

*El Dorado County*

Citizen

Engagement

Survey

By

**KIELY GROUP**

What are you solving for?

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An objective for El Dorado County (EDC) in the future will be to increase citizen engagement. As one of the first steps, EDC has completed a citizen survey with the following objectives:

- To gather information from citizens
- To be even more inclusive of citizen input in the new strategic plan
- To learn about preferences and thoughts by a representative sample of the citizenry
- To test ways to reach and engage citizens

### **Key Discoveries:**

The invitation to participate in the survey was widely distributed via electronic and hard copy media. 2228 people responded. The following are some of the key discoveries:

- Respondents are concerned with preserving the rural nature of El Dorado County and would prefer to attract/grow industries that enhance or benefit from the rural characteristics of EDC. These citizens want “rural” issues to be considered in EDC decision-making.
- Responses and comments in the survey reflect that these citizens are not aware of what all EDC Government does. A public education/communication program could be a key strategy moving forward.
- These citizens also request more transparency and honesty from EDC staff and elected officials. There is particular concern about the relationship of Developers and the County. EDC can to address this with specific objectives in the strategic plan.
- These citizens express concerns about how the Board of Supervisors addresses the unique needs of the more isolated geographic areas, especially in the Lake Tahoe area. The County could also include objectives to address this in the strategic plan.

### **Next Steps for Citizen Engagement:**

The information in this report is to be used by the Departments and staff to determine how and where to incorporate it into the new strategic plan. For purposes of transparency, the departments could also communicate:

- What EDC will do as a result of citizen input
- What EDC won't/can't do and why
- What information EDC still needs



## METHODOLOGY

### *Developing the Survey*

The Kiely Group (KGI) met with the County Strategic Planning Goal Setting Teams to begin the process of developing a survey. Those attending were given the opportunity to provide questions they would like to see addressed. Their questions were then consolidated into a draft survey and presented back to those at the meeting for feedback.

The resulting draft version of the survey was submitted to a small test group of respondents to see if changes needed to be made. Using this information, survey questions were refined to create the final version.

### *Distributing & Promoting the Survey*

The survey was made available online and also as paper copies and communicated to the public through a variety of forums listed below:

- Notices were distributed via County email listservs
- Notices were posted on the County website, Facebook page, and Twitter
- County did a press release and the announcement was published in several newspapers
- Notices were posted to partner's websites like the City of Placerville
- Links were posted on Facebook groups relevant to El Dorado County residents such as:
  - El Dorado Watch
  - El Dorado Trail
  - Tahoe Visitors Authority
  - Tahoe Chamber of Commerce
  - City of Placerville
  - Keep Shingle Springs Rural
  - El Dorado Chamber of Commerce
  - El Dorado Hills Community Park
- Announcements were made at community meetings attended by County staff
- Each Supervisor hosted a town hall meeting to share information about the survey and strategic planning
- Flyers were posted around communities
- Business cards with the survey details were distributed at community events and in local coffee shops, medical centers, grocery stores, and other businesses.
- Influential community and business individuals and groups were emailed and asked to pass along the word

- Citizens at town hall meetings suggested other ways to reach participants

### *Focus Groups and Interviews*

After over 1000 people had completed the survey, a preliminary review of the data was done to identify questions for focus groups and interviews. The purpose was both to clarify certain definitions and details and to add more richness to the data gathered from open-ended questions. Four citizen focus groups were conducted on November 30 and December 1. The report with methodology can be found in Appendix A.

### *Survey Dates*

The online survey was conducted from September 26 to November 20, 2015. Paper copies received by December 18 were included in analysis.

### *Population Sampling*

A citizen engagement survey sample should be large enough and should represent as accurate a cross-section of the whole population as possible. To determine representativeness, we compared respondent information to appropriate county demographics (See following graphs, charts, and comments pages 6 to 12). From an El Dorado County population of 183,087, distributed over both urban and rural areas, 2,200+ survey respondents represents an impressive response rate. When we compared these results with other citizen engagement surveys in the US, we found that the EDC survey response rate is very healthy. Utilizing the statistical protocol sampling tables published by SurveyMonkey®, EDC results yield the following analysis as to the representativeness of our sample:

El Dorado County Population (2010 census):	183,087
EDC sample size:	2,228
Confidence level:	95-99%
Margin of error:	3%

### *Approach to Data Analysis*

Hard copy versions of the completed survey that were mailed or delivered to the Kiely Group by December 18, 2015 were manually entered and added to *data collected online*.

## SURVEY RESPONSES

- 2228 surveys completed
- Geographic distribution
  - District 1 – 15%
  - District 2 – 11%
  - District 3 – 25%
  - District 4 – 24%
  - District 5 – 17%
- Age distribution
  - 18-35 – 11%
  - 36- 50 – 22%
  - 50-65 – 42%
  - 65+ - 25%
- Gender distribution
  - Females – 62%
  - Males – 38%

The charts and graphs that follow for the quantitative data were generated by SurveyMonkey® tools. Then, all qualitative responses were processed through both SurveyMonkey® and also through Narr8®, KGi’s proprietary content analysis software. These analyses identify predominant, recurring themes in what citizens say are their major concerns. Also, it is important to note that the “outlier” comments and the themes with fewer frequencies are often relevant as well. The following report, then, is KGi’s summary of all these numerical and qualitative data.

The remainder of this report summarizes the “descriptive” findings from engaging citizens in the various input opportunities and can provide guidance to the staff and teams developing the strategic plan.

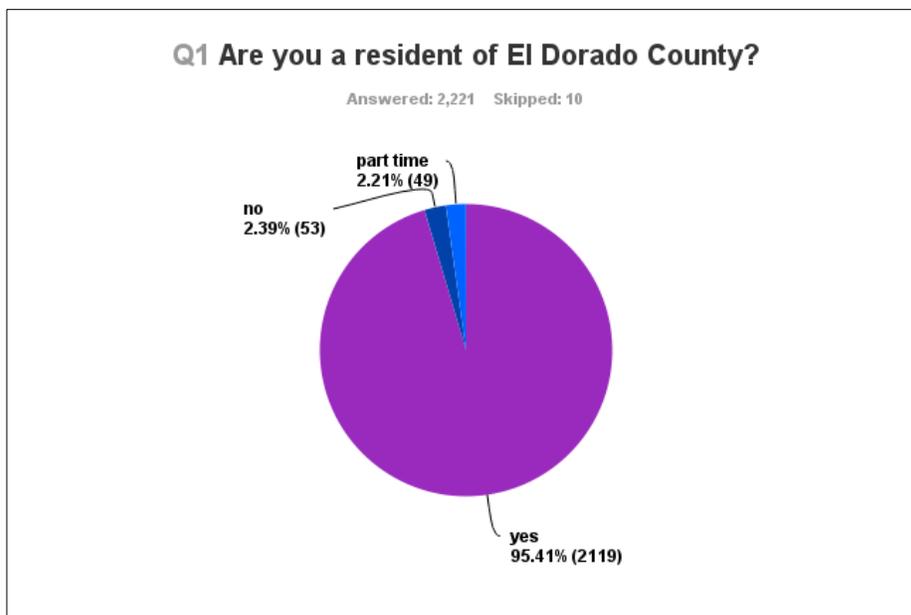
*Note: The question numbers referenced in this report are the numbers assigned by SurveyMonkey® in the online version of the survey. The question numbers do not align with the paper survey distributed because of the method SurveyMonkey® uses for numbering.*

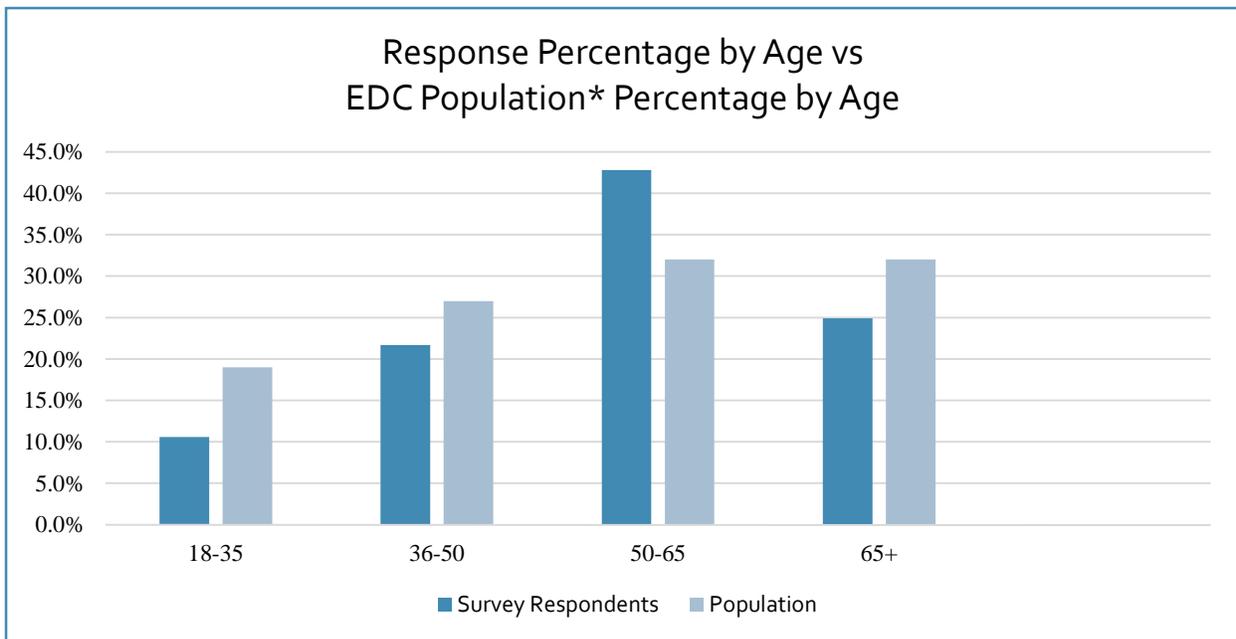
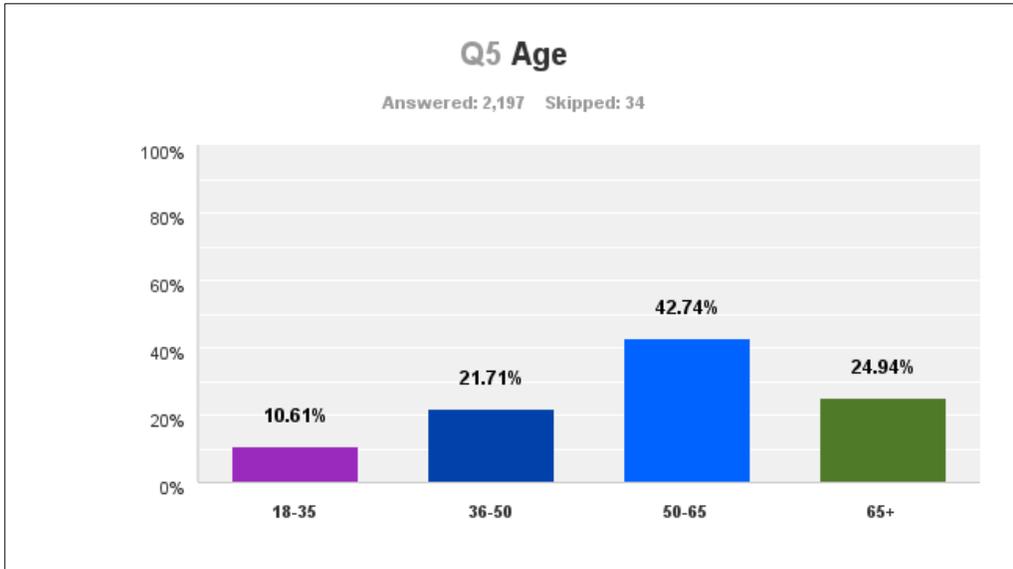
## FINDINGS

### Demographic Data

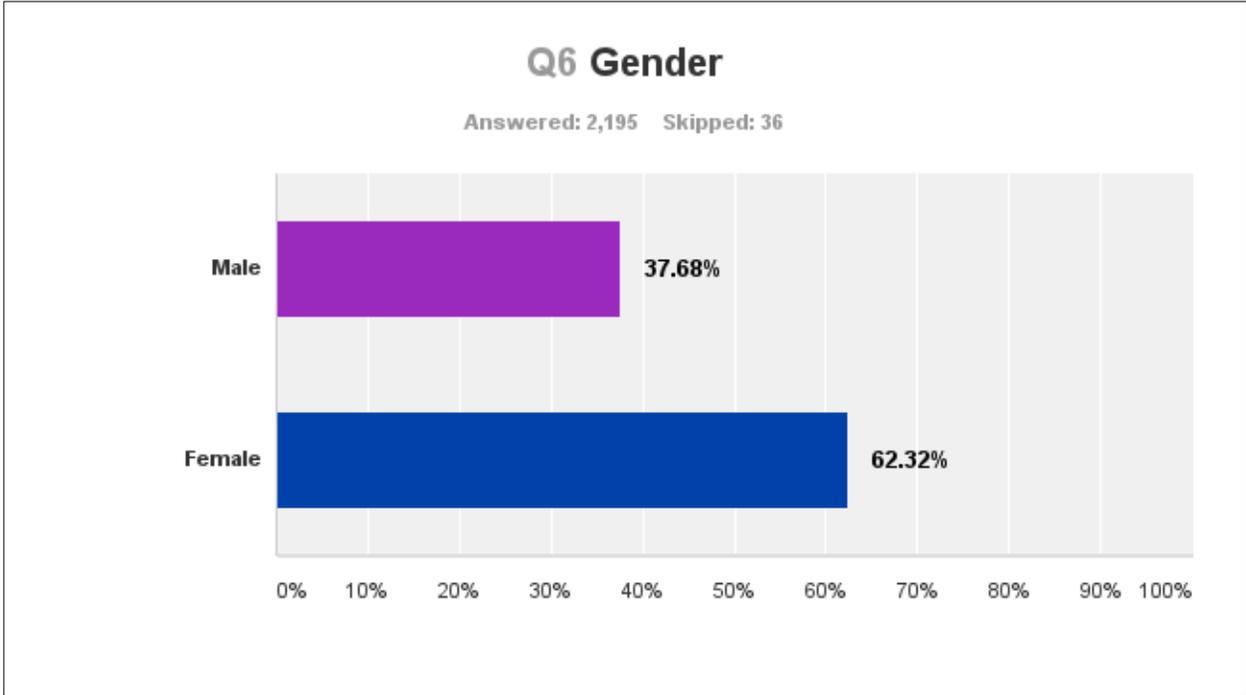
The following charts and tables summarize the demographic related responses for all surveys completed.

*Note: For the remainder of the report we will reference the survey respondents as citizens, understanding that there were a small percentage who do not live in the County.*





\*Population data taken from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)



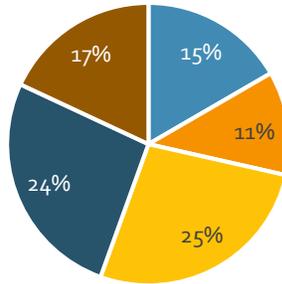
Note: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) reports 49.9% of El Dorado County's population is female.

### Where do you live...By City/Town/Area

Angora Highlands	2	Meyers	56
Angora Ridge	1	Montgomery Estates	5
Apple Hill	1	Mosquito	8
Blackstone	4	Mount Aukum	8
Cameron Park	152	North County	2
Camino	57	Oak Hill	4
Cedar Grove	3	Oakridge	1
Christmas Valley	3	Pilot Hill	10
Clarksville	1	Placerville	393
Coloma	39	Pleasant Valley	20
Cool	46	Pollock Pines	71
Diamond Springs	57	Promontory	1
District 1	1	Rescue	65
District 2	1	Riverton	1
District 3	1	Sandridge	5
District 4	2	Serrano	14
District 5	3	Sierra Springs	2
Echo Summit	1	Shingle Springs	130
El Dorado	43	Sly Park	3
El Dorado Hills	300	Smith Flat	1
Fair Play	12	Somerset	24
Four Seasons	5	South County	12
Garden Valley	68	South Lake Tahoe	208
Georgetown	64	Swansboro	1
Gold Hill	8	Tahoe Basin	6
Greenwood	18	Tahoe Keys	3
Grizzly Flats	10	Tahoe Paradise	7
Kelsey	5	Tahoma	1
Lake Tahoe	5	The Divide	1
Latrobe	4	Volcanoville	9
Logtown	1	Woodridge	1
Lotus	52	Yersmery	1
Luneman	2		

*Note: Some responses are street addresses without cities and are not included in this table.*

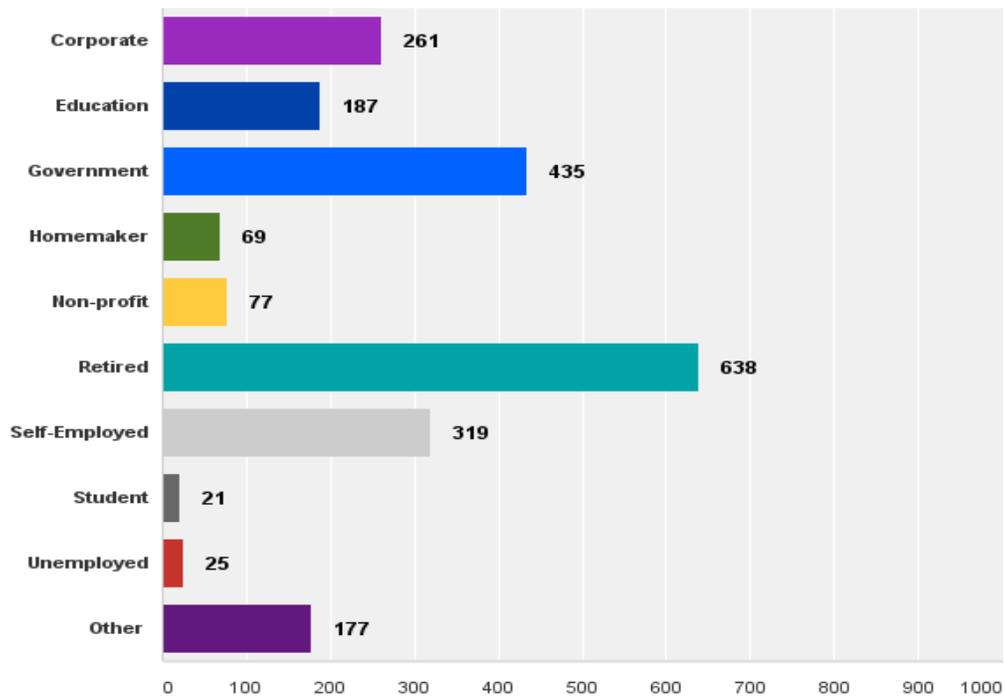
## Where do you live... By Board of Supervisor Districts



