

# Siskiyou County General Plan Update

Study Session | October 15, 2024





# Meeting outline/agenda

- **Community engagement**
- **What is a vision statement?**
  - Draft vision statements
- **What are guiding principles?**
  - Draft guiding principles
- **Discussion**



# Engagement

- **Workshop series #1**
- **Online surveys and activities**
  - Postcards from the future
  - Vision Libs
  - What do you love about Siskiyou County?
  - Countywide issues activity
  - Assets, challenges, and opportunities activity
- **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, October 3, 2024**



# What is a vision statement?

- Aspirational description of what the community would like to be
- Summary of high-level goals
- Identifies what is important to the community
- Provides early direction for the development of the General Plan



# Draft vision statement #1

Siskiyou County is a thriving, independent community where people can enjoy the region's rural charm, historic character, and natural open spaces. It is a place that prioritizes self-sufficiency and the long-term economic success of its residents and small businesses. Locals and tourists alike have ample access to recreational opportunities, natural resources, and the clean air and water that ensure a healthy life for those who call Siskiyou County their home. The community protects itself from wildfires and other natural hazards through stewardship of the natural environment.



# Draft vision statement #2

Siskiyou County, nestled amongst the mountains, rivers, and abundant open spaces of the region, is a place where people can live in a rural setting that matches their values and way of life. The county's support for its many small businesses and close-knit, active communities create a region where people can thrive and maintain self-sufficiency. Natural resources provide a livelihood for countless individuals and are enjoyed by visitors and locals alike.

# Draft vision statement #3



Siskiyou County is a one-of-a-kind region with an independent spirit and active community. Natural resources and open spaces are intertwined with every aspect of local life and the economy, from agricultural opportunities to natural resource extraction and the promotion of tourism. Residents lead a healthy and safe lifestyle in the county's many small towns that continue to preserve their unique rural and historic heritage.



# Draft vision statement #4

Siskiyou County is a vibrant, close-knit community, where everyone has the opportunity to be safe, healthy, and successful. We are a friendly, family-oriented community, with thriving schools and abundant recreational and business opportunities. In looking to the future, local neighborhoods will continue to grow while still retaining that small-town feel, with homes that are well-maintained and cared for. The county continues to be a vacation destination for visitors seeking to experience our picturesque landscapes and outdoor amenities. The economy is strong with quality employment opportunities in a variety of diverse fields such as agriculture, technology, and renewable resources. Agricultural land is conserved and the county's rural heritage remains strong. To protect from wildfire, the community practices common-sense stewardship of the natural environment, while surface and groundwater resources are preserved and fairly allocated for agricultural, wildlife, recreation, and economic uses.





# Initial Technical Advisory Committee input

- Connect to the county's rich and storied history
- Conclude with how the county is well-positioned to deal with future challenges
- Option 4 was developed by staff and the TAC.



# What are guiding principles?

## Key values and aspirations by topic area

- Expand on vision statement to give important topics more weight
- Guideposts for General Plan goals, policies, and programs
- Broadly stated to provide guidance throughout the planning period



# Draft guiding principles

## Hazards, Safety, and Wildfire Preparedness Option #1

- Ensure hazard preparedness to maintain safe and healthy communities. Protect communities from wildfire risk and other climate hazards through forest management, reducing wildfire risk, coordinating with State and Federal agencies, and other climate adaptation strategies. Preserve the county's clean air, soil, and water for residents through the stewardship of natural resources and mitigation of risks.



# Draft guiding principles

## Hazards, Safety, and Wildfire Preparedness Option #2

- Maintain community health and safety through disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation. Minimize the risk posed by wildfire and improve resilience against other climate related hazards through forest management best practices, interagency cooperation, and implementation of practical climate adaptation strategies. Work with local fire prevention and fire safe councils to reduce fuel load and prepare communities for future fire hazards.



# Draft guiding principles

## Natural Resources and Scenery Option #1

- Manage and responsibly maintain the county's natural resources and open spaces to ensure continued use for all groups in the county that depend on these spaces for their livelihood and health. Preserve public access to the region's one-of-a-kind, diverse, natural beauty and recreational opportunities. Promote sustainable water resource management for future generations of farmers and ranchers.

# Draft guiding principles



## Natural Resources and Scenery Option #2

- Thoughtful and common-sense stewardship of natural resources to preserve the county's clean air, soil and water for future generations that is mindful of individual property rights. Emphasize and ensure continued public access to open space and outdoor recreational opportunities while also protecting the natural landscape. Development of bike and walking paths to provide ready access to such lands. Promote sustainable surface and groundwater resource management practices to encourage agriculturally based economic development and preservation of wildlife habitat.



# Draft guiding principles

## Economic Development Option #1

- Incentivize economic development and expand employment opportunities across a diversity of employment bases. Boost local tourism through the promotion of the county's natural resources, unique history, and cultural heritage. Support sustainable natural resource economies, including farming, ranching, forestry and other industries as a cornerstone of the local economy. Encourage locally owned businesses as a way to foster community independence and promote the small-town feel and unique, historic charm of the county's many communities.

# Draft guiding principles



## Economic Development Option #2

- Support economic development and expand employment opportunities by leveraging the county's natural beauty and abundant resources. Foster a renewable resource economy that emphasizes reforestation activities and wildfire management. Encourage and promote regional tourism while maintaining quality of life standards for local residents. Emphasize sustainable natural resource economies, including farming, ranching, forestry and other similar industries as a cornerstone of the local economy. Encourage and support local businesses as a way to foster community independence.





# Draft guiding principles

## Sense of Community and Unique Lifestyle Option #1

- Prioritize the preservation of the remote, rural, uncrowded lifestyle offered in Siskiyou County. Promote community involvement through community events and collaboration with local tribes. Recognize the unique sense of place and values known throughout the county, including the independent, free spirit of local residents. Draw from residents' self-sufficient character as an asset for creating thriving, active communities.



# Draft guiding principles

## Sense of Community and Unique Lifestyle Option #2

- Preservation of rural communities by promoting the right to farm and open range. Draw from residents' self-sufficient character as an asset for creating thriving, active communities. Continue to ensure that agricultural land is preserved for future generations.

# Draft guiding principles



## Land Use, Housing, and Infrastructure Option #1

- Incentivize the development of affordable housing near employment centers to ensure housing opportunities for all county residents, regardless of age or income. Promote intentional development that ensures community stability into the County's future while avoiding overdevelopment in rural areas. Invest in high quality infrastructure, including the county's transportation network and other services that meet the needs of residents and local businesses. Expand educational opportunities and ensure adequate health care facilities to provide care for a healthy community.

# Draft guiding principles



## Land Use, Housing, and Infrastructure Option #2

- Incentivize development to meet current and future demand for housing by streamlining the application and permitting process. Encourage development of quality housing stock near major employment centers to ensure equal housing opportunities for all county residents and to help reduce overall vehicle miles travelled within the county. Promote development which ensures community stability while avoiding overdevelopment in rural areas and areas of unreasonable wildfire risk. Invest in high quality infrastructure, including the county's transportation network and other services that meet the needs of residents and local businesses. Continue to invest in local schools and health facilities to ensure an educated, knowledgeable, and healthy community.



# Initial Technical Advisory Committee input

## **Greater emphasis needed related to:**

- Commercial opportunities, manufacturing, economic development
- Water and it's importance: agriculture, economic development, health, etc.

**Staff worked with committee members to provide additional vision statements and guiding principles**

# Discussion



- **Questions?**
- **Discussion/working session to draft revisions**