



The Napa County League of Governments NCLOG

PRINCIPLES FOR CREATING A HEALTHY, VITAL AND SUSTAINABLE NAPA COUNTY

Preamble

Background

In the summer and fall of 2002, faced with the challenge of creating a cooperative solution to Napa's housing needs, and recognizing the complex interrelatedness of development challenges facing the county, the NCLOG Housing and Land Use Committee (now the Community Development Strategy Task Force) launched an effort to draft a countywide Community Development Strategy. To begin the process of drafting that Strategy, and to help guide its creation, the committee adopted a draft set of eleven **Principles**, each with several sub-elements. These Principles have been a constant, prominently displayed theme in all of NCLOG's forums and have served well to introduce the Napa community to the work that NCLOG is attempting. Along with the NCLOG web site, the Principles have been one of the most visible and understandable ways of communicating about NCLOG to diverse groups throughout the county.

In December 2003 a public workshop was held in Yountville to update the Napa community on NCLOG's efforts and to solicit feedback on the Principles. Nearly 100 people attended this workshop and made numerous suggestions about how to revise the Principles. Additional comments and input on the Principles have been received from stakeholders throughout the County involved in the NCLOG process. Based on this input, the current revised version was crafted in April and May 2004 by NCLOG members and staff. The current version has been structured to be able to serve as a basis for possible future development of tracking indicators.

Purpose and use.

This set of Principles is understood as a maturing work-in-progress that represents a broad consensus of the Napa Community about a vision for the future and how everyone can work together to realize that vision. For NCLOG, no specific outcome is the goal for the process. Rather, collaborative planning and building cooperative relationships among jurisdictions and stakeholders is understood as the primary value of its work. These **Principles** are intended to help establish such a cooperative process as the norm in Napa county, drawing on use of the best information support systems. At the same time, it is recognized that Napa County and each of the Cities each maintains responsibility for and jurisdiction over projects in their sphere of influence. In this context, jurisdictions have specifically agreed to share information and cooperate on projects that are interjurisdictional in nature.

The 11 Principles attempt to describe a comprehensive view of the significant factors that affect the nature and quality of life in our community. They are:

- Agricultural Preservation
- Collaborative Planning
- Economic Development
- Vital Town Centers

- Environmental Sustainability, Conservation And Enhancement
- Quality Housing
- Coordinated Visitor-Serving Uses
- Mobility And Access
- Social, Cultural And Economic Diversity
- Quality Education
- Quality Social Services

This group of eleven Principles is conceived to be quite stable and to represent all elements of our community life. It is understood that no one program or project will fully address all of these Principles – and that not all of the Principles will be directly applicable to the work that NCLOG is doing at any one time (beyond placing that work in a comprehensive context). In fact, especially as they are put into practice, the Principles might in some cases address competing priorities and will need to be balanced while making decisions.

Format

Each of these fundamental **Principles** has been structured to articulate specific **Goals/Desired Outcomes** as well as specific **Strategies** to achieve those Goals and Outcomes.

The **Goals and Desired Outcomes** make the Principles concrete and are expressed in terms that can be directly measured and evaluated. They may change somewhat over time as understanding evolves of how the Principles are expressed in Napa and how they relate to each other. Although some Goals and Desired Outcomes may necessarily compete with each other for available resources, they are not fundamentally in conflict with each other. Decision makers are encouraged to maximize the productive outcomes and minimize the negative impacts of competing strategies.

The **Strategies**, associated with each Principle are specific actions and policy recommendations that will further the realization of the Principles. These Strategies are still quite broad and require considerable fleshing out and careful exposition to put into practice. However, the Strategies will certainly change over time to reflect change in existing conditions and new opportunities.

PRINCIPLE A. AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION

Goals/Desired Outcomes

The agricultural character and resources of the County are preserved.

Strategies

- A1. Continue to support and respect the intent of **Measure J**
- A2. Use the **urban growth boundaries** concept to protect existing resources by encouraging infill development, and facilitating orderly growth in and around community centers and public transit.
- A3. Promote **protection of agricultural lands**.
- A4. Promote **sustainable agricultural land management** practices.

Principle B. Collaborative Planning

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Collaborative decision-making is the norm not the exception.

Information driven decisions are achieved with information support systems.
Shared funding and revenue solutions are encouraged.

STRATEGIES

- B1. Encourage the use of an **information support system** to evaluate alternative planning policies.
- B2. Commit to active participation in the **Napa County League of Governments** as a forum for ongoing communication and sharing of information.
- B3. Advocate for planning policies that provide **incentives for countywide and regional collaboration**.
- B4. **Plan collectively and cooperate** with one another to increase efficiency, allocate and share resources effectively, and commit to an on-going process of working together.
- B5. Consider the **impacts of proposed policies, projects and programs** on each local jurisdiction, the County, and the region as a whole.
- B6. **Think regionally** while respecting the individuality of each community. Recognize the interrelationships between Napa County communities and the linkages to other regions, including Solano and Sonoma Counties.
- B7. Work together to develop funding (including funding from outside sources) to pursue cooperative projects, including joint planning efforts and cooperative development projects.

PRINCIPLE C. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Economic vitality is achieved through business and industries that are **compatible with agriculture and environmental protection**, conservation and enhancement.

A strong economic environment is established for **local businesses that benefit all Napa residents**.

Strategies

- C1. Encourage a **comprehensive evaluation** of future economic development project proposals.
- C2. Ensure **adequate infrastructure** to meet future needs (e.g., water, wastewater, roads, etc.).
- C3. Encourage economic development that provides **well paying jobs** for Napa residents.
- C4. Encourage economic development that **diversifies Napa economy** while supporting core sectors.
- C5. Strengthen **attraction and retention programs and strategies**.

PRINCIPLE D. VITAL TOWN CENTERS

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Economically healthy **town and neighborhood centers** are thriving.

Strategies

- D1. Create, strengthen and **revitalize town and neighborhood centers** with mixed-use development
- D2. Encourage tourism and commercial development in towns, with **compatible, not competitive, uses** in unincorporated areas.
- D3. Encourage **high design standards** to promote a quality urban environment, including

buildings, parks, plazas, etc.

D4. Encourage **mixed use and walkable communities** around transit nodes.

PRINCIPLE E. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

An environmentally friendly community adheres to and teaches balanced **environmental sustainability, conservation and enhancement**.

Strategies

- E1. Enact policies that improve the health and functioning of the **Napa River and watershed**.
- E2. Expand **habitat restoration and connectivity**.
- E3. Provide **recreational opportunities** and activities that are compatible with environmental sustainability, conservation and enhancement goals.
- E4. Support policies that **improve air quality**.
- E5. Support policies that **reduce pesticide use**
- E6. Support policies protecting the right to farm and the viability of agriculture.
- E7. Encourage **energy efficiency and conservation** through innovative practices
- E8. Support programs that **teach environmental values and stewardship**.
- E9. Encourage protection and conservation of **environmental resources**.

PRINCIPLE F. QUALITY HOUSING

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Affordable housing is available for all levels of our workforce and residents

Strategies

- F1. Develop a **fair share housing allocation** that distributes housing units throughout the County.
- F2. Ensure that all new housing developments adhere to a set of planning and design principles for creating **healthy neighborhoods and communities**.
- F3. Encourage a **supply and diversity of housing product types** for all income levels including farm-worker housing, workforce housing, middle-income housing, etc.
- F4. Ensure that **community services and facilities** keep pace with new housing development.
- F5. Encourage **increased housing densities** around transit nodes and neighborhood centers.
- F6. Consider housing development as a **component of major employment generating land uses and activities**.
- F7. Support **infill housing development** with adequate open space.
- F8. Provide sufficient housing to **accommodate local jobs** and promote a jobs-housing balance while protecting agricultural lands

PRINCIPLE G. COORDINATED VISITOR-SERVING USES

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Visitor-serving uses provide a **quality visitor experience and opportunity** while protecting the environment and quality of life for all Napa residents.

Strategies

- G1. Develop a shared vision and plan for the further development of **visitor-serving uses** throughout Napa County.
- G2. Encourage development of health and cultural and recreational attractions and activities to distribute visitor activity throughout the year.

PRINCIPLE H. MOBILITY AND ACCESS

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Efficient and effective transportation system take people where they want to go.

Strategies

- H1. Coordinate transportation improvements and resolve disputes through the cooperative forum of the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency.
- H2. **Link transportation improvements** to support local and countywide land use decisions.
- H3. Expand utilization of alternative transportation modes.
- H4. Support collaborative planning efforts related to airports in the county.

PRINCIPLE I SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Vibrant communities embrace and celebrate the arts and cultural, ethnic and socio-economic differences and similarities.

STRATEGIES

- I1. Promote **arts and cultural activities** as an integral and necessary dimension of Napa life.
- I2. Preserve **historic resources**.
- I3. Promote multi-cultural **community awareness**.
- I4. Promote the **active participation of all citizens** in civic affairs, and in creating the future of Napa

PRINCIPLE J. QUALITY EDUCATION

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

An **educated community and workforce** is prepared to sustain Napa's economic prosperity, civic vitality and environmental assets.

STRATEGIES

- J1. Ensure the adequacy and quality of **community services and facilities** (e.g., childcare, public transit, schools, etc.).
- J2. Expand **educational opportunities for all Napa residents** including life-long learning and programs to support key economic sectors.

PRINCIPLE K. QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES

GOALS/DESIRED OUTCOMES

Health, social and public safety **services are provided equitably** to our residents.

Adequate **resident-serving recreational opportunities** are available for all age groups.

Communities are **Healthy, safe and enjoyable**

STRATEGIES

- K1. Ensure the adequacy and quality of **community services and facilities** (e.g., childcare, public transit, schools, etc.).
- K2. Ensure the delivery of **quality health and public safety services** to all residents.
- K3. Implement and continue to update the plan for addressing the issue of homelessness.
- K4. Promote development of a **system of childcare** in Napa that supports all of the other Principles.

About NCLOG

The Napa County League of Governments was established in early 2002, with participation from the five cities and the County of Napa. NCLOG's purpose is to address issues of common concern across all jurisdictions, including transportation, housing, economic growth, agricultural preservation, environmental protection and social equity. To this end NCLOG has been successful in helping to craft an agreement among Napa County and the cities of Napa and American Canyon on new housing that will allow all three jurisdictions to meet state requirements. Over the coming months NCLOG will identify other issues of common concern to the county, including development of a long range, countywide visitor serving strategy.

NCLOG Countywide Community Development Strategy Task Force

American Canyon	Ben Anderson	City Council
	Don Colceaser	City Council
	Mark Joseph	City Manger
	Ed Haworth	Planning Director

Calistoga	Dr. Andrew Alexander	Mayor
	Jack Gingles	City Council
	Jim McCann	City Manager
	Rick Tooker	Planning Director

Napa - City	Jill Techel	City Council
	Kevin Block	City Council
	Pat Thompson	City Manager
	Rich Bottarini	Planning Director

Napa County	Bill Dodd (CO-CHAIR)	Supervisor
	Mike Rippey	Supervisor
	Nancy Watt	County CEO
	Patrick Lynch	Planning Director
	Howard Siegel	Com. Partnership

St. Helena	Ken Slavens (CO-CHAIR)	Mayor
	Bill Savidge	City Council