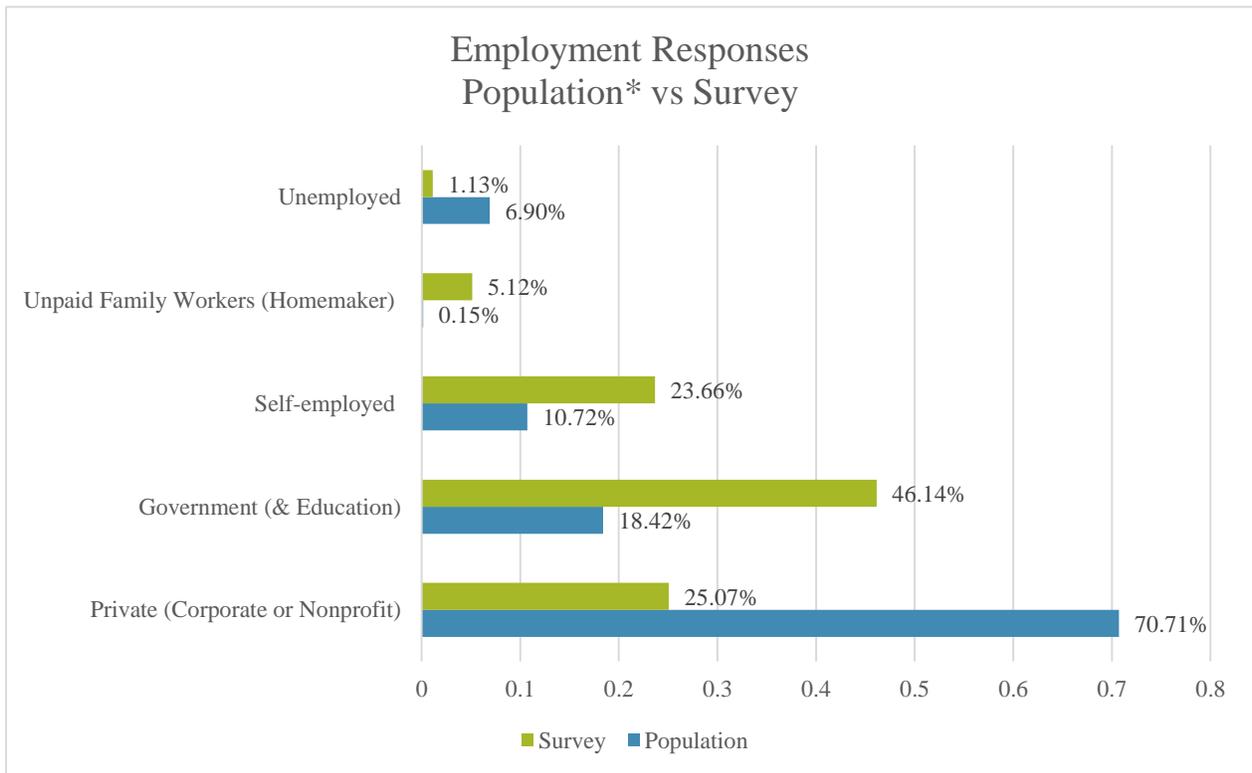
■ District 1   
 ■ District 2   
 ■ District 3   
 ■ District 4   
 ■ District 5

## Q7 Your Employment

Answered: 2,209    Skipped: 22



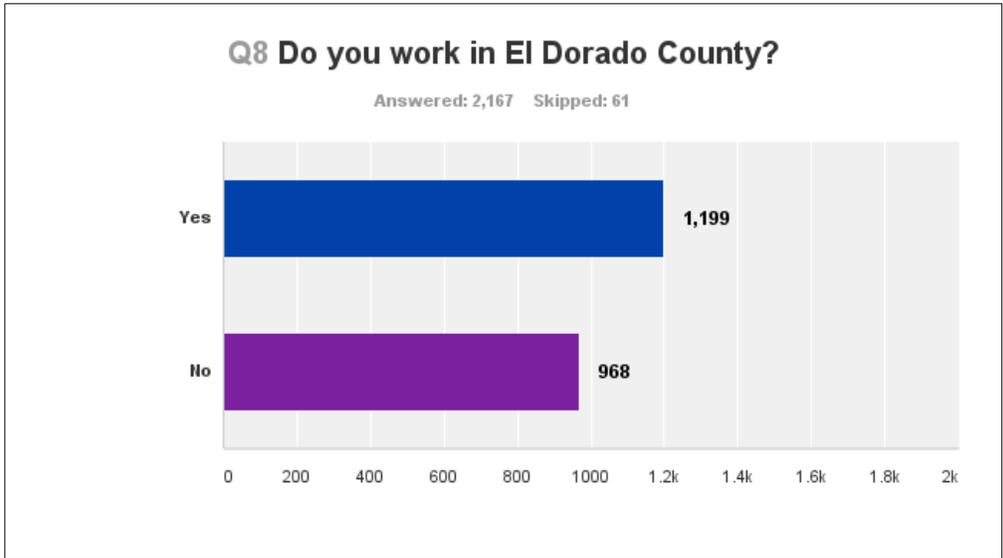
Note: The "Government" response includes all areas of government, cities, state, federal and counties.



\* Population data are from 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2014 Table) at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

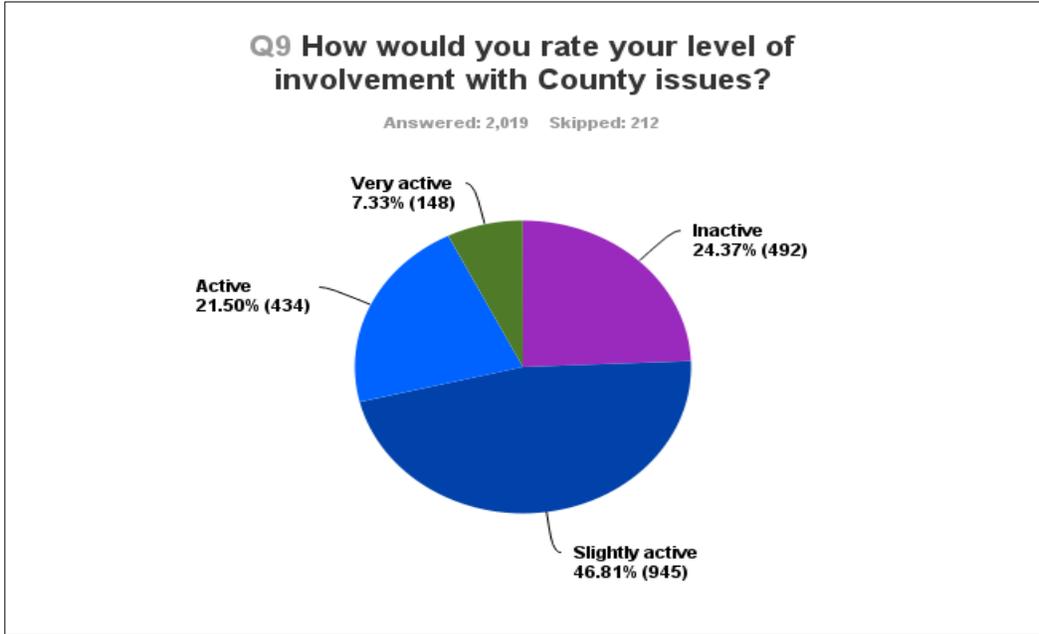
(<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>)

Note: No data were found regarding the percentage of El Dorado County that are retired.

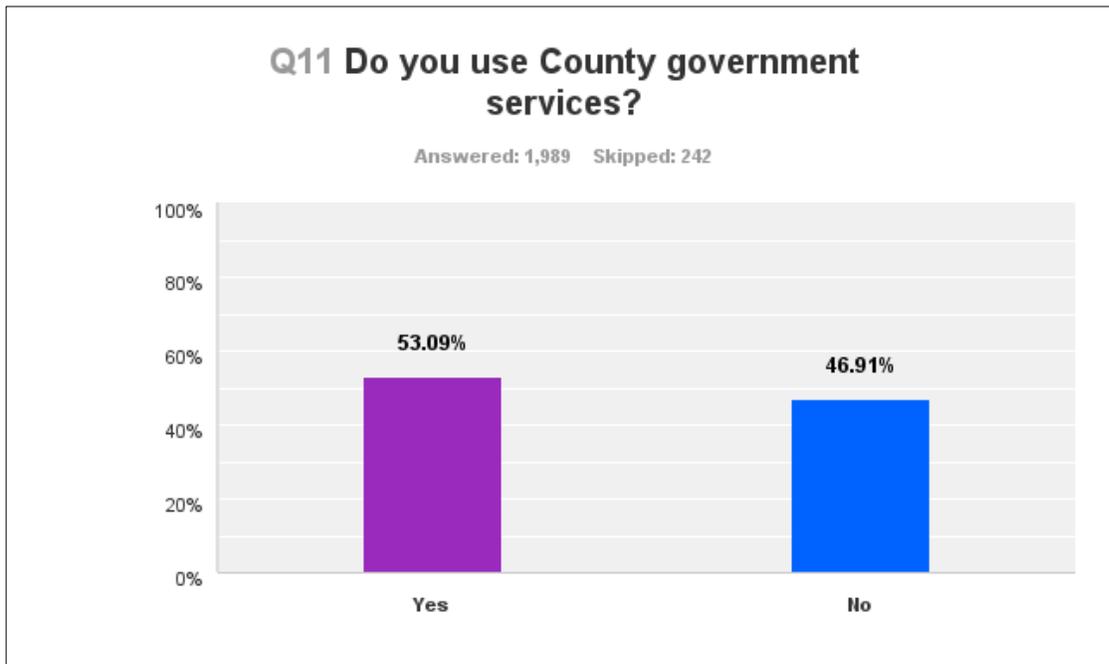


Note: The respondents who answered “no” are both people who work outside the county and those who do not work (retired and unemployed).

### Citizens’ Involvement/Relationship with EDC



In What Way People Are Active	
Activity Listed	Number of Citizens
Attend Meetings	264
Care or Awareness/ Issues	128
Volunteer	93
Library	51
Committees	44
Serve	41
School	37
Board of Supervisors	30
Political	27
Chamber of Commerce	9
Surveys	12
Other	77



The responses to this question are an indicator of at least two possible phenomena. Both of the scenarios below are likely true to a certain extent.

1. People are unaware of what the County provides for them, because it is unlikely they are not using any service provided by EDC if they live in the County.
2. The services are provided in such a seamless manner, that, unless special circumstances create the need for a specific County service, people's general needs (roads, trash removal, elections and voting, etc.) are being met and the citizens are not aware of who provides these services.

What County Services have the Most Impact on Your Quality of Life?	
Service	Number of Citizens Mentioning
Library	360
Services (Senior, Child, Mental Health, Veterans)	228
Roads	157
Sheriff / Law Enforcement / Public Safety	155
Parks	83
Building/Community Development	45
Tax Collector/Treasurer	38
Board of Supervisors	37
Snow Removal	27
Animal Control	14

Services Recently Used:		
Agriculture	Environmental Services	Senior Services
Animal Control	Fire	Sheriff
Assessor	Health & Human Services	Snow
Auditor	Inspection	Surveyor
Board of Supervisors	Legal Services	Tax Collector
Building Permits	Library	Trails
Clerk	Mental Health	Transportation
Community Development	Parks & Recreation	Treasurer
Controller	Planning	Veterans
Courts	Recorder	Waste Disposal
Education	Roads	Weights & Measures
Elections		

*NOTE: The lists in the two tables above are not an exhaustive list of services, but these are mentioned frequently in response to the questions about services with impact and services recently used.*

## Strategic Planning Comments - Descriptive Analysis

Question 14 on the survey specifically asked the citizens to comment on the 5 focus areas for the strategic plan: Economic Development, Public Safety, Infrastructure, Healthy Community, and Good Governance. These comments under each of the 5 sections are summarized below. The themes are in descending order of most frequent to least frequency of comments. The supporting narrative analysis report from Narr8 is available in Appendix B.

### *Economic Development*

The citizen comments reveal the following themes and areas of focus.

**Grow Appropriate Industries** – The comments about maintaining and growing industries in the county largely contain the same sentiment as those related to housing. The citizens want to have a plan (with citizen input) and specific strategies for growth. Also, there are comments relating to specific industries being preferred. These are agriculture, recreation, telecommuting, tourism (and agri-tourism), and responsible retail. The comments relating to retail also suggest bringing stores into EDC so that citizens’ sales tax dollars are not going largely to Sacramento County or into Nevada. More information about growth is also addressed in a later section.

**Maintain Rural Nature**- Many comments in this section request that the County support efforts to maintain the rural nature of the region. The frequency with which this was raised and a lack of information about how the citizens define “rural” led to the topic for one of the focus groups. See Appendix A, the focus group report, for more on how a group of citizens defined rural. The focus group’s definition is by no means meant to be the final meaning of this word, but it gives the County a place to start for having the next level of conversation on Economic Development and other strategic planning goals.



PLEASE WORK WITH THE SMALL COUNTY FARMERS IN CREATING EASIER WAYS TO HAVE HOME BASED AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES SUCH AS RAISING CHICKENS, SELLING EGGS, ORGANIC ANIMAL RAISING, SELLING AND CONSUMPTION OF THOSE MEATS, AS WELL AS GROWING PRODUCE AND SELLING THAT PRODUCE AND PRODUCTS AT SMALL LOCAL MARKETS.

Survey Respondent

**Jobs** -The comments reflect a need for more jobs in the County. The citizens’ concerns are about the need for high-paying jobs that are non-seasonal and more job training programs.

There is a sub-theme in this area related to the need for jobs so young people do not have to leave the area in order to have an affordable lifestyle.

**Support Local Economy** – The citizens are interested in supporting local and small businesses and request that EDC consider looking at policies and fees that are prohibitive of doing business in the county. The County might consider a policy to support EDC using local businesses for purchases when possible.

**Supportive Infrastructure** – This theme is closely tied to the issues of growth. Some citizens want to ensure that housing and business development are done only with consideration of infrastructure such as transportation needs and water. There is also support for countywide improvement regarding access to high speed internet.

**Incentives** – The citizens also request that the County consider what incentives could attract the types of development desired.

**Better Customer Service** – Some comments request better customer service from the Planning and Building Services. There are also comments that the fees are prohibitive for citizens wanting to improve their properties and structures.

**Housing Growth** – The comments around housing growth are divided. A sub-theme of the comments asks the County to support more affordable housing options, especially for younger citizens just starting their careers. There are some specific comments about not allowing more low income housing and other comments requesting more. The general comments are related to having a plan for developing housing and ensuring alignment with smart growth (not exceeding resources like water) and maintaining the rural nature of the El Dorado County. More information about growth is also addressed later in this report.

The following table highlights some verbatim citizen quotes from this section of the survey that 1) confirm the County's direction; 2) express concerns about the current practices or direction; 3) propose ideas which should be explored further.

### Confirming Ideas

Attract high tech, R&D, and startup businesses by getting them to appreciate our quality of life and great proximity.

Broadband services, incentives for home based businesses, real recruitment of businesses, Competitive analysis with neighboring counties (within 10 miles of the border)- how to meet and beat the local battle

### Concerns or Cautions

A legitimate and careful balance of prosperous development with true community input.

Allow business to locate or relocate here easily without a lot of red tape.

Consistently staff economic development. Show us you are serious!

Put Pollock Pines in your Economic Development Plans.

### Further Exploration

Adopt the proposed Home Occupation Ordinance, encourage business licenses which will help the county to identify how many home based business there are.

El Dorado County should advertise its tourism and recreation opportunities outside of the county like Amador County does now.

Create an economic environment and incentives that are attractive to technology companies. Entice startup companies to choose El Dorado County as headquarters for business. Work with conservation groups and the US Forest Service to create a recreation and work environment that optimally manages the wildland-urban interface (e.g. a pilot program with a tech startup that showcases a workplace with views of Lake Tahoe and lunch-break snowboarding).

Develop a sports park for outdoor recreation. Host tournaments (soccer, softball, etc.) Bring in business to accommodate the sports park (hotels, restaurants). Bring in mid-scale, family friendly businesses (i.e. Trader Joe's).

Develop MOUs between all local agencies so there's one rule book instead of several

Encourage geotourism based on our scenic resources, our outdoor activities, our historical and cultural resources (including native American), and agricultural resources.

Get together with the other rural counties suffering "sales tax leakage" and pressure the Assemblymen & Senators to pass legislation that would extend the existing sales tax transfer - that goes with new car sales - to all retail sales. The software already exists, it's only a matter of applying the system that car dealers use to the already computerized retail stores.

The following is a list of industries that the citizens believe could promote employment, but not destroy the character of the region. The list was generated by the four focus groups (in order of frequency):

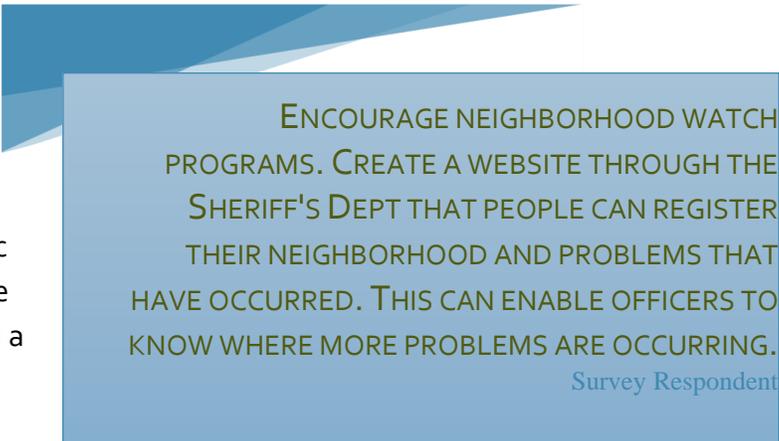
- Destination Tourism/Promote Tourism (6)
- Agricultural Industries (5)
- Technological Industries (4)
- Energy Farming (Solar) (4)
- Lumber and Timber Production (3)
- Health Care Education – 4-year (3)
- Home-based Businesses (3)
- Recreational Industries (3)
- Farming & Livestock – small scale/organic (3)
- Medical Technology and Boutique Medicine (2)
- Research and Development Call Centers (2)
- Rural Restaurants (2)
- Food Processing (2)
- Bio Fuels (waste wood and brush, forest slash) (2)

### *Public Safety*

Public Safety is the next focus area addressed in the strategic planning question. The citizens address a number of focus areas for public safety. Their responses highlight the following areas, again in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

**Engage Communities** – The comments in this topic focus on the need for all citizens to be engaged in creating safe communities. There are two specific programs respondents felt should be supported: the STARS program and a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Also, there are

comments relating to utilizing more community service rather than jail time when appropriate and having that service focus on ways to increase safety such as clearing brush for fire safety. One other idea with multiple comments relates to more organized



ENCOURAGE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS. CREATE A WEBSITE THROUGH THE SHERIFF'S DEPT THAT PEOPLE CAN REGISTER THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD AND PROBLEMS THAT HAVE OCCURRED. THIS CAN ENABLE OFFICERS TO KNOW WHERE MORE PROBLEMS ARE OCCURRING.

