

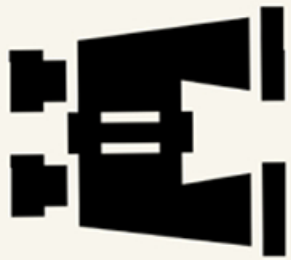
LAND USE PLANNING & NATURAL RESOURCE INTEGRATION

Resource Sustainability in the Tulare Basin

CHALLENGE: POPULATION GROWTH, RESOURCE SCARCITY



Let's take a look at the situation...



Farmland is expected to shrink by half a million acres by 2050; 300,000 of those acres are highly-productive, irrigated lands of state importance



More than half of the San Joaquin Valley has seen groundwater elevations drop between 50-215 ft. in the past 50 years

By 2050, San Joaquin Valley population is expected to grow almost 3,000,000 to 6,840,000

Climate change predicts longer periods of drought, larger floods, and warmer temperatures that will shrink mountain snowpack storage levels



About 69% of the valley floor's native habitat has been converted to agriculture, urban, or other human uses



SOLUTION: CAREFUL LAND USE PLANNING

Farmland

Protect and conserve prime farmland as outlined in "Saving Farmland, Growing Cities" (American Farmland Trust)

Streams

Identify & protect creeks/streams and associated floodplains, create setbacks and riparian buffers to enhance stormwater management and groundwater recharge

Watershed

Protect watershed function and linkages between the mountains, foothills, and valley floor to improve water quality, supply reliability, and storm water management

Groundwater

Residential and farmland development should be subject to a water supply reliability study prior to approval

Advanced Planning

Inform development early rather than waiting for CEQA to approve projects "after-the-fact," e.g. Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning

Habitat

Provide incentives for the protection/conservation of sensitive species habitat on public and private land, i.e. through Regional / County-wide HCPs / NCCPs