
V. VISION

A. Process

Examination of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats provided the background on which separate county visions were based. The regional vision statement reflects a summary of the common themes and elements conveyed by the counties.

B. Vision Statement

We want the San Luis Valley to be a nurturing place giving opportunity for all. We hope that our children can grow up here and earn a living. We see communities and people that are self-sufficient and working at safe, year-round jobs that are at or above livable wages.

We want compatible and sustainable growth to occur, but we don't want the Valley to be overrun with people. We desire that all of the communities develop and implement comprehensive plans based on local issues and citizen involvement. We see governments, businesses, non-profits, and citizens working cooperatively towards proactively planned growth.

We want to make sure agriculture remains a major part of our economic base. We value this sector because it is our heritage, and healthy agriculture means that open spaces are voluntarily being preserved. We see more value-added industries and niche markets helping agriculture.

We want the Valley's water supply to be stable and secure. We want to work actively to ensure that water resources are not exploited by anyone. We will be vigilant in protecting this resource for human, community, and economic development sustainability.

We want higher education institutions to have a stronger role in workforce development. We see that one of our major assets is our workforce and Spanish-speaking population.

We know that our heritage, high altitude climate, and unique soils and surroundings produce interesting opportunities for product development, training seminars, and agriculture products --- all of which could translate to more jobs and income.

We know that economic cooperatives and barter economies are a part of our history. This will continue to the extent that these activities can help people be self-sufficient and gain local control over their economies.

We are looking to the telecommunications system to help boost our jobs and income. This means we desire adequate telecommunications infrastructure, and we want more training opportunities on how to use the Internet to market our goods. We also want a seamless system of access to information.

We believe that affordable housing should be available to all. We envision increased planning for this, and making current resources known to all.

We see increased cooperation in the Valley. Our tradition of cooperation is strong, but can be improved. We see more avenues to join together and implement Valleywide economic and community development endeavors by working together and putting territorial issues aside.

We see transportation systems that meet our needs and grow our economy. We envision more roadside stops, and a Valleywide transit system. We believe the Colorado Department of Transportation will work more cooperatively to match transportation with community goals.

We want to expand tourism in a managed fashion. We see more marketing of our tourism assets, and an expansion of festivals, educational seminars, and events. However, we do not want tourists or tourism to overrun the Valley and dominate our economy.

We want to retain the special, unique characteristics of the Valley, while capitalizing on those features to strengthen our economy. Our cultural heritage, the arts, natural surroundings, and educational and recreational opportunities are unique to our region and can be utilized to bring in more income and jobs.

We care about the environment and want to find ways to make sure that economic development does no harm to the natural surroundings. We see that our natural surroundings are probably the most significant asset of the Valley. We need to be good stewards of the resources for future generations. We see continued preservation of open spaces. We have monitoring systems in place to make sure that the water sources are not being polluted or exploited.

We desire quality healthcare that is accessible and affordable for all. We hope that appropriate, cooperative, and sound business arrangements can occur to ensure the existing facilities stay open and grow, and that core healthcare services are present for each community.

We care about youth, those with special needs, and the elderly. We want specialized services for these groups to ensure they can live comfortably in all the communities of the Valley.