memorial Building,
Room 1
1025 Garces Highway
Delano, CA

Kern River Valley
Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Kern River Veterans/Senior
Building
6405 Lake Isabella Blvd.
Lake Isabella, CA

McFarland
Tuesday, October 30, 2007
Mouser Center
100 South 2nd Street
McFarland, CA

Horario y Detalles

Registro y refrescos: 6:00pm.

Presentación y discusión
comunitaria: 6:15 – 9:00pm.

Las reuniones tendrán traducción
en español

Ridgecrest/Inyokern
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Kerr McGee Center
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA

Shafter
Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Shafter Veterans Building
309 California Avenue
Shafter, CA

Wasco
Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Recreation & Parks District
1280 Poplar Street
Wasco, CA

Frazier Park
Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Frazier Park Recreation Building
Frazier Mt. Park, Glendale Trail &
Park Dr.
Frazier Park, CA