*Survey Respondent*

Neighborhood Watch efforts. This also came up in the Public Safety Focus Group. The information from this focus group is available in Appendix A.

**Community Policing** – The various districts all express concerns about wanting to physically see the Sheriff Deputies in their communities. They want to build relationships with the officers and have mechanisms for 2-way communication.

**Drug Crimes** – The citizens are concerned about the use and growth/production of illegal drugs and crimes related to this behavior.

**Fire Safety** – Fire is a significant concern in the comments. The residents want County interventions that decrease the threats for fire such as holding property owners responsible for clearing the brush and other fire hazards. Giving the homeless safe spaces to camp/stay to reduce illegal camp fires in unsafe locations is another idea raised by a number of citizens.

**Road Safety Issues** – In this section and in the Infrastructure section, the citizens raise concerns about the conditions of the roads. Here, there is concern for cyclists and pedestrians in some areas, speeding vehicles, potholes and other physical conditions, and snow removal in the higher elevations.

**Communication Strategies** – A number of the comments about safety stress the need to have good communication with the citizens about emergencies, trends, and general information. They appreciate the new Code Red program and ask for less formal communication to build relationships and pass along information such as the location of hot spots for criminal activity. For example, one comment appreciated the relationship they built with a sheriff deputy via a community Facebook page.

**Homeless Safety Issues** – There is significant concern about safety related to homeless people who are camping near recreation trails and as described above creating a significant fire danger. There is also concern about the safety related to panhandling activities in busy traffic areas.

**Safety Education** – There are numerous suggestions for ways to educate the public about safety concerns. These include offering CPR/First Aid courses and continuing to provide the Citizen Academy. School Safety concerns are also raised and a training for teachers

and first responders is requested. There are other suggestions about public safety education programs in the focus groups (See Appendix A).

**Mental Health Solutions** – Comments are seen here as well as in the Healthy Community section about investing in treatments for those people who have a mental health diagnosis. There are also suggestions to provide Mental Health First Aid training programs.

HOST 2 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS WHERE THE PUBLIC CAN ADDRESS THEIR PUBLIC CONCERNS, CONTINUE WITH COMMUNITY POLICING STRATEGIES, PROMOTE A POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMAGE.

Survey Respondent

**Crisis Intervention Training** – Quite a few comments focus on ensuring that all public safety officials are trained in CIT to learn how to intervene with individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis.

**Domestic Violence** – A need to have a better way to help domestic violence victims is addressed in the comments. The software did not surface this theme, but 8 comments were discovered by the research team. There is an expressed need to have more training and collaboration among agencies to help solve this problem.

Again, the table below highlights some comments from this section of the survey that 1) confirm the County’s direction, 2) express concerns about the current practices or direction, 3) propose ideas that should be explored further. These are verbatim quotes from citizens and often represent similar ideas.

Confirming Ideas
A few years ago there was a county-oriented group instructing locals in setting up neighborhood watch groups. That seemed to fizzle out because of lack of funds. Now with the increase in crime on the Divide, I think this is a great project.
Engage with and work collectively with all allied agency partners within the county (local, state and federal).
Continue proactive anti-gang and monitoring of problem areas
continued education of the law enforcement and government agencies representatives about the developmental disabled / mental health population - in the 29 years I have lived in EDC there has been a great improvement in this area.
I attended the citizens' academy put on by the Sheriff's department and I was very, very impressed by what I learned. They could do more with additional funding.

Concerns
I am PTC President at a local school and we had a situation at one of our school events that required police intervention for the safety of a child. It took 3 calls and over 45 minutes to get a unit on scene. It's appalling that it took that long to get a unit out there to help with that dangerous situation AND it wasn't even an El Dorado County Sheriff that showed up, it was Highway Patrol!!
Sidewalks in Cameron Park. Too many people (young adults) are walking on the main roads in the dark. There are no streetlights.
Ensuring that public safety is considered with planned development in regards to wildfires and crime.
Greater visibility in North county
Better communication with parents about youth on probation
Even your definition shows that you believe that only police and fire are involved in public safety. What about the guys out working plowing snow, and others that make our homes safe, provide drinkable water, etc.
Further Exploration
Bring back a community officer to the community Facebook pages!! There was so much engagement and goodwill with our officer. It was good community policing. Help neighborhoods get to know each other and their assigned deputies so that there is familiarity with each other.
A police/sheriff public oversight commission.
Brush and weed removal by inmate labor from close by prisons and conserv. camps.
Engage citizens to prepare and assist for emergencies, citizen emergency response teams (CERT)
Community CPR; 1st Aid & 1st Responder courses

## *Infrastructure*

The next area addressed in Question 14 is Infrastructure (E.g. Provide for quality physical and technological infrastructure including County roadways and other County facilities such as buildings, parks, airports, landfills, etc.). A significant number of comments in this section address road conditions from general comments to the location of specific issues. A list of specific locations of concern is listed in Appendix D. The themes that surface from these comments are (again from most frequent to least frequent comments):

**Road Maintenance** – As stated above, many of the comments focus on road related issues. One specific concern is the damage done by the logging trucks removing trees from the King Fire. There is also mention of bridges and the need to ensure that proper maintenance is done. Again, specific locations addressed in the comments are included in Appendix D.

DEVELOP A TRUE, COMPREHENSIVE 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) INCLUSIVE OF ROADS, FACILITIES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEEDS.

Survey Respondent

**Open Space / Parks & Trails** – Citizens are interested in maintaining existing parks and creating new spaces. There is also interest in having more sports related complexes. A large number of comments are related to access and safety for biking and walking, either by more trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks. The other frequently mentioned issue is a need for more parking and access to the waterways or areas for skiing and hiking.

**Technology Infrastructure** – Most citizens are interested in an infrastructure to support access to high-speed and reliable internet access. They want the County to take the lead in securing these services for the entire County. There is also concern raised by a least one citizen about some of the current software being used by the County being outdated.

**Facilities** – The comments express concern about the poor maintenance of County facilities. These comments relate to the buildings' general maintenance and that many of the buildings do not meet the needs for the services being provided.

**Environmentally Friendly Approaches** – Within the comments on Infrastructure, there is a theme related to increasing commitment to doing a better job for the environment when planning and implementing infrastructure solutions. The County should consider solar power or other alternative energies when appropriate. Additionally, there are suggestions about adding more recycling programs and waste management solutions to protect our natural resources.

**Water** – Water usage and storage are themes in this section. There are comments relating to ensuring the water supply issue is addressed in the approval of any development; that water conservation is considered in planning; and that the County consider more options for storing water.

**Public Transit** – The requests for more public transportation range from more local routes to help transport people to jobs and other activities as well as transit options to bring tourists to our area for events. The comments also focus on alternative transportation to decrease the congestion along Highway 50 during commuting hours and also during peak travel to Tahoe or Apple Hill.

Again, the table below highlights some comments from this section of the survey that 1) confirm the County’s direction, 2) express concerns about the current practices or direction, 3) propose ideas that should be explored further. These are verbatim quotes from citizens and often represent similar ideas.

Confirming Ideas
Educating the citizens that we have a General Plan, that we, the people, voted on that plan and exactly what that plan entails. Too many people are out here blaming government and the BOS for the choices that we made.
Keep all hiking and horse trails maintained.
Increase senior services/transportation.
All infrastructure must include innovative use of water and other natural resources.
Advance the Solid Waste Management Plan.
Concerns
Work collaboratively with CalTrans and other DOT entities (local, state and federal) to concentrate on building our roadway infrastructure for the future.
Aggressively monitor aging infrastructure such as water and gas lines, roadways, and public buildings.
Instead of perpetually kicking the can down the road, DOT needs to be responsive to the needs of the taxpayers who pay for their services
I have concerned about the county's computer and accounting system which is so outdated as to endanger records and data.
EDH needs more parks - in fact the BOS as an opportunity in front of them to keep the current zoning of the old EDH Executive Golf Course zoned open space/recreational and not rezone for high density housing. It is my hope that the board would not cave to a special interest and serve the will of the residents of EDH.
Further Exploration
Need more hotels so when we attract people here there is a place to stay.
Biomass Converter/brush and fuel breaks along roads

New county buildings are needed to house the Senior Service Programs, Public Health and Public Guardian. The Spring Street facility is not conducive to all of the programs it houses and there is a huge lack of safe parking for staff and clients.

We need to facilitate homeless shelters & low income housing options.

Increased support for building efficiency and renewable energy projects (for example, the library could be upgraded). Ramp up electric vehicle infrastructure. Support for improved bicycle infrastructure, for example more bike lanes on or along all major roadways.

## Healthy Community

The next focus area is Healthy Community. The comments in this section address a broad definition of health. The responses cluster around the following ideas (In order of most frequent to least frequent responses):

**Healthcare Providers** – The citizens have concerns about the scarce number and lack of proximity of providers in the more rural areas including a lack of pharmacy services. They also express concern that there are not enough behavioral health providers across the County. Some comments are especially concerned about the lack of emergency or urgent care facilities.

(Note: This might be an area that overlaps with Economic Development and indicates an industry that could be incentivized to move into the County.)

**Senior & Veteran Services** – In this area, there is concern that the capacity to meet the future needs is not being address for both Seniors (especially with the aging Baby Boomers) and Veterans. Many people express appreciation for the existing centers and programs. There are requests for more transportation services, especially options for

MOBILE SHOT CLINICS AND MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS FOR LOW / NO INCOME. MORE JOB TRAINING AND GUIDANCE OR AT LEAST BETTER ADVERTISING / ACCESS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS FOR UNEMPLOYED.

Survey Respondent

getting to and from healthcare services. The nutrition programs are positive and should be expanded. Some citizens believe there is a need for more mental health services to these populations as well.

**Clean Air/Water** – This theme surfaces in the comments relating to air quality due to a variety

A RURAL LIFESTYLE IS INHERENTLY HEALTHY. IT INCLUDES VEGETABLE GARDENING, HOMESTEADING, SPENDING ACTIVE TIME OUTSIDE.

Survey Respondent

of pollutants from cars to burning wood and other debris. The clean water comments contain concerns about keeping Tahoe clean and free of invasive plants/animals as well as concerns about other waterways in the county containing toxins.

**Recreation** – The comments express the need for more options to recreate and exercise in the County. Many comments focus on having more biking and walking trails that are networked and safe, including safe routes to schools. Additionally, some people voice a lack of youth recreational activities and facilities. There are also comments that stress that the lack of activities available decreases the opportunities to strengthen communities.

**Affordability** – The remarks regarding affordability are related to a lack of low income health services that have capacity to meet current needs. The specific services mentioned are flu shots and other preventative services as well as counseling and mental health services. There is also some indication that many people are not aware of what is available.

**Jobs** – This cluster of ideas focuses on the need for employment opportunities in order for our County to be truly healthy. Unemployment negatively affects the health and well-being of individuals and their families.

**Nutrition** – Healthy and local food options are a focus of some comments. There is concern voiced about the number of “food deserts” (lack of availability of places to purchase healthy food options) in the County and the need to find ways to connect the local farmers’ products with those needing affordable nutritious food options. Some concern is expressed about the regulations that are prohibitive regarding growing and making available local fruits and vegetables.

AS IT RELATES TO THE TAHOE AREA: EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD AS SEVERAL HOMES THAT ARE NUISANCES (ACCUMULATING TRASH, ABANDONED VEHICLES, STATE OF DISREPAIR, DEAD TREES, ETC.). WE HAVE A HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET FROM US THAT IS IN FORECLOSURE THAT IS INFESTED WITH MOLD, CREATING AN UNHEALTHY AND UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT.

Survey Respondent

### Confirming Ideas

- |  |
|--|
| Evaluate the programs so we know what is working and what is not   |
| Continue community clean up days.  |
| Ensure that County services are providing a warm hand-off between departments, especially in Tahoe, for residents seeking a variety of services. |
| Educate and inform residents of services available to them.  |

Increase support for UC Cooperative Extension to expand nutrition education programs, school garden and school wellness programs
Better utilization of nurses to outreach prevention strategies
<b>Concerns</b>
Stop pretending that our air quality will be fine if we approve every development with overriding considerations to ignore air quality issues.
In the 29 years I have lived in EDC I have seen improvement in the medical and dental needs being met for medical patients, still the # of patients and # of facilities still encourages medical patients to go to ER for quicker services which is more costly
<b>Further Exploration</b>
1) Resilience building, trauma informed practice for the most vulnerable; 2) Access to multimodal and active transportation for all; 3) improve access to good food for all (there are food deserts in EDC; increase collaboration between farm and markets or local grocery stores)
Encourage homeowners to plant own vegetables. Encourage communities to start up own garden
Hold annual "government days" in each community where agencies provide information and education to the public. Encourage participation of schools to increase public attendance.

*Good Governance*

The last section is related to the overall governance of El Dorado County. The comments here emphasize a desire to have a government structure that reflects the definition of "good governance" from the survey question: *Achieving the best possible process for making & implementing decisions; characterized by honesty, integrity, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, equitability, inclusion, effectiveness, efficiency and following the rule of law.* The specific needs expressed are categorized as follows:

**Transparency & Honesty** – There are requests to have goals of transparency and honesty as well as the other descriptors in the definition of “good governance” provided in the question. Many citizens offer suggestions about ways to achieve this through audits, possibly by outside audit agencies and perhaps an oversight commission. A number of comments focus on the number of closed door sessions, without clear understanding of why they are necessary.

TRANSPARENCY, COMMUNICATION AND OPENNESS CANNOT BE UTILIZED ENOUGH. THERE IS SO MUCH NEGATIVITY AND MISTRUST IN COUNTY GOVERNANCE THAT IS PROMOTED ON FACEBOOK. COUNTERING THIS IS PARAMOUNT TO GAIN COMMUNITY TRUST.

Survey Respondent

**Elected Officials** – The citizens express a number of concerns and a number of compliments about the elected officials. There are also several comments about some specific officials that reflect concerns. One of the most frequently mentioned concerns is that the elected officials are influenced by those who can contribute large amounts to the campaigns and that the “voice of the citizens” is not included in decision-making. A number of responses suggested the need to have term limits.

**County Staff** – Again there are positive and negative comments relating to the County staff and their management of County business. The requests are for more transparency and communication to the public and accountability for spending.

**Citizen Participation** – The requests regarding the role of citizens in good governance focus on wanting more opportunities to participate in the processes. Many citizens would like to have meetings at various locations throughout the County and to have some meetings in the evenings so they can attend and not have to miss work. Many want opportunities to provide public comments whenever possible and through a variety of venues, including websites. They want representation on advisory and oversight bodies and more town halls with their representatives.

PROVIDE A GOOD SUMMARY OF THE BUDGETS AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE TRADE-OFFS.

Survey Respondent

**Influence of Campaign Contributions** – A large number of comments focus on the influence of campaign contributions for elected officials and suspicion that “behind door deals” are being made by both elected officials and staff.

**Communication** – There are a number of requests for better communication about what is happening in the county government. The suggestions include possible websites, emails, and more town hall meetings, with a desire for communication to be two-way.

**Budget Process** – Ten comments offer suggestions about ways to improve the budget process so the public can understand and be aware of where their tax money is going. This is an additional theme noted by the research team that Narr8 did not discover.

Confirming Ideas
More PR and outreach re: county projects and more explanation and clarification of intricate, complex workings of gov't for the public.
Do Something! After the surveys, Do Something! Then let us know what you accomplished.
We have been impressed with the personal attention provided when we have made contact with the County Staff. Please make that known to the staff. We've lived in EDC for many years and can recall a time when this personal staff attention to issues was not available.
Again, town hall meetings work
Concerns
Pollock Pines should not be part of District 5, with South Lake Tahoe.
Follow up on county bullying study - improve the working culture
The biggest problem is the culture of the county. There is a culture of distrust between elected officials and county employees. There is inconsistency in the way the policies the laws and the rules are applied. There is tremendous behind the scenes pressure from developers and agriculture.
More transparency and outside audits: upgrading the systems for accounting, court calendaring.
Over the last few years, a vocal minority has tried to override the silent majority by harassing elected officials and pressuring them to make bad decisions. The County is probably going further than is really even necessary to show transparency and accommodate/listen to these people. Everyone is entitled to be heard, but please do not provide extra opportunity, beyond what is reasonable, for these people to repeat themselves over and over at the expense of the silent majority's tax dollars.
People participating in public meetings need to be respectful go all residents and public officials. Insulting behaviors should not be tolerated. People who are rude and disrespectful should be escorted from the room.

### Further Exploration

A committee comprised of several county employees from every department should be created to investigate any complaints about elected officials in the County.

Eliminate special elections by combining with elections already scheduled; require simple, (plain English), statements detailing financial impacts for all bonds, reorganization, improvement, etc. proposals. Combine (and reduce) service administrations (for fire, education, etc.) in unincorporated areas of the county.

Install a digital timer at BOS meetings so people can see when their time is up. I've seen it used by other public agencies and it works well.

In addition to the themes that are present in each of the five areas of focus, there are some themes that surface across the multiple areas. The first of these is a desire to have the County work collaboratively across agencies internal to the County when appropriate and also with other city, state, and federal agencies as needed to provide the services the citizens need and want. The second is a belief that developers have an unfair advantage in the approval processes for new development.

WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH CALTRANS AND OTHER DOT ENTITIES (LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL) TO CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING OUR ROADWAY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE.

