

POLICY DOCUMENT PART 3

GOALS AND POLICIES

3.4 NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

As San Joaquin County develops, the County will ensure that development occurs in a manner that limits impacts to natural and cultural resources through proper site planning and design techniques. Development will be avoided in naturally- and culturally-sensitive areas wherever possible, especially within the Delta. The air of San Joaquin County and its surrounding region will be incrementally cleaner as the implementation of improved transportation, agriculture, and industrial practices reduce pollutants. New methods for conserving, treating, and supplying water will enable County residents and farmers to continue to have an adequate supply of quality water that limits long-term impacts on groundwater. The County's development and resource conservation decisions will illustrate its commitment to achieve energy efficiency and mitigate impacts on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, the County will continue to assess the recreational, tourism, quality of life, and economic benefits that scenic landscapes provide and implement programs that preserve and use this resource to the fullest extent.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Resource Conservation and Sustainability

- Preserve environmental resources, including the Delta, waterways, habitat areas, fish and wildlife, and other significant resources for future generations.
- Promote alternative energy use, water conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and other sustainable practices.
- Encourage development patterns, transportation systems, “green” building practices, and renewable energy projects that reduce emissions and improve air quality.

Water Resources & Quality

- Ensure that future generations will have access to sustainable water supplies of adequate quantity and quality.
- Promote the concept of regional self-sufficiency for water resources.
- Implement water conservation and water use efficiency best management practices.
- Support integrated regional water management planning processes undertaken by local and regional water interests.
- Effectively manage stormwater through low-impact development concepts to improve water quality and increase water resources.
- Use and preserve groundwater recharge areas to restore groundwater levels and reduce saltwater intrusion.

Recreation and Cultural Resources

- Promote the County's recreational attractions.
- Enhance parks and recreational opportunities for all County residents and visitors.
- Promote appropriate access to rivers and waterways throughout the County, while limiting impacts to property owners and agricultural operations.
- Support the planning and creation of more regional hiking, biking, and equestrian trails.

The Delta

- Maintain the sovereign right of local governments to govern land use decisions in the Delta.
- Ensure development does not conflict with Delta ecosystems, habitats, or agricultural operations.
- Protect the legal right of local Delta water users to divert water of adequate quantity and quality.
- Promote recreational opportunities in and around the Delta.
- Ensure the public health and safety for those who live, work, and play in the Delta.