



150-Year Vision for San Mateo County

Adopted 2006

As San Mateo County celebrates its sesquicentennial, we at the Committee for Green Foothills, Greenbelt Alliance, Housing Leadership Council and Sierra Club recognize the need to plan for the next 150 years, in order to assure positive futures for us all.

We envision a vibrant community that flourishes in its role within the greater Bay Area. Most people in San Mateo County live within the 2000 urban footprint, which has become more intensely used in the cities along the bayside transit corridor. The urban corridor accommodates people of varying ages, incomes and cultures, who use transit to connect easily with the eight counties that make up the larger “neighborhood.”

Residents recognize the importance of San Mateo’s greenbelt. The agricultural, forest and wild lands, watersheds, parks and coastal open spaces are a recognized national treasure. Residents enjoy good air quality and most live within walking distance to parks.

San Mateo County’s cities are desirable places to live. Most provide a range of safe, comfortable housing options that residents and the local workforce can afford to own or rent. Downtowns are thriving districts where vertical mixed-use development is encouraged, and where multiple neighborhood cores offer a variety of services. Residents are able to walk, bike and take transit easily to run errands, get to work or go to school. Streetscapes are landscaped and pedestrian friendly, with “green” buildings that are designed and allowed to have multiple uses over time.

Local and regional public transit systems are robust, interconnected, flexible and reliable. Residents are educated about public transit and find it convenient and safe, which results in the system being economically self-sufficient. The use of individual vehicles is mainly for out-of-region trips, and vehicle-share programs are popular for this purpose.

The local economy is strong, with an emphasis on green business processes such as housing and jobs balance, as well as careful manufacturing practices. San Mateo County has become host to headquarters and research and development facilities of companies making renewable energy products, in addition to its high-tech, bio-tech and construction industries. The County feeds itself with largely local, organically grown produce. Population growth is accommodated within the County, and the County profits from being a destination for tourists who view San Mateo County and the Bay Area as a culturally interesting and beautiful place to visit.

This could be the future. The decisions we make today will determine the quality of life for generations to come.