Survey Respondent

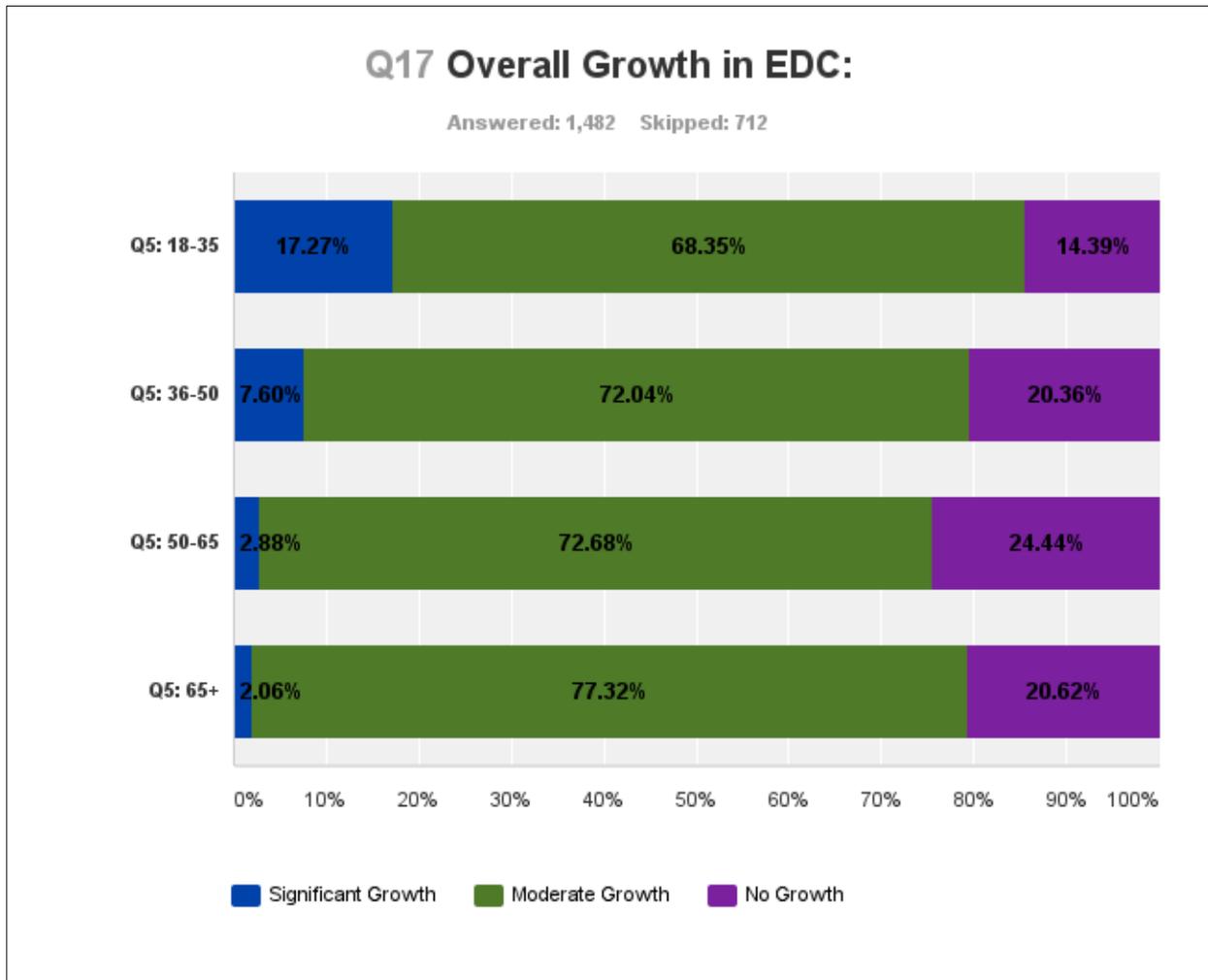
## Top Challenges Facing EDC

One survey question asked the citizens to list the top challenges facing EDC. The table below highlights the most frequent responses.

EDC's Top Challenges	
Challenge	Number of responses
Growth/Development	637
Roads / Traffic	354
Water/Drought	239
Business Development	146
Jobs/Employment	119
Housing	95
Drugs	89
Infrastructure	78
Budget/Money	78
Community Development	76
Crime/Law Enforcement	69
Elected Officials	46
Schools	40
Preserving a Rural Lifestyle	35
Corruption	32
Homeless	29
Planning	28
Mental Health	25
Leadership	17
Quality of Life	16
Aging Population	15
Public Safety	13
West Slope/East Slope Balance	12
Healthcare	6
Climate Change	5

## Citizens' Perspective on Growth in EDC

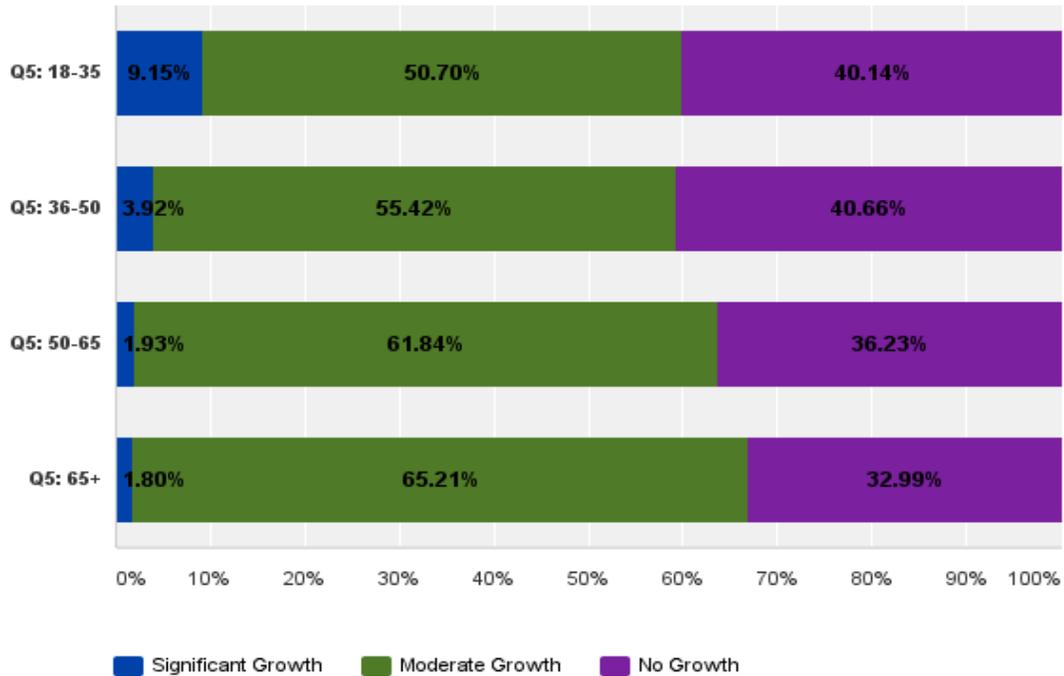
Questions 17-19 asked the respondents specifically what level of growth they'd like to see overall, in new homes and in new businesses. The following charts summarize the responses to this question by age group.



Although there is a larger percentage of respondents who favor significant growth overall in the younger age brackets, all age groups are considerably more supportive of only moderate growth. This is consistent with the comments regarding Economic Development above. The people appear to be accepting of some growth as long as it is done in alignment with the resources and values of the County.

## Q18 New Home Construction

Answered: 1,483 Skipped: 711



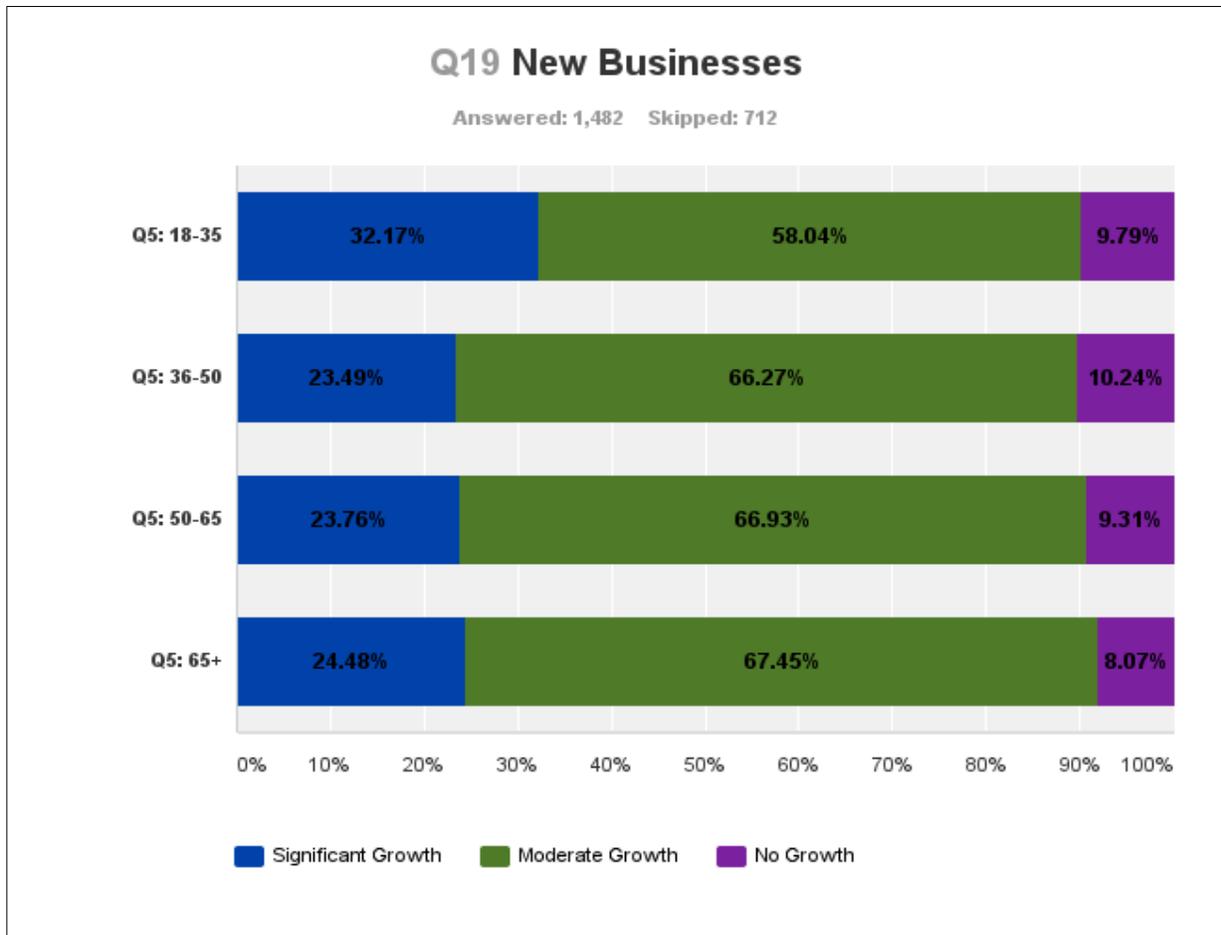
Regarding new home construction, the response of moderate growth is not as strong as in the overall growth question above, but again, all age groups are still more in favor of moderate growth, with the younger citizens being more supportive of no growth and significant growth than the older citizens.

When asked where they would like to see new homes developed, the following are the most frequently mentioned places in the responses.

Where should new homes be developed? (# of times mentioned)	
Along Highway 50 (41)	Placerville (40)
Cameron Park (51)	Pollock Pines (7)
El Dorado Hills (72)	Rural Areas (27)
Lake Tahoe (22)	Shingle Springs (24)
Latrobe Road (5)	West Slope (15)

Some of the comments listed additional characteristics of new homes should be built. These included:

Characteristics of New Home Development	
Affordable housing	Near other high density
Existing infrastructure	Sewers available
Existing parcels	Small apartments complexes
Infill	Water available



Regarding new businesses, there is a slightly higher percentage of the youngest group who feel there should be significant growth, otherwise the largest number of people would like to see moderate growth.

When asked what types of businesses they'd like to see in EDC, the following are the most frequently mentioned businesses or types of business.

What businesses should be developed? (# of times mentioned)	
Costco (33)	Target (18)
Family oriented activities (23)	Technology (103)
Film Industry (3)	Tourism (42)
Healthcare (33)	Trader Joes (32)
Medical research (7)	

Additionally, some of the comments list qualities people would like to see in new business development. These include:

Characteristics of Business Development	
Green	Pays a living wage
Healthy Food Industry	Small Business
Light manufacturing	Small to midsize retail
Locally owned	Start-ups

### Citizens' Ratings of How EDC Government Reflects Their Values

Use the scale below to indicate how well El Dorado County government reflects the following values: (1- Strongly Disagree to 5- Strongly Agree)							
Answer Options	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Accountability: We take responsibility for what needs to be done	175	373	559	287	25	2.73	1419
Accessibility: Citizens can easily find us when they need us and we are responsive	111	285	465	482	73	3.09	1416
Customer Service: We provide courteous and effective service	76	157	507	569	105	3.33	1414
Transparency: We make information that is legal to share available to the public	196	266	542	352	59	2.87	1415
Integrity: We do the right thing whether anyone is watching or not	247	364	521	242	41	2.62	1415

Trustworthiness: You have confidence in our reliability, honesty, capabilities, and intentions	258	387	457	272	42	2.61	1416
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Largely, the citizens’ average rating of the County reflecting its values are slightly above or slightly below the midpoint. The data from this question are good baseline measures to use as indicators of performance improvement for the “good governance” section of the strategic plan.

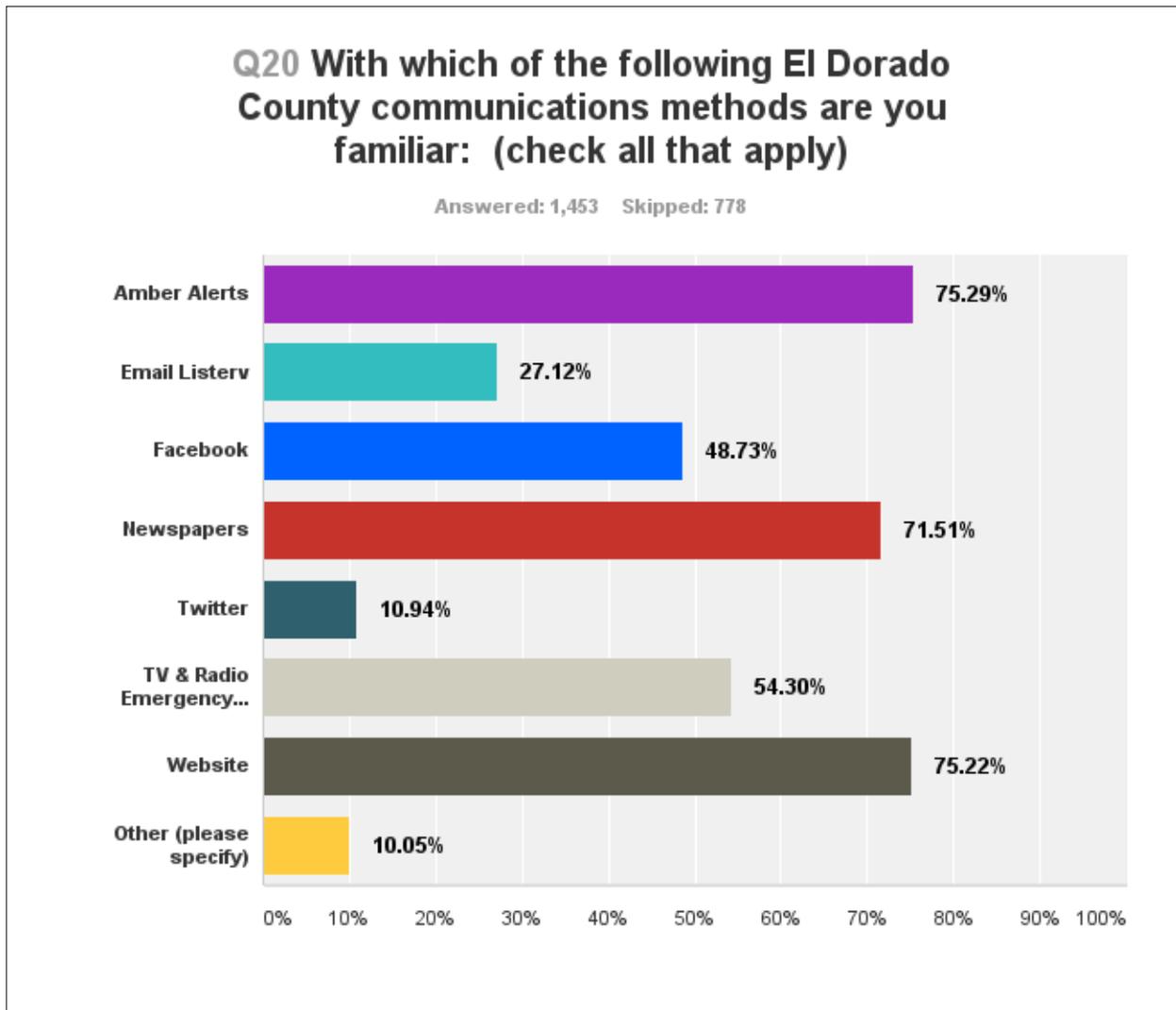
### Citizens’ Ranking of Service Priorities

Rank the following 12 areas of service provided by El Dorado County government (1 meaning higher priority, and 12 meaning least priority).													
Options: 1=Highest to 12=Lowest	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Rating Average from highest priority to lowest priority
1.Public Safety	429	216	149	91	90	70	34	51	39	50	26	34	3.70
2.Roads	168	263	201	144	109	84	74	60	59	53	53	39	4.62
3.Land Use & Planning	211	158	166	120	108	80	89	85	78	78	53	47	5.07
4.Health Care	73	112	117	161	132	158	106	106	82	82	42	25	5.69
5.Child Services	68	114	142	131	132	125	119	109	100	72	47	33	5.78
6.Business & Employment Services	92	98	111	133	119	105	126	83	89	93	80	62	6.11
7.Veteran & Senior Services	74	70	109	133	140	140	132	116	117	105	82	81	6.50
8.Library	82	90	81	85	103	115	107	134	88	115	111	134	6.94
9.Agriculture	74	62	67	83	97	118	106	117	100	121	133	118	7.18
10.Counseling	23	44	62	68	88	82	103	119	144	163	168	123	7.94
11.Animal Control	18	41	47	63	86	89	109	134	136	140	167	170	8.16
12.Public Documents/Records	27	29	50	61	63	73	85	88	136	134	186	313	8.75

The feedback provided by this ranking is intended discover if a baseline could be established that indicates how citizens prioritize services. The results indicate no clear priority from those who responded to the survey. Quite a few of the comments in the responses to this question indicate that people found prioritizing the services a task that was too difficult, because they are all important and that the services are systemic and interrelated. Moving forward, when

deciding how limited resources are allocated, the interdependencies of these services need to be considered before making changes.

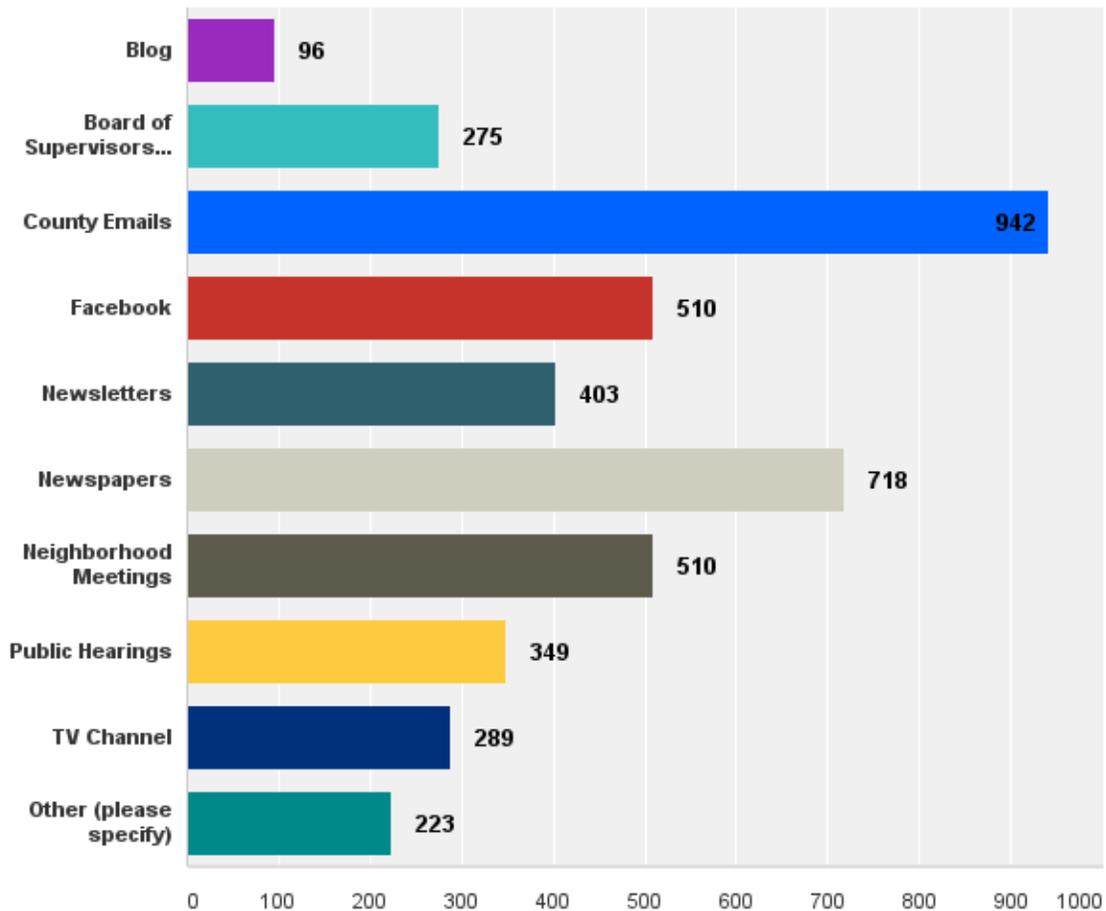
## Communications from EDC



Two additional methods are identified in the comments for the "Other" category. Those are phone messages and word of mouth. Other comments list specific newspapers, specific Facebook groups, and the new "Code Red" program.

## Q21 What are your preferred methods to receive information from El Dorado County

Answered: 1,456 Skipped: 775



"Other" comments indicate that people would also like to have information sent via:

- Radio
- Text
- Reverse 911
- County and other websites (i.e. Nextdoor)
- Flyers
- Mailings

Given the responses to the two questions about communication, it is clear that EDC needs to continue to promote and distribute information through a variety of channels in order to reach the largest number of citizens.

## Suggestions for Improvement

Question 24 asked the citizens what suggestions they have to improve EDC services. Many of the comments reflect topics already covered by other questions in this report. Many citizens express no real suggestions for improvement and felt they generally had good interactions when seeking services from EDC. There are, however, several new ideas that are highlighted below:

- Costs of building permits need to be reconsidered. They are prohibitive and the process and service at the permit office is not a pleasant experience.
- El Dorado County should become a model for green living.
- Customer service training is needed for EDC staff.
- The vocal minority should not be considered more in decisions than the silent majority.
- Public relations issues have contributed to the perceptions of corrupt government. EDC needs to promote the good work done by the County.
- Access to services needs to be improved, especially mental health and veterans' services.
- Volunteers could be utilized as information desk staff to help direct visitors and phone calls to the right departments.

ELIMINATE AT LEAST THE PERCEPTION, IF NOT THE ACTUAL CORRUPTION WITHIN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Survey Respondent

- Non-performers should be held accountable for their job responsibilities or removed from their positions.

PLEASE DO TAKE SERIOUSLY THE RESULTS OF FEEDBACK GIVEN BY THE CITIZENS WHO DO TAKE THEIR TIME TO ANSWER THIS SURVEY. THAT IN ITSELF WILL INCREASE HOPEFULNESS.

Survey Respondent

- Rewards should be given for innovative solutions.
- Best practices from other government bodies should be replicated in EDC.
- Technology solutions should be considered for communication and record keeping.
- Employee succession planning needs to be a priority.
- Animal Control should be active on social media to increase adoption rates.

## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS & SUGGESTIONS

- Many of the responses and comments in the survey reflect that citizens are not aware of what all EDC government does. EDC might consider adding strategies to improve this situation, such as:
  1. Employ a Public Information Officer to oversee a communication and public education efforts.
  2. Include communication and public education strategies in each departments' annual goals.
  3. The strategic plan should include a strategy for identifying and disseminating positive impact stories from all departments.
    - a. When decisions are made, the communication, whenever possible, should communicate the "why" and the reasoning behind the decision. E.g. are there state or federal regulations that mandate certain actions? What trade-offs were made in decision making?

All of these strategies for communication are crucial, because in the absence of information, people will fill the space with stories and they rarely make up good news. This phenomenon is a factor in why the history in the County is so difficult to overcome. Without new positive stories and examples, people are reverting to the stories from the past.

- The data demonstrate distrust related to the relationships of Developers to El Dorado County government. EDC could develop a specific set of strategies to address this issue in the strategic plan and ensure that the citizens have input on the approaches used to eliminate any problems and remove possible misperceptions.
- When the needs of the County are addressed by multiple agencies (city, state, federal) or even multiple departments within EDC, the County should take the lead, ensuring collaboration in order to maximize impact and resources. The strategic plan should address specific objectives to maximize these intersections of services across multiple jurisdictions. For example, there are roads in need of repair that cross city, state, and county jurisdictions. Coordinating the repair timeline could save on resources and achieve better outcomes.
- The data from the question asking people to prioritize EDC services areas do not indicate a clear prioritization. One of the reasons for this could be the interdependencies of these services. It is difficult to say one service is more important when some services are clearly and systemically affected by others. When it is necessary to make resource and budgeting decisions, EDC should consider the systemic impact on other service areas. The strategic plan should include objectives for budgeting and resource allocation processes to address this and to avoid unintended consequences of silo-based decisions.



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# APPENDIX A

# EL DORADO COUNTY FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

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December 2015

## Introduction

Over two days (November 30 and December 1 2015), Kiely Group conducted four focus groups in three regions of El Dorado County as a follow up to the survey input and town hall meetings to gain deeper insights into five questions:

1. What is meant by rural when citizens refer to “keeping the county rural?”
2. How might we engage citizens in public safety (including fire, law enforcement, emergencies)?
3. How will we know El Dorado isn’t run by a “Good Ol’ Boy” network?
4. What evidence is needed to show that the Tahoe Basin is included in county government planning/decisions/services?
5. What industries could thrive in El Dorado County to bring employment opportunities but would not destroy the character of the region?

## Methodology

A total of 16 El Dorado County residents participated in the focus groups. The following table designates which questions were addressed at each Focus Group:

Date	Location	Questions
Nov. 30	Cameron Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What is meant by rural when citizens refer to “keeping the county rural?”</li><li>2. What industries could thrive in El Dorado County to bring employment opportunities but would not destroy the character of the region?</li></ol>
Nov. 30	Placerville	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How might we engage citizens in public safety (including fire, law enforcement, emergencies)?</li><li>2. What industries could thrive in El Dorado County to bring employment opportunities but would not destroy the character of the region?</li></ol>

<b>Dec. 1</b>	Placerville	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will we know El Dorado isn't run by a "Good Ol' Boy" network?</li> <li>2. What industries could thrive in El Dorado County to bring employment opportunities but would not destroy the character of the region?</li> </ol>
<b>Dec. 1</b>	South Lake Tahoe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What evidence is needed to show that the Tahoe Basin is included in county government planning/decisions/services?</li> <li>2. What is meant by rural when citizens refer to "keeping the county rural?"</li> <li>3. How might we engage citizens in public safety (including fire, law enforcement, emergencies)?</li> <li>4. How will we know El Dorado isn't run by a "Good Ol' Boy" network?</li> <li>5. What industries could thrive in El Dorado County to bring employment opportunities but would not destroy the character of the region?</li> </ol>

The first three focus groups spent most of an hour on each of their first questions. A large sticky wall was used to capture individually brainstormed answers; then those ideas were discussed by the full group, clustered around themes, and labeled. During the final 10 minutes of the focus groups, we asked participants to individually write down their ideas of industries on blank paper and turn them in.

In South Lake Tahoe, where we focused on the first question about inclusion in county government, then we took the time to get their input on the remaining questions as well. Therefore, instead of a more rigorous exploration of one question, the facilitator asked the full group all five questions in a round robin format.

## Findings

The answers to the first three questions are summarized as follows (full record of responses included as an attachment):

**Rurality** is characterized by:

- Country roads
- Natural setting
- Low density
- Privacy
- Commercial and residential agriculture

- Natural resource economy (e.g. eco-tourism, local businesses, campgrounds, no big box stores, recreational opportunities)

Tahoe additions: fewer housing developments, trails and open space, smart growth

Effective **engagement of citizens in public safety** requires:

- First, recognition of two broad commitments:
  - Every decision involves Public Health (i.e. “Health in All Policies”<sup>1</sup>)
  - Public participation in all safety projects
- With those two commitments in place, we engage citizens in public safety by:
  - Supporting neighborhood organizing
  - Providing training (e.g. staff training, good coaches, Citizens Academy)
  - Encouraging public input on county decisions
  - Ensuring safe roads for ALL users
  - Conducting broad-based community outreach
  - Educating the community
  - Establishing effective systems for on-going communication with the public

Tahoe additions: Citizens Academy, open houses at fire house, presence at community events, fire safety events (see details attached), citizen education using social media.

We will know when **El Dorado County isn’t run by a “Good Ol’ Boy” network** when:

- Customer service is consumer-centered
- There is strong and confident leadership
- The culture within the County reflects positive values
- The County engages in strategic communications that challenge negative perceptions
- The community is engaged and supporting County decisions

Tahoe additions: absence of negative media and presence of positive stories, collaboration of Supervisors on a Western/Eastern Slope project, more equitable distribution of funds and services.

The **Tahoe Basin** will know they are included in county government when:

- Communications are improved (meeting notices sent out and advertised)
- The county is more proactive in including Tahoe residents in decision-making, especially in areas of interest
- The County works more closely with the City to promote their activities

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<sup>1</sup> “Health in All Policies (HIAP) is an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically take into account the health implications of decisions.

- There is a more obvious presence of the County (more Board of Supervisors meetings in SLT, and people don't assume county services are city services)
- More capacity building for local county staff (they've appreciated the increase in training lately)
- Budget considerations no longer seem to favor Western Slope

The following list of industries that would promote employment but not destroy the character of the region was generated at all four focus groups (in order of frequency):

- Destination Tourism/Promote Tourism (6)
- Agricultural Industries (5)
- Technological Industries (4)
- Energy Farming (Solar) (4)
- Lumber and Timber Production (3)
- Health Care Education – 4-year (3)
- Home-based Businesses (3)
- Recreational Industries (3)
- Farming & Livestock – small scale/organic (3)
- Medical Technology and Boutique Medicine (2)
- Research and Development Call Centers (2)
- Rural Restaurants (2)
- Food Processing (2)
- Bio Fuels (waste wood and brush, forest slash) (2)

(Other ideas that were brainstormed that had one response are attached.)

## Suggestions

The data collected from the focus groups will be integrated with survey, town hall meeting, and interview data to inform the strategic planning process. In the meantime, the following suggestions can be derived from these findings:

- In many of the focus groups, we heard the importance of **challenging negative perceptions**. To counter those perceptions, the County can **improve external communications** (both one-way and two-way). Participants suggested utilizing social media, advertising, surveys, and bulletin boards to keep residents informed and engaged, and to counter negative stories with positive ones. They also suggested that the County engage a qualified Public Information Officer.
- There were many comments about increasing the engagement of citizens in public safety with a “public health approach,” where **health impact is taken into account when making decisions** in other sectors. For example, as road safety is considered, it will be

important to factor in the promotion of “active transportation,” including biking and walking routes that are shared safely with automobiles. Furthermore, a public health approach includes high levels of community engagement and going to where people live, play, work, learn, and pray to **actively engage residents** in public safety.

- Participants were able to generate an extensive list of industries that might be a good fit for El Dorado County. The two areas that seemed to emerge the most were **eco-tourism** (and related businesses that promote appreciation and engagement with recreational and natural resources) and promotion of **small business** such as home-based, small farms, tech, and environmental companies.

# Appendix B

## Narr8™ Report

### El Dorado County Survey Data

Generated: 12/12/15 11:28 PM

The following tables show the results from Narr8's analysis of the narrative data and their thematic clusters. The questions focused on the 5 Areas of Focus in the EDC Strategic Plan. The cluster names are labels assigned by the KGi research staff. The actual data within each theme, rather than the label, should be viewed as having the most significance.

**Question:** What comments do you have regarding Economic Development?

Cluster Name	Word Count	Percentage
Grow Appropriate Industries	1332	15.28%
Maintain Rural Nature	1301	14.92%
Jobs	830	9.52%
Support Local Economy	828	9.50%
Supportive Infrastructure	427	4.90%
Incentives	426	4.89%
Better Customer Service	391	4.49%
Housing Growth	296	3.40%

**Question:** What comments do you have regarding Public Safety?

<b>Cluster Label</b>	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Engage Communities	1106	14.24%
Community Policing	1037	13.35%
Drug Crimes	479	6.17%
Fire Safety	403	5.19%
Road Safety Issues	391	5.03%
Communication Strategies	389	5.01%
Homeless Safety Issues	359	4.62%
Safety Education	321	4.13%
Mental Health Solutions	218	2.81%
Crisis Intervention Training	172	2.21%

**Question:** What comments do you have regarding Infrastructure?

<b>Cluster Label</b>	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Road Maintenance	1251	13.53%
Open Space - Parks & Trails	738	7.98%
Technology Infrastructure	584	6.31%
Facilities	517	5.59%
Environmentally Friendly Approaches	490	5.30%
Water	458	4.95%
Public Transit	295	3.19%

**Question:** What comments do you have regarding Healthy Community

<b>Cluster Label</b>	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Healthcare Providers	900	13.85%
Senior & Veteran Services	628	9.66%
Clean Air & Water	475	7.31%
Recreation	370	5.69%
Affordability	295	4.54%
Jobs	277	4.26%
Nutrition	256	3.94%

**Question:** What comments do you have regarding Good Governance?

<b>Cluster Label</b>	<b>Word Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Transparency & Honesty	1060	13.57%
Elected Officials	920	11.78%
County Staff	631	8.08%
Citizen Participants	614	7.86%
Influence of Campaign Contributions	607	7.77%
Communication	563	7.21%

# Appendix C

## Specific Road/Street & Trail Suggestions

The following are verbatim comments from the Infrastructure section of the question related to the focus areas of the strategic planning process. These comments report specific places in the County which need attention.

Citizen Comments:
add passing lanes to one lane roads (hwy 49)
An on ramp (westbound) on highway 50 at Ray Lawyer Drive would be helpful as an alternative route to get to county buildings.
As I've been here only 5 yrs., have limited input. Main concern is how to provide for safe/timely traffic flow with the increasing # of drivers/homeowners. It IS already (Highway 50--& roads in El Dorado Hills & Shingle springs & Coach lane n Cp) JAMMED--not only at "commute" times. We indeed have need for local road repairs--Wood Lane, Castlebrook, & Fairway in our neighborhood.
Bass Lake Road after the new light at Serrano Parkway heading toward Green Valley Rd. needs lots of help.
Bass Lake Road is a concern of mine. The intersection at Country Club is unsafe. The sharp curve further down is unsafe too. Blind spots, no shoulder or bike lane along with other hazards make most of the road unsafe for the rate of traffic that uses it daily. Bass Lake is a historical wetlands and it is drying up. Fish & Game won't let neighbors move the fish or do anything to change the situation.
Bass Lake Road is a major road with 5000-10,000 vehicles a day and is breaking down constantly. Connect to Silver Springs ASAP.
Bass Lake Road is a mess!! Green Valley needs a paved road edge...very dangerous deep edges.
Better internet access. Fix some of the roads instead of doing odd revamps of existing areas like the one on Pleasant Valley Road and Oak Hill.
Better roadway control on Green Valley Road near El Dorado/Sac County line.
Bridge to Auburn without the dam
Build a bridge from Placerville to Swansboro
Build a sidewalk and do improvements on Latrobe road near the Blackstone community. Build the trails that are promised to families here.
Build the new bridge at Bucks Bar
Canal St is and embarrassment.
Connect the road from El Dorado Hills to iron point in Folsom. This would alleviate traffic on the freeway and Folsom already built the road. 2. Enable left turns out of oak meadow elementary so that we can access the freeway without having to make a u-turn at Serrano pkwy.
Considering we live in an area that's very diverse with regard to weather conditions, I feel the County does a pretty good job w/ regard to infrastructure. Would be nice to have the one lane bridge on Bucks Bar Road expanded. Also would be great to have the connector bridge to Swansboro Area built.

Consistent and reliable internet is needed in many areas of this county. Which will in turn help with economic development. We also need to look at the "minor" fixes to our roadways that can help improve overall safety, such as replacing narrow box culvers/ bridges (example weber creek on Cedar Ravine), or sharp turns that maybe able to be widened.

Construct a "By-Pass" highway along Hwy 50 at South Lake Tahoe for those travelers who do not intend on stopping the the Lake Tahoe area. This will ease the the traffic congestion which will encourage more visitors to the SLT area. This plan was implemented in Bend Oregon and worked in reducing the traffic congestion significantly.

Create County Parks Districts for the whole County so those living in the unincorporated areas get park amenities. Create a sales tax to fund district parks and CSD's, additional County bike paths and lanes, implement County Parks Master Plan, build a whitewater park on the South Fork, by the property behind the Lotus Fire Station and inholding for HLP buildout, put parking, water, a bike skills course and frisbee golf course on the County Cronan Ranch parcel, Develop Chili Bar Park, put in public tennis courts in district 4, consider roundabouts at any proposed intersection first before signal lights, when creating Hwy cloverleaves do make left turns possible (need for signal lights), put a roundabout at Cedar Ravine and Main st., eliminate the signal lights on Hwy 50 in Placerville, use yield signs instead of stop signs when possible

designated bike lanes through out the county, especially Green Valley rd.

Eliminate the Hwy 50 traffic lights, Solarize all public and gov't buildings, eliminate blind spots on roads e.g. Forni at the Weber Cr bridge, egress from the library, new Mt. Murphy and Mosquito bridges, interchange at Apple Hill

**ELKS CLUB NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED AND REPAVED!!!!**

Finish the bike path between Governor's Blvd. and Francisco Dr. in EDH. There should be one more lane open on northbound Latrobe rd. underneath the freeway. Two lanes of traffic should be able to continue straight on EDH Blvd. there, instead of just one lane. They did a ton of construction there, but it is still too congested.

Finish the Saratoga Ave. connection to ease the traffic on 50 and at the Bidwell St. interesction....as promised 9 years ago!

Fix the existing faulty roadways such as; Snows Road, Camino exit off of Hwy 50. Build commercial buildings with high speed everything. We need to attract large employeers with the state of the art services/products.

Forebay Road, upper end. The west side of the roads ditch line has erroded to a depth that is dangerous for pedestrians who walk the road. Its probably 2 feet deep in places now. Need rip-rap to fill in the ditch to a safe depth. Currently, when it rains and fills up someone could damage their vehicle if they fell into it or if an older person was forced to jump out of the way of an on coming vehicle, they would be forced to fall into the ditch and seriously hurt themselves. True Safety road hazard deepening with every rain fall.

Graybar Mine road needs to be widened on the Greenwood Rd end

Green Valley Road needs widening and turn lanes. It is too congested and leading to too many accidents.

Grizzly Flats roads were created in the late 1960s and were constructed to a standard not much better than that required for a driveway. The GF roads are in need of reconstruction in many locations. The GF community is in need of a county owned multiple use facility ... it could be a joint use facility with 'others'.

heavily used roads such as Newtown, Cedar Ravine, and Pleasant Valley Road need on pavement road reflectors on the street as many of the streets have no lighting at all. The cost would be minimal and a vast improvement in public safety

Hwy 49 from Cool to Auburn has never been paved since I've been here (14 years).

hwy 49 to county line towards placer-the canyon road is in bad bad bad shape

I don't think we need more asphalt roads. Increase foot trails. Ensure roadway projects incorporate adding shoulders wide enough for cyclists. Don't create unsafe conditions through over development, such as there is on Heavens Gate in Lotus where the entry and exit onto Lotus Road is entirely unsafe.

I like the road work done on 193 and 49 in Cool

Identify the worst roads and fix them first, i.e., Spring Street. Can the HOV lane hours be adjusted to the 'real' traffic patterns, like ending at 8:30 a.m., not 10 a.m.? Increase awareness about rural road safety. Have DOT or CalTrans clear blocking trees and bushes from roadways. Hold landowners accountable for fire safe property methods. Treasure the parks. Do not allow tall buildings.

Improve Bass Lake Rd.

Improvement of Highway 49 bridge in Coloma is already underway.

infrastructure must be able to support all proposed housing increases PRIOR to the project. The Ponderosa Road exit cannot support the existing development let alone any future development.

Johnson Pass Road is a mass of repaired pot holes! It needs repaving not patching.

Keep County roads in good repair. Mosquito Road needs maintenance.

Logging from the King fire is causing all access roads up through Georgetown Divide to Disintergrate. Is there a surcharge or tax or road permitting process we could employ to collect funds for resurfacing roads that lead from Hwy 80 and 50 up to Wentworth Springs Road?

Many of our older communities need the roads to be redone. Mine has been untouched except for the occasional rematching since the road was put in back in the late 60s early 70s. We recently installed natural gas to our property which required PG&E to excavate a small patch in the street. The asphalt was less than an inch thick before hitting dirt and I assure you, it's like that all up and down my road. The other improvement that I believe is greatly needed is a bike/walk path all the way down Lakehills Road. So many people and bicyclists use this road and it is so dangerous because of the up and down hills on this road. People in vehicles are unwilling to share this road, I've almost been hit several times both walking and riding my bike. I have to ride down this road in order to get to Salmon Falls just to get to EDH blvd and ride on a bike path safely. We NEED a bike/walking path down this road before someone gets killed and the county gets sued. I also think we need more skate boarding parks. The one and CSD is nice but I certainly don't want to get in my car and drive my son over to a park in the center of town so he can ride his skateboard. Why can't we have them at multiple parks? If you want the kids to be safe and not riding in the parking lots of Safeway, you need to have a skateboard park at other parks in the area.

Many roads are a mess! About 16 months ago, DOT came out to paint new white "STOP" signs on the road. They painted right over the pot holes, or in one case, adjusted the painting to avoid the pot holes. The pot holes are only getting bigger and part of the street is starting to sink in. This is Wood Lane, Castlebrook and parts of Fairway in Cameron Park. Also need more speed limit signs/enforcement or better design of Oxford, west of Cameron Park Drive. This part of Oxford has become a major thoroughfare where no one does 25mph.

more money spent on road maintenance, and replacing narrow bridges. Especially the narrow bridge on Black Oak Mine Road at the intersection with Marshall road and the one on Greenwood road one mile or so south of the townsite of Greenwood. Greenwood road itself is hard surfaced, but exotemely rough and needs to be improved.

Mosquito Bridge always has nail heads sticking up, causing flat tires

Need to improve County Roads a little better; Especially El Dorado Hills Blvd.

NUMBER 1: Put a 3-way stop at the corner of Bee Street and Coloma Street. Someone is going to have a terrible accident there!!! 2) I know that traffic circles in Placerville were defeated - against basic intelligence - but this would assist with some of the congestion within the small towns.

Our Mosquito Road is pitted and full of holes. It needs repairs. We have had thieves rob our mailboxes.

Our roads on the Divide have badly deteriorated since we moved up here in 1981. The surface of Marshall Grade is so rough and cracked it is dangerous. I would like to see a greater priority given to the condition of the county's roadways. Another issue is the poor internet service. People who depend on the internet to work from their homes need high speed, but it is sadly unavailable. Those folks have to move.

Our streets off Lake Tahoe Blvd., have never been resurfaced in the 30 plus years we have lived out here. They are literally falling apart. Its disgusting that El Dorado Co does not take care of the people living in the South Lake Tahoe portion of the County.

PLEASE!!! Repave Elks Club Drive in South Lake Tahoe! Going from Pioneer to Highway 50 on that road, almost causes my tires to come off!

Pressure Caltrans to upgrade Hwy.49 through the American River Canyon between Cool and Auburn. Dangerous, narrow, blind curves.

Provide a left turn lane at the intersection of Country Club and Bass Lake Road

provide walking area along Bass Lake Rd. from Hills of El Dorado to Green Valley Rd for students and others.

Public art work, bike trail connecting town center to Lake Barron, bridge across San Bernardino, safe crossing Hwy 50/89

Redesign Cameron Park Dr and Highway 50 interchange. Build a Highway 50 Bypass of Placerville. It was done on Highway 49 for Amador City and Sutter Creek without significant, if any, economic damage to businesses.

Redo Bass Lake Road all the way up to Green Valley Rd. Very dangerous.

Reduce speed limit on Green Valley Road!

Repair our roads (start with Snows Rd., cutting down trees with roots exposed, overhanging vegetation; widen the street, even if it is only one foot on each side, which means you will have to take out some trees and rmove some embankments; repave the road---not recoat it! It is in terrible shape, bumps & potholes galore, along with collapsing subsurface in a few places. This street is a megamillion dollar lawsuit waiting for you (which is all of us) to lose. \* Note most residents in this area drive some parts of this road straddling the double yellow lines as the road is so bad. I know the economy is bad. but loosing a life and/or a lawsuit is far worse. There may be streets worse than Snows Rd. If there are, fix them first.

Re-pave Pacific St

Re-pave Placerville Dr. and Green Valley Rd. @ Placerville Rd. to the bridge.

Require recycling at apartment complexes in order to reduce landfill growth. Consider sound walls for sections of HWY 50 in order to improve quality of life for residents near it. Remove time restrictions for carpool lane in opposite direction of commuter traffic (In other words, only enforce carpool on 50 East in the afternoons and on 50 West in the mornings). This will increase available space on the freeway, optimize fuel economy, and reduce risk of collisions.

Residential streets in Bijou neighborhood need repaving ASAP for regular bus routes and new bike path. Asphalt rocks are everywhere. Please make LT Airport commercially viable as a top priority.

Road conditions generally good, but its a loosing battle with 300 logging trucks/day thru Georgetown
Road repairs, specifically Marshall Rd. Road & culvert around Garden Valley Park. Residents behind park recently spent \$1700 each to replace culvert because park & Black Oak school district refused to spend a penny, yet the culvert has been used heavily in the past by the public attending park events & school functions.
Roads - pave the namesake boulevard - EDH Blvd is horrible.
Roads are in terrible shape in Lakehills. Would like to see widening of Lakehills Dr. for emergency access from Bonita to Salmon Falls
Roads require significantly more attention (e.g., Bass Lakr Rd.)
Round A Bouts on Hwy50 through Meyers. Get rid of light at Pioneer put Round-a-bout in. Copy the older and wiser Europe and build railway from SLT area to Placerville area.
Roundabouts in Meyers (50 and Pioneer) (50 and 89), Street Scaping in Meyers
Shoemaker Road is a county road, but in a horrible stay of repair. We just had to pay very high fees for our building permit!! Why is Shoemaker Road not paved and maintained? We believe it should be, at least as far as the Post Office goes to deliver mail. Also there is a blind curve as we access Shoemaker off of Hwy. 193 and the traffic travels way too fast for safety. I believe every county road should have signs showing there is a road, with SLOW DOWN. The "tailgaters" are also a huge problem on Hwy. 193 and Marshall Road. I pull over whenever I can, but I think it is so rude. We would also like to see a local transfer station for our garbage. We do not have garbage service since it takes us almost two months to fill a garbage can. We recycle aluminum, plastic and glass. We burn all paper. We compost. It is ridiculous to have to drive to Shingle Springs landfill and pay their high prices.
speed bumps on Cambridge Road south of the stop sign at Sterling. People come around that corner too fast.
The county rates a "D" in this area. The lack of long range planning for our roads is pathetic. The by-pass for White Rock Road is a perfect example of their lack of involvement and planning. This by-pas is a good idea, but using White Rock Road will create traffic jam daily in a few short years!
the county roadways, in the Garden Valley area; especially Marshall Road, are in bad condition
The HOV lane on Hwy 50 going all the way to Cameron Park is ridiculous. Convert it to a standard lane beginning at El Dorado Hills Blvd.
The new road from Latrobe on Silva Valley is horrendous.
The Placerville Drive road stretch from US 50 to Raley's is a disgrace. Repaving with painted crosswalks should be Priority 1.
the road I live off of Jack Pine, has been torn up each of the last 3 years due to water leaks. It was rechip and sealed last year and currently there is a water leak running down the street and has been for over a week. EID is aware of it and has scheduled maintenance whenever that is, but in the mean time I can't water at my house because of the drought and water is needlessly running down the street being wasted!
The roadway coming down Briw Road should be repaved or patched.
There are many roads I have traveled on here that have been neglected and are in need of repair. Often those roads are traveled on by cyclists and there are no bike lanes. Such as Green Valley Road, which has twists and turns where a cyclist may not be visible.
Try to redo Main Street

Volcanoville Road needs to be widened to permit a fire truck and car to pass each other -- we shouldn't be taking our lives at risk as there are so many blind corners and ONE lane.

washington heights roads are in terrible shape

We need help on Meder Road. It is very narrow and at times dangerous. Ponderosa Road needs asphalt as well as several roads in Shingle Springs. The traffic light exiting Ponderosa Road is timed too long for people to get out. It needs to be on a better timed system.

Widen Fowler Lane, Diamond Springs if possible - very dangerous to walkers

Widen the roads and add bicycle lanes. Bass Lake Road needs repairs all the way to Green Valley Road (not just where EDH ends!). Make sure to keep the parks in great working order and safe for all.

widening the lower half of Starks Grade as is becoming a major through way. The narrow section is only 1.25 lanes wide and is tough to navigate during heavy traffic times. Place stop light at intersection of pleasant valley and bucks bar to allow better control of traffic during heavy flow times and unrestricted pass along pleasant valley during low traffic times (blinking yellow light)

# Appendix D

## Verbatim Responses to:

*Imagine the County functioning at its most effective and efficient levels, what would it look like, sound like, feel like?*

These are the verbatim responses from the citizens to the question above.

### Citizen Comments:

it would feel that our voices are heard, look the same, if i had to buy a retail product, i would go elsewhere.

More citizens would be actively involved in the governance and a larger portion of the population would find gainful employment with in the county, including creating more small businesses that are home-based and agricultural-based.

"Big houses on tiny lots" should be in Sacramento, not El Dorado County. The old sections of El Dorado Hills should be the minimum lot size (quarter-acre to half-acre) for the western end of the county, and region between South Shingle and 49 should keep a rural feel.

"The government is merely a servant-merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. its function is to obey orders, not originate them..."  
Mark Twain

"We the people"

1) The BoS would trust each other and trust the information that the CEO gives them and each Department Head would have the needs of the public above the needs of their egos.

1. Easy to contact for information, questions and requests.
2. Quick response whether for information, safety needs (e.g. fire, law enforcement, emergencies).
3. Good physical facilities to meet the needs of youth, general population and the elderly.
4. Good infrastructure (e.g. roads, traffic flow, water, sewage, power, telecommunications).
5. Good health services to meet the needs of youth, general population and the elderly.
6. Good planning for the future.
7. Enough county staff at all levels to get the jobs done well and effectively but that are held accountable to doing

their jobs well.

8. No waste in government.

9. Good county management of the different departments, committees and supported organizations.

10. Maintaining a healthy and desirable place to live for all the residents of our county.

1. Satisfied staff provides for increased work output and customer service and satisfaction would occur and be the norm.

2. Roads and infrastructure would be and look improved

3. Having Sheriff substation staffed 24/7 on GT Divide would provide community with not only the feeling of being safe but indeed the stats would show that as well.

4. Unemployment would be below 5 % with median hourly salary at \$15/ hr.

5. With health insurance covering at least 95% of county population the health of our population on indexes looked at and assessed on statewide survey would be in the top 3 counties in the state.

6. Improving the lives of our children will show in High School graduation rates, test scores will be in top 10 counties in the state with 86% of students going on to higher education ( community college , university , tech schools, military, Etc).

a balanced and diversified county

A balanced budget that doesn't grow out of control because of hiring binges, bills that get paid without petty contrived technicalities of interpretation and personal agenda; BoS taking a leadership position on out-of-control county officials and employees; BoS taking a leadership position on the State of Jefferson effort to get us actual representation in the state government. BoS acting to grow EDC away from being the butt of political jokes about our dysfunctional and corrupt county government leaders.

A better flow of information and more transparency.

A better place to live!

a Board of Supervisors that is actually made up of true community members who care about our local farms and small businesses above all politics and payoffs

a board of supervisors that is not in the pockets of developers who are trying to sell off the beauty of our county!

A board of supervisors who take actions that reflect the will of the electorate, NOT the special interests.

a business - not a monarchy.

A city without debts and the utopia society. There are always going to be people who love power and are self centered and that's how the City of Bell is or was?

a community
A community that can provide good paying jobs, and become an area where people want to reside because of the quality of life
a community that goes back to old time values, supports our businesses and highly supports agricultural farms and ranches in our area. It would protect our land and allow us to provide for our families with our land without the fear of repercussions from our government.
A comprehensive plan to bring returning visitors to our most traffic congested areas: Apple Hill and South Lake Tahoe. State of the art communication and information sharing between law enforcement agencies. Bike and walking paths in populated areas that are safe to experience alone. Rest stops along Hwy 50 to encourage visitors to come back again.
A county government that will maintain steady growth while maintaining a rural lifestyle for people in those areas.
A county in which citizen engagement is encouraged and listened to. An efficient government, especially on a small county level, should be able to forecast an accurate budget and not have a panic every June that there is a budget deficit and trying to figure out what programs to cut only to find out a couple of months later that there was plenty of money in the budget after all.
A county that would protect the natural beauty and healthy environment we are enjoying now.
A County where you could work where you live, possible walk or ride your bike to work. Safety for all citizens.
a current up to date infrastructure!!!! no grid lock, mass transit (railways and bus services) several mega corporations, supporting small businesses
A deputy that lives on the divide and stays here for faster response
A different county
A free market Jeffersonian democracy without the red tape. (That is a very Utopian ideal in theory..... governmental agency effective and efficient.....??)
a friendlier environment and little crime rate
A fully engaged partnership between government and its community members. Faith that we all care about the county and that we all have its best interest in mind, rather than individual motivation. Recognition that it takes everyone, working together to make things truly happen.
a gently blowing breeze
A good working vehicle.
A government that reflects the population. not necessarily one reflective of the voters
A highly effective private sector organization, where communications are open, goals and objectives are clearly defined, and measurements are embedded in the key processes (you don't know what you don't measure).
a peaceful, pleasant place...where you can smell the country.
A perfect place to live
A person seeking a permit would be shepherded through the process, not just referred from function to function. An employee would say (with a smile), "How may I help you?" rather than "What do you want/need?"

A place for the people and by the people. A place of possibilities and hope. A progressive community of happy, healthy and prosperous people. A place where government only involves itself where necessary and does not allow the whims of a few to destroy the future of the many.

A place where there are no more backroom deals and secret meetings. Where the local newspaper reports the news, not what the Raffety family wants published. Where the same old group of insiders and family names aren't running the show.

a proactive BOS who respond and execute leading the community by example

A quiet but active city where there are more people walking and cycling around the city. Successful small businesses providing most of the needs of the citizens. The small town feel and uniqueness is maintained and big roads and highways are at a minimum. There is a halt of development in outlying areas in order to maintain their rural space. Our educational system would provide top notch education to enrich our children and teach them critical thinking skills and living skills and broader scope on life... Our forests are kept natural but with proper maintenance for fire protection... The wildlife is protected... Corporate capitalism is kept at bay and local political corruption is eliminated. People are working together to make a wonderful community to live in with a quality of life (that is presently being destroyed.)

A respected engine of economic growth and prosperity—gasp! Public sector can be that!

A richly diverse community that is healthy, sustainable, economically viable, resource-rich with a highly engaged population that is aware of and involved with making these things happen.

A safe environment where basic needs are taken care of, where kids grow up being valued, protected through improved family relationships decreasing the need for crime while reinforcing and teaching good work ethics. Traffic that flows with minimal congestion, abundant water supplies because it has been well planned and growth limited.

A substantial number of current county employees would not be involved

A warm, inviting environment to work and conduct business. Website that allows many types of businesses to be conducted online without the public ever having to set foot in a County office (and take time off from work).

A welcoming appearance of open space. No mishmash yard, blown-up, and banner signs along the business districts. Having all the empty office space filled. Roads well maintained. It feels like "I'm home".

A well functioning village providing diverse opportunities (an eco-system) A happy and courteous place

A well run clock

Access to elected officials. When Nutting was our supervisor he went to public events and listened to what people had to say.

Accessible opportunities for all sectors of the community...

accountability to citizens

Advertising in urban markets about quality of life, low cost of commercial real estate, and the tools necessary to make money (business incubation, accelerators, maker spaces, artisan space.

Again having all the Government agencies in one location .

Agencies and departments (both County and community) would all be working in concert with each other. It would sound like a symphony, but not just any symphony- the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra! It would feel integrated.

Agencies would communicate with each other, the public be consistently informed of ways to maintain their interaction. More emphasis on environmental protections and respect for the land. Better cooperation and communication

All chain stores are gone, augmenting local business and employment and keeping money in the County. County officials realize that money made here by locals stays here. Local talent in business, arts, science is publicly acknowledged as creativity, not profit motive, though profit is made. It sounds happy; people in public places are talking, sharing, marketing face to face and enjoying beverages, food, and music. People love to be here in this setting. (I used to help maintain the flower boxes in front of the BR, Fish & Chips, and Asian Food places in the Plaza there on Broadway. I was amazed \*every\* time about how locals and out-of-towners loved sitting there, even made it a point to stop there on their way to somewhere else.) Attraction is simple: be pleasant to be around, offer quality and beauty, things that refresh the spirit. The money follows.

All constituent emails/ phone calls should be acknowledged with a response that is real and not politely worded. Let people get mad if they are off their rocker. I believe most people do not understand the gravity of governance. Progress takes time for good reasons. Bit fix the Forebay Rd ditch, its an immediate safety hazard.

all dept run like the Sherriffs dept...they are the only ones we trust.

All Gen Plan guidelines are set in stone, no more long range planning dept nec, no more meeting and studies, people can buy land, business', homes knowing what can be done forever no matter what neighbors want on others investments. Sound peaceful again without neighbor to neighbor war grow or not grow. Feel like a community where we can mingle without being attacked with what is planned in the area. Wrap it up for decades please.

All socio-economic families helped, not just the well off.

Allow advisory bodies to report to the Board without requiring a staff report on the item. For items brought forward by advisory bodies, the Board can always call for a staff report if needed. Create a sound advisory process; stop asking staff for studies and reports in response to every complaint.

An elegant, focused, and efficient Board of Supervisors whose vision includes moderate growth, protection of natural resources, and respect for the County's rural and semi-rural residents.

An honest, objective, and concerned group of interested citizens acting solely for what each knows what is best for the county and its citizens as a whole

An involved community where we can considerately care for ourselves and willingly assist those who cannot, regardless of personal belief or appearance.

An SI swimsuit model, Sinatra singing "I'm A Fool To Want You", an SI swimsuit model

As is

Ask the residents their opinions and then follow them... Instead of the current "lip service".

At this time I don't think anyone could, would or should answer such a stupid question

Back up traffic on Hwy50 at Placerville would be mostly eliminated. For events at the fairgrounds, example: Halloween Ball, have a shuttle going to and from downtown Placerville so that visitors camping can easily get downtown and spend some money. Also another hotel or 2 in the area for visitors. If there are large events at the fairgrounds, people camp out which is fine for some, but would attract some folks that might not otherwise come to the area for the that event and would serve those that want to do wine tasting in the area. .

Balanced budget, good roads, less crime

beautiful and safe

Being able to talk to a person right away and get an answer right away

Being accessible to the public

Better

Better buildings for their county employees, better equipment, sidewalks and roads maintained, better street lighting,

better communication between county,city and rural groups

better information on services

Better roads and schools, moderate but steady growth, appropriate zoning laws. Health care available to everyone without extended waits.

Better roadways, less drug and alcohol related crime, more family focused events, awareness and easy access to services

Better, more polite and more knowledgeable service from county employees.

BMPs on residential roads preventing giant puddles in county streets. Lots of snow in the winter (of course we can't control that!)

Board members would hide their personal feelings and act more professional. Elected officials would have terms and not stay in office forever.

Board of supervisors gets things done

County staff is more accountable

BOD, city officials and public employees with integrity, who actually come in do their job that we pay them to do versus they work right now, cut back on all the extraneous holidays they take off, cut payroll, county/public employees should get paid and benefits no more than the private sector counterparts. If a county employee is not doing their job, fire them. Public employees should have annual reviews by the community and if not doing their job, fire them. They are dead weight on the payroll, too many county employees as it is and no results even with the bloated salaries. EDC should be ashamed of how they are running this county, wipe the slate clean and let's start all over.

BOS actually responds to the public and not their private money interests, conduct business in a transparent manner, DA follows Grand Jury recommendations, stop the general slush fund and actually fund the things that are supposed to be funded (Veterans Bldg, etc), stop misusing TIM fees, stop over populating the CAO's office and either let some staff go or give them to other departments who desperately need them (stopping the CAO's power play). hire county counsel that has not been fired or let go from other counties (and that goes for CAO and HR too), BOS follow through on what they have approved instead of burying projects

BOS agendas accessible through links via commonly used sources such as FB Twitter, etc. We see that you are starting to use these resources.

BOS listening to citizens

BOS would rotate meetings among the 5 districts, to the greatest degree feasible. Land use decisions would not favor developers.

Business clustered in business areas. Home, park, and schools together away from businesses.

Business friendly, getting things done in an expeditious manner, every department working together as a cohesive group, and having responsible well planned growth. Our children and grandchildren need to be able to stay here, work here, and be prosperous.

Business would be thriving, plenty of parking in shopping areas, fast and efficient response to fire and police assistance, well kept easements free from debris, dead and dying trees and adequate clearance for fire protection, business able to stay open longer because of sufficient traffic, more restaurants and upscale shopping and A HUGE SUPER WALMART IN PLACERVILLE.

Businesses would be interested and able to establish themselves quickly and efficiently. Low income families would be able to access services in their communities including parent supports, drug treatment and health and mental health care.

Bustling corporate and shopping region off of Latrobe Road, a widened US 50 and improved state routes and county roads. Updated schools and better hospitals and medical facilities.

Calm, educated residents... no homeless, no meth, no crime.....all enjoying our beautiful outdoors on newly paved trails and roads.....and puppies.

Can't even imagine it. Less interference. Make people responsible for themselves.

can't imagine any county doing that...sounds like some utopia

Citizen concerns come first. Solving the citizens problem or concern is the reason they are there. Solve problems don't hide behind paperwork.

citizens satisfied with services rather than having to petition and create ballot initiatives, clean with open spaces, homes for the homeless (I know some are not 'saveable' but they would be better with a place to eat, sleep and shower)

Citizens subscribe to agenda alerts for all meetings of interest. Encouraging retail outlets for needed commodities so we don't need to spend our gas and money "down the hill". Supervisors reaching out to those affected by decisions and getting buy in before the issue comes to a vote - be proactive!

Easy to communicate with representatives through email and having them meeting with voters on a regular basis.

Citizens would be engaged in the planning process and would appreciate all of the services provided by the County. County employees would be respected by both the public and by their management for all of the work they do to make EDC a better place. Issues and concerns would be addressed in a timely fashion and in transparent manner. All officials would be held accountable for their actions regardless of position, status, or who they know. The Mountain Democrat and Chris Alarcon would have to write positive stories about our county instead of the mud slinging that goes on currently. All residents would have easy access to information and county services and be respected and welcomed again regardless of position and status.

Citizens would feel like they are important, and information is readily found
Civic members making it easier on small start ups, citizens using more public spaces collectively for community events, more commercial areas that reflect our small town feel (excellent example is complex behind Diamond Springs PO), more agriculture and farm to fork, more recreational areas and preservation of our local lakes, rivers, open woodlands (Bachi hills would be an exceptional addition) and finally reduced costs for small houses and the ability to make small villages with communal gardens and shared livestock economically feasible to develop and buy into.
Clarify intended long term use of partially developed and struggling areas. Support law enforcement in managing the marginal areas and curtailment of drug and gang issues. Cost of living in line with perception of value, increase transparency
Clean air, lighter traffic, updated public county buildings, less homeless/transient population without a place to go. Less drug use, more racial tolerance and acceptance!!
Clean and green jobs with pot-holes roads. No congestion. More active effort by law enforcement to eliminate drugs. Make this a place where the drug culture does not want to be. Children being educated and safe; the elderly being cared for with dignity.
clean roads, safe areas, homeless have a place to go other than the monument at mc donalds homeless persons always there is deplorable
Clean, Crisp, green
Clean, fresh, calm, transparent.
Clean, more public transportation, good recycling programs, public spaces for people to gather that are clean and have clean restrooms, website with font that is easier to read and has better navigation.
Clean, safe taken care of
Cleaner roadways and properties. More concentrated population centers. More appealing locations to shop. More entertainment venues.
Clear direction. How and Why decisions are made - "here is what we looked at and considered and here is what we have decided to do". There are always going to be winners, losers and complainers. Question for BOS and Department Heads - How do you feel about the performance of the county? Are you proud of what you are accomplishing and providing?
Clear focus on keeping the County rural
Cloud cuckoo land
Collaborative, helpful, can-do, clear vision by all levels and employees.
Common goals for the benefit of the entire county and not listen to the 'vocal minority' all the time and worry about being re-elected if your a BOS.

Community members have devoted tens of thousands of hours to keep Shingle Springs a rural community; to not allow land developers to make significant changes to the feel of the community. If the County was functioning at its most effective and efficient levels, the community would not have to attend weekday meetings, all day, to try to maintain the current feel of the community. Developers stand to make a lot of money by building homes in Shingle Springs; they will be extremely persistent with the County and the process, during the workdays and workweeks, until they are successful. As opposed to community members with full time jobs during the workdays and workweeks. The County would be most efficient if it could rely on our elected officials to represent our INTERESTS and not the interests of the DEVELOPERS,

Competent elected officials, confidence in staff and less preoccupation with the vocal minority.

computerized, with latest widely available software-not the specialized pain in the behind county stuff and kiosk for services, one stop service centers.

Consistent answers no matter who is the messenger. All departments working as a team, with themselves and with other departments.

Contraction of much of the current County services would allow the County to run efficiently to serve in the protection of natural resources, not the propping up of inefficient and difficult to serve far reaches of the County and its unincorporated communities.

County employees working as part of their community, and proud of their agencies' contributions. Employees seeking jobs with the County because of its good reputation and accomplishments. Rainy day funds in the budget. Having a Board of Supervisors that is professional and educated; they are able to fully understand the ramifications of their decisions both short term and in the long term.

County employees would be happy with their jobs and therefore happy to help citizens.

County employees would have a career here instead of focusing on the next job somewhere else. They would be familiar with all services of the County to refer people in a meaningful way. They would own their job and feel responsibility for getting it done properly. They would have pride in doing "the people's work" and fulfilling their part in performing all of the County's missions. And all of these things would be reflected in every interaction with the public.

County government would operate as a team, within each dept. and between departments. The attitude would reflect a desire to meet and even exceed customer expectations, whether that customer is another dept. or a taxpayer.

County safety jobs would be paid higher, to be more competitive and account for the cost of living in some of the areas like Lake Tahoe. All the youth in the county should be receiving better mental health care.

County supervisors would hold regular town hall meetings to gather input from constituents. Less influence from large developers and more adherence to regulations and procedures, like responding to EIR documents. Less cronyism in sheriff's and district attorney's office.

Customer focused and helpful in which solutions are offered as opposed to obstacles identified.

Cut all county retirementments, cal-pers, it killing this county. Then there will be \$\$ to fix roads. County government employees are way over paid!!

Day to day, week to week, month-to-month planning, progress and spending would be more integrated into the lives of County residents by using social media and other digital communication. Taxpayers should be able to subscribe to receive as much information as they want in a timely manner.

Decisions would be made for the benefit of the majority, no ones decision would be influenced by personal agendas,

Decisions would be made in a timely manner; all levels of government would share the same vision and work collaboratively together.

Decisions would be made that would reflect the "greater good" for the county, not what's good for a small group of people. Departments would make recommendations to the BOS - here are the options A, B and C. We recommend B because.... Maintaining a good quality of life for all would be a "value point". There would be a lot of outreach to the public at large for big decisions. The BOS meetings are held when many people are at work and those voices aren't heard.

Departments interact with one another in a seamless & efficient manner. No "siloiing" would occur where one department tries to foist off a problem on another department. Employees needs to be empowered to own and solve problems. No county decision should be preordained.

Departments that work efficiently together and able to refer citizens to other departments in a smooth transition, transparent and constantly keeping citizens informed.

Departments working together (especially law enforcement); HR more integrated with Risk Management; look at departments who send their employees to SLT to work in County cars on County time (DA's office). Lots of public funds wasted (sometimes 5 P'ville employees go to SLT in 3 county cars to "cover" for the office's lack of SLT employees).

Departments would run efficiently, with great customer service - personal agendas/fiefdoms/fear of losing power/control... is non-existent - the County finances are under control and improving - our processes have allowed and encouraged commercial/residential growth within the needs and priorities identified in the strategic plan - we have developed parallel capacity to move our citizens from one place to another on County roadways - employees are engaged, happy and proud to work for the County - our technologies have advanced so our systems are working at an efficient level - our website is user-friendly and easy to navigate

Depends. Dictatorships function at their most effective and efficient levels and we don't want that. "The government that governs least, governs best." T. Jefferson.

Developers have too much control of this government and run this county .

Different

Disneyland

Dissolve the City of South Lake Tahoe and return to county control. There is too much duplicity and overlapping services and departments, i.e. fire, police, sheriff, planning, public works, snow removal, street maintenance

Don't know

Don't know. Feels removed/distant to me

DOT would have adequate funding to maintain the roads and the plan would be widely publicized.

Traffic in Apple Hill would be better regulated and growers causing traffic jams would be required to manage their traffic more successfully.

We would continue to move away from the good ole boys network, which is already happening.

Drug testing for welfare recipients. Helping the homeless and not making them live on the walking trails and looking the other way. Providing places for our youth to hang out and be safe and be young. Education for those that fall through the cracks. No more boys club mentality,

Ease of access between the departments--so you're not shuffled from one place to another. Friendly, customer-service oriented faces. My Library would be open 7 days a week, mornings and nights. Protected wilderness interspersed with thriving, safe, happy towns. Less finger-pointing between elected officials, more cumbaya moments where I feel like they're working together for the benefit of the community. Maybe a department other than the Sheriff's Office gets a few shiny new toys.

Easier/shorter commutes to employment and other destinations. Better access to increased senior services and activities in all parts of the County. Locals and visitors better able to enjoy our agricultural districts, boosting local economy.

Easy - clear roads, easy access. Resident belief and trust in county government. Social services that help the public and are accessible - ex:Homelessness and Mental Health care.

Easy access to all services, permits, business license, strong support for local businesses, well funded/supported schools, good afterschool programs, more lower cost adult education programs, support for small farms/homesteads and easy licensure for sale of goods they produce. Good animal welfare program.

Easy access, easy of problem solving, responsive and timely follow up to citizen inquiries, honest, transparent and highly trusted. A desired place to work. A safe community with aggressive and effective fire prevention programs.

Easy to access services when needed. Pleasant, courteous staff that try to help

Easy to navigate website, departments all together in one building if possible, enough parking for visitors and staff. All employees are happy to help customers (I think we do a good job at this). Counter is staffed during lunch time (though with our minimal staffing, this is not currently possible).

EDC needs a balanced, well-thought out long range plan that acknowledges constraints (water, jobs); preservation of a rural lifestyle is important. EDC is on the brink of making decisions that will shape the face of the county; it's important to "get this right."

EDC would be a leader in customer service based government; providing all but absolutely necessary interactions electronically. EDC would be a paragon of integrity, safety, and accountability. EDC would be place where people could live, work and contribute to their communities and local government without fear of retaliation or prejudice. EDC would be a place where people would feel like filling out surveys like this would make a difference.

EDC would be known for its efficient, effective delivery of services. It's mission and focus is very clear to its residents as a result of an adopted communications policy. EDC's priorities are reflected in its budget. The communities within the County trust the county governance and while there may be disagreement, solutions are based upon positive, productive discussion and input from parties involved. The work environment is one of respect that stimulates creativity and makes EDC a fun place to work.

EDC would look very well maintained with few fire hazards from any roadway, roads are well maintained with enough roadway for safety concerns (Snows Road is not meeting standards). The sounds of EDC would be predominately of nature with a hum of residents. It would feel like you are in another world of peaceful communities with healthy trees and prosperous residents.

EDH should function "like" it was an independent city

Effective budgeting, effective accounting, transparency at all levels to the extent allowed by law, efficient use of funds for programs rather than administrative overhead.

Efficiency is a good thing but not to the point of being COLD and withdrawn from the public. County residents should be able to call and reach a real person, not a machine. The County might work more with nonprofits and community organizations to achieve the County's goals so this could lower taxes. I don't think any of us want a county that is hugely costly, not effective and not efficient.

efficient delivery of services, effective problem solving

Efforts coordinated, processes simplified, duplication avoided

El Dorado County is a healthy, happy, fun place to live where children thrive safely and parents are well adjusted, accomplishing great and creative things, where there is no crime, constituents care for each other, businesses and environment are sustained by a conscientious community and there is no longer a need for jail or mental health services.

El Dorado county, circa 1957 without the 4x4 ing.

Elected officials serving their constituents above monied interests; logical and common sense solutions being implemented; logical and common sense planning that serves the desires of residents. It would feel like the pall that has hovered over El Dorado County and it's governing bodies for several decades had been lifted, and common sense decisions that reflect and enhance the unique character of El Dorado County would abound. Residents would feel proud of their County, and would engage in positive ways to support the efforts of the public servants they elect.

Employment would be available to all residence. Training programs would enhance the skills of individuals trying to get back into the market place. Housing would be available for low-income and homeless residence in a designated part of town where it would be easy for the residence to access services. Increased transportation services with voucher programs for low income residence. Local Entertainment. Fiscally sound governance. Healthy family parks (limit drug exchange parks) add more patrol to these parks to discourage loitering. Healthy school systems utilizing positive practice teaching and accountability. Address bullying issues in the community and at schools. A volunteer coordinator to help fill the need of public service to others.

Even my vivid imagination can't touch this question!

Every citizen would comply with the law and develop their piece according to the State and County rules and not try to vary.

Every community in the county being respected and governing issues made on equal basis for all.

Everyone would live active, happy lives and feel safe in their communities.

Every one would have a house and a job. It would be quiet with no one else in my forest.

Everyone being treated equally. Disabled, seniors and children respected.

Everyone who can be involved with community affairs would be involved. We ALL need to know what is going on in our community and government and be involved with it so that county goods and services will benefit more communities. This is a lovely, QUIET, rural county where people come to get away from the city for a few days, spend their holidays or vacations. If we load up our county with THOUSANDS of new homes, we'll become just another smog-filled, traffic-congested, crime-ridden city at the sacrifice our rural environment. We'll lose our county's attraction for the "tourist trade."

Everyone who needed services would be connected to them. Mental health, public health. and social services would be providing primarily preventative care in order to eliminate problems before they become crises. Effective transportation would be provided to clients. Remote locations would be utilized and optimized to provide a variety of services to the local populace. All services that could be completed online would be available online and easy to navigate. Performance measures would be clearly and concisely stated with graphs for the public to view on a continuous basis.

Everyone would get along, there would be a fair divide of services and leadership would take us to places never before known. Leadership is needed, some elected officials need to become employees so they can receive job reviews and have accountability.

Everyone's main goal is to promote and serve the county. Their personal attitudes and needs left at the door when they go to work.

exceptional opportunities (number of and quality of) for public engagement in decision-making

Extremely efficient and modern. Officials would readily accept help from citizens. Citizens would be allowed to be active in government and would be allowed to contribute. Government officials, including elected representatives, would be responsive to citizens. The current attitude would be a thing of the past.

Facilities would not look so run down, fountain at bldg b would be running, there would be more staff to assist public

Feel like they are truly forthright, honest, keeping people informed -- optimistic -- less negative -- work for good of population -- less lethargy

Feel like we are productive and proactive

Feel safe, be able to trust sheriff, know that the ill and injured will get the help they need, more business (smaller business)

Feeling of Pride in our County. El Dorado County being a sought after place to life. Value of our homes & property keeping value or increasing in value.

Feeling secure that I will be able to continue to afford to live here. Knowing that my rights as a home-owner, land owner, and at rancher are protected.

Feels like the country but with modern businesses and amenities. You would run into the same people regularly when shopping and going about your daily lives (not just connected via facebook). This does mean things are a little more "spread out" and you have more unique attractions. Figure out how to hide neglected large acreage property.
Fewer employees doing more efficient work.
Fewer games by elected officials.
Fewer small school districts that waste money on too many administrators. County buildings being built on existing county properties and not buying land that requires infrastructure being expanded to service them.
Find a way, incentivize ---to create 20% growth in building in commercial businesses and other businesses will flourish. Get a 'vision' to develop a shop and stop mentality in small towns like Diamond Springs or along other major Hwy towns.
folks would be happier
Following the constitution. No corruption. Slow down growth.
Folsom
For the most part, the more efficiently you function the happier we will be, and the less you will hear from the citizens. If you are doing your job, we won't bother you
For the people and listen to suggestions more (like this one)
Free of the Tuesday Open Forum rants.
Freedom. Liberty. A shining city upon the hill > what the founding fathers intended for the USA in the first place.
Friendlier, more knowledgeable and more easily accessible.
Friendly, available, uncomplicated, flexible, accommodating, client-centered, respectful, mindful that the role of government is to serve the needs of the populace, protect against corruption, abuse and neglect of duty.
Friendly, efficient, correct and reliable service.
Functional, kind, fair, rational, responsive, a quality budget and quality considerate service. Government working for the people. As it should be. And not a nightmare or an endless maze.
Generally happy
Get rid of the "good old boys" and actually bring back fundamental common sense to preserve the way of life I found here 50 years ago
Going into a Government office. Be greeted by someone that asks what can they do for me. A smile. No complaints of how busy they are. No complaints of other services. Oh and of course not having to wait in a long line. If a problem occurs they act like they care even if they do not and have no intention of doing anything about it. Just be nice, even to the most horrible of persons. I know it is hard. Respect, no attitude,
Good leadership will be able to provide clear objectives for staff and provide accountability for non performance.
Good old days
Good processes = good government
good roads, no homeless, our disadvantaged persons with dental and medical available

government was not designed to be as effective as a small business. efficiency usually results in less service.

Government working along side of local groups and local residents.

Govt and non-gov agencies (and churches) would work together on issues and compromise. Those living in specific geographical areas would have the most say in changes to their area.

Great-

Green living roofs / educational facilities/ transportation/ community games/ involvement. clear water / clean resources/ zero waste

Guaranteed library services funding

Happier, prosperous, money flowing in, drugs and crime out - no pot grows, bustling commercial centers, schools funded and not begging parents for paper and supplies.

Happy, proud people smiling and staying and inviting their children and families to live, work, play and stay and make a comfortable life here in EDC

Hard to say

Have all department heads evaluated by a public review board.

Having enough staff to monitor/help all the children in risky home situations, every member of community investing in each other

Heaven

Help for people who need it - drug addicted, low income.

Assessable leaders.

home

Honest and open and welcoming to people

Honest, no special arrangements, focusing on providing a healthy environment, good education.

Hopefully no one is being paid to come up with these questions...I hate to think taxpayers money is being used...

I am a proponent of the State of Jefferson movement for the purpose of achieving the representation and government structure needed to protect our resources and interests, build our economy, maintain and preserve our rural character, and advance a more conservative value system. Our County leadership must maintain high levels of integrity and accountability.

I believe the county should be involved in supporting the local economies. County government should be small and streamlined. County does not need to be redundant of what private businesses can do.

I believe we are already on our way there. Its about the people, who and how we are and what we do.

I can't imagine that

I could go online and pull up any documents I need, thus avoiding constant phone calls with busy staff who have other things that need to be done. However, access to live people would be available when needed. Voicemail hell would not exist.

I could walk or bike anywhere within at least a 2 mile radius of Placerville and not have to worry about being hit by cars.

I don't have a dense enough view of the County to imagine what EFFECTIVE looks like.

I don't have enough time to answer that.

I don't know -- I think that is something the BOS needs to come up with and then share with the residents of the county.

I don't understand this question.

I know that departments were combined to save money, but I think something very valuable was lost by doing that. Would it be possible to focus again on individual areas? I think that you would have "expert" employees, instead of employees that are overworked and frustrated. There is an air of mistrust between some county departments, and I would like to see that be eliminated. Being here for such a long time, I have many friends who worked for the county. They continually tell me that it used to be a great environment to work in, upbeat and positive, with an air of excitement toward the future. It seems that feeling is missing now for lots of folks. This is such a great place to live, I'd like to see more people celebrate that.

I should be able to go online and watch the county board meeting, In addition if there is a request for voting at a meeting, we the public should be able to cast a vote electronically online while the meeting is being conducted. I need to know that elected officials are going to hold themselves to a higher standard by truly representing the people who elected them in and not for the corporations that could potentially pad your pockets. Do the right thing and reverse decisions that bring about lawsuits to save your tax payers money rather than continue operating against your constituents (i.e., Town Center apartment complex).

I think about this all of the time. I think of an El Dorado County where all the streams and creeks have pure water that is safe to drink. The air is pure without the pollution of automobiles or industry. Everyone is safe and can live without fear. Everyone has access to compassionate and appropriate health care. Everyone shares fairly in the work of the world that need to be done. There is no such thing as an "employee". Folks live in small easy to maintain houses that blend into the surroundings and are hardly noticed. The native flora and fauna is restored. There is no need for a freeway as there are very few automobiles. The automobiles are electric. There is plenty of high quality, locally grown food. All of our food needs are provided locally in El Dorado County. There is no need for guns or weapons of any sort. and on and on and on.

I think contra Costa county could serve as a model. Upscale communities of Danville and Walnut Creek attract tourists, shoppers and entertainment.

I wish I knew the magic answer to this

I would be great

I would feel safe to walk on the bike trail and feel comfortable shopping locally

I would have more free time

I would imagine there would be happier employees and higher productivity. I think there would be less commuters and better roads. The roads lead to a small time feel, however, they are often unsafe and so are some of the old buildings.

I would imagine there would be the ability to talk to county officials at local offices and for residents to have more input on what happens in the area in which they live. Right down to the Planning Commission we have one elected official at the county level representing an area which should be a town/city. Decisions are made by appointed and elected officials who are not affected by their decisions.

i would like my rural lifestyle not be infringed with large developments in my backyard. i live on 10 acres and the san stino project backs up to my property. i would have 3 homes looking onto our home. the whole reason we chose this area was to not see any neighbors and have only large parcels flank our property.

I would like the sound and feel of a farming community...much as it were when I moved here in '88.

I would like to see more growth, ways to welcome younger people, a community with just senior citizens, will literally die off. Our school attendance is low, no jobs, no logging, hard enough to live in the state of Cali, too expensive for my kids to start anew here, only if I help them. That's not good

I wouldn't have to be a watchdog.

Ideally, government official would act like servants of the public good - not to build political/power bases. Information would NOT be held behind closed doors. The limited resources EXPLAINED to the public - we cannot do everything. Establish priorities of what government is FOR - not to guarantee everything for citizens - encourage citizens to do more for each other.

If law enforcement was more responsive to citizens and more programs were available to the elderly and speed limits lowered to control speeding on our roads I would be much happier with being out in town more often.

If the county government can show that they have the quality of life of the community at heart through transparency, then the community will be more positive about changes and better supportive of their community in general.

If the County's Strategic Plan was fully implemented and functioning then question would be answered.

If the County's Strategic Plan was fully implemented and functioning then this question would be answered.

If we dont want building homes on old golf courses, dont do it.

if you have to ask it won't help to tell you

I'm not sure

I'm pretty much satisfied with what I see and know about the county's gov't and workings. No serious complaints. I'd like to see the library hours expanded.

Improved communication throughout the County--whether or not folks go to community meetings. There would be FULL broadband/cellphone access for ALL in the County. Budget would be modified & stabilized with interested public input considered over those public "servants" who feel public should heavenly limited input. Would be minimal building of developments, but 1st infrastructure to support it--including JOBS! It would be a CALM, CARING, supportive County where trust --of all-is increased--RESPECT for ALL becomes part of our County motto.

Improved quility of life. By More privet outsorcing jobs to coumenity workers and volinters

Improved roads, great schools, low crime

Improvements made to facilities. Good pay and benefits for workers in the county departments. Board members concerns about the county as a whole, not their own interests. Hiring an effective CAO and eliminating the dysfunction within the county departments.
Improving roads to include sidewalks and bike paths. Stop ramming through developments that are not wanted by the majority of residents.
In many ways it does a good job now, but there is an element that thinks everything is broken and dishonest. How on earth do you overcome that misguided opinion? Some "problems" seem unsolvable now.
In my dreams, I could imagine a fully developed public transportation system with regular connections to commuter services, libraries with full, daily hours, schools with good student-teacher ratios and full array of programs (including arts and enrichment), and all roads well-maintained, with good shoulders and turn-outs (even the remote ones). But where would the funds come from? Property tax is already high...
in Quiet, beautiful country living with some of the advantages of city, good quality health care/hospitals, shopping. No HOA type mentality, but common sense approach toward being good neighbors in a new development situation such as commercial building near established residences. Example: No cutting into hillsides to expand strip mall on Black Oak Mine road.
In some ways, it would be invisible because it is functioning so well that processes flow smoothly (quick response times, easy access - such as through on-line services, reduced conflict within communities due to conflict resolution efforts)
Increased businesses, less new home construction, a better tax base
Information about what the county has to offer would be easily accessible in a central location. Services could be accessed in person or via the internet. Each public agency would have a general working knowledge of other public agencies and could direct the public to the correct agency to meet their needs in a timely manner.
Information would be easy to find, interactions with the public courteous and helpful, beautiful aesthetics everywhere, not just in wealthy areas.
Information would be readily available in a form that is easy to find and understand. For example doing research on asbestos as it pertains to El Dorado Hills is very difficult, it is all over the place. Additionally, speaking to Supervisors, area 1, no firm commitment on what he would do when change comes before him for Measure E. Leaves residents feeling that their voice counts little or not at all.
Infrastructure maintenance would be so seamless that there would be no complaints.
Infrastructure would be in good shape (roads, parks, buildings, etc.) A clear plan for growth would be understood by all. Plans would be revised based on actual outcomes from past projects. For example, did a past project's requirements for roads and access really require the level dictated, or did it just increase the cost without a proven benefit. Example, the plan required four lanes of access plus sidewalks, but two lanes would have met the traffic load and no one ever walks there.
Integrate the wishes of the people and follow the rule of law and fully implement CEQA in decision making.
Invisible
invisible

Is this a marriage encounter question?
It might be a bit more diverse in the gov offices, but I've found most folks nice and helpful.
It sure wouldn't feel like this bait and switch "simple" engagement survey.
It would balance the rural character with moderate economic growth.
It would barely be noticeable. I shouldn't feel the effects of government in my life.
It would be a county that didn't spend a dime on welfare services. It would streamline the expansion of employment in the areas of education and public safety.
It would be a county that people would run to find a place to live and work to raise their family.
It would be a county that would be more responsible and one that would make decisions based on what would provide the best services available while keeping in mind that the reason people live here is to live in a quiet rural area and not become another bedroom community. It would be a county whose board of directors listen to the public and not be swayed by developers who only want to come in and make their money and go on to their next project and who have no interest of the people who live there in the communities.
It would be a place I would like to live for the rest of my life.
It would be a place that provided good jobs, shopping, dining, schools that excel, safe place to walk at night.
It would be a SAFE, beautiful, SMALL community that everyone would be talking about and envy those that live here.
it would be a vibrant productive community that offers employment and quality of life. It is so sad to see this county becoming a retirement community which is also a burden to the county fiscally.
It would be approachable, listen well, humble, have humility, & have integrity for the people
It would be clean, comfortable, friendly and inviting to our customers - the public. There would be an exchange of conversation that was pleasant and respectful even if or may especially if dealing with a sensitive issue. We all need to feel welcome including the staff.
It would be easy to contact the official you want to talk with even if it were an email service. I called one time about the contractor not using a water truck and the dust in the air and no one knew who I should speak with and when I finally spoke with someone, it was late in the day on a Friday, and I was told to call back on Monday if things were the same, I think someone should have come out to speak with the contractor regardless. He was not following the rules.
It would be fiscally responsible and accommodating the natural local economy, rather than abusive. It would represent the rural sectors of the County, as what one hears about during elections but seems to get forgotten after an election. There would no longer be incompatible proposed developments and projects pressing on our residents throughout the County.
It would be full of happy, healthy, successful citizens, that live a good quality of life, pay good taxes due to their success in their jobs, support the community due to their good jobs. The county would have it's citizens backs, to help them when they get in a pickle, and need some assistance to get back on track to success again.
It would be honest and sensible.
It would be honest, close knit
It would be inexpensive, simple, rational, almost invisible, quiet, warm and fuzzy.

It would be innovative, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the departments within and residents.
It would be known for its rural life style and love and support in the protection of animals and it's open spaces to be just that left open and un built on.
It would be like San Mateo county
It would be more professional, less political and address long term problems.
It would be more thoughtful, rational, and make decisions based on facts, not unfounded emotion. In particular, the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission.
It would be nearly invisible. Property taxes would go down. EDH wouldn't have to support the rest of the county. People would be confident that open space would be preserved (EDH golf course) instead of skeptical that developer money is buying off the decision makers. Efficiency would mean no more articles in the paper about petty disagreements and silly disputes between supervisors and county employees. Grow up already!
it would be not be noticed
It would be one that most of the Issues could be solved at the Counter level
Our Plan for the Future would be approved and we would accelerate its Direction
Servives would be evaluated- Parks: etc and a plan put in place to expedite (bond issues if necessary
It would be proactive in its operations. The County would have a single message. It would work together to make itself better instead of fighting within.
It would be productive, offer increased resources, and provide services where they are most needed in rural communities.
it would be real quiet...main street would prosper if there was free parking and less government interference...
It would be safe, it would be more quiet, and it would be developed to provide the citizens of this community the needs for getting affordable food (thru Winco for example) clothing, accessories, and for Seniors: a heating program they can afford, electricity they can afford, affordable fun activities for seniors, all that I mentioned above.
It would be smaller, more manageable and more connected; so one doesn't hear..."that's not in my department"
It would be totally responsive to the majority of citizens/voters.
it would be very small and not intrusive. It would be very resident focused
It would be well oiled machine with intelligent, competent, and well trained employees who aren't strained by hoops and funding barriers.
It would deliver crisp professional services promptly, provide truthful delivery dates for services and work products, and the interactions between County staff and citizen customers would be friendly, efficient and courteous.
It would employ common sense planning. Roads would not be too jam-packed. Wildlife would not be excluded from massive areas on the western slope.
It would FEEL like a place one wants to live or visit
it would feel like citizens are involved with the decision making process

It would feel rural and sound quiet.

It would feel safer. Less sirens all the time. More job opportunities. Easier for the lower classes to get help.

It would focus on the common people instead of special interests. There would be a lot less rancor and divisiveness if this was the mode of operation.

It would have a big housing problem, because people would WANT to move here, because County services are easier (ever tried to dispose of outdated medicines...you have to go to Throwita Way--now THERE's an obsolete name--but only on certain days, at certain hours); why not put a disposal box at every pharmacy for old medicines, and exchange boxes for an empty one every month. The skinheads of mid-county would move away, because they can't stand the sunlight of honest, caring people. We'd have fewer gun shops and more adult-supervised teen centers near high-schools.

It would have a streamlined governance structure staffed with experienced, hard working people.

It would have active citizens in extention and support groupings that function and make a difference. There would be critical businesses like a pharmacy within reasonable access in all areas of the community; restaurants would not have to wait for months to resolve county issues and open their doors. It wet's ould feel like the county was eager to facilitate not just regulate. It would have diverse community interaction that encouraged new commers.

It would have good, sensible roads (bypass for placerville, no left hand turns in camino). There would be a robust private sector economy and it would feel like a land of opportunity and freedom

It would have plenty of well paying jobs and be full of people living and working, shopping and playing all in their own communities. Close to their homes and interacting with one-another. It would have strong, but minimalistic government. People would be able to rely on themselves and their neighbors, only having to use government services as a stop-gap or last resort for a short amount of time. It would have a local government that would help stand as a bulwark against unhelpful and overreaching State regulations that do not have the shared values of the County.

It would have roads that are not over-crowded, water without worrying about running out for those already here, dark night skies, peace and quiet, trees, wildlife, safety, care for the elderly, the poor, and the homeless.

It would listen more and talk less. It would go into the communities rather than demanding the communities come to it. It would work seamlessly with Federal, State and regional government rather than continually challenging, confronting and competing. Our county is not a country unto itself, as much as some people and entities believe it should be. It feels too often like the County wants to separate and isolate and play our local communities against each other, against other government entities, instead of getting everyone to work together, to communicate, to take advantage of the fundamental desires of our residents to protect the quality of their lives, and to willingly work to improve it. If the County can't help, it should get out of the way and stop building barriers.

It would look like a community that plays well together, knows each other and promotes a climate in which businesses are drawn to and can afford to stay.

It would look like a county government we can trust. The sounds that came out of county government mouths would ring true. It would feel like a county government we can trust.

It would look like a million dollar private sector corporation

It would look like a place where people would want to live, it would be able to take care of most of its needs locally, with energy efficiency. People would not have to get into their cars to do everything, so therefore it would have many more, smaller marketplaces. The food production in this county could actually feed its population entirely. It would sound like it sounds now, but with less traffic and more music. It would feel more connected. People wouldn't be so distant from one another. And it would NOT BE CROWDED. High density, automobile oriented suburbs are going to be completely inefficient within 100 years. Wouldn't it be nice if we had a county that thought about that? How can this place be a great place to live for our grandchildren's grandchildren? Plan now for the distant future, not for the next ten years. If you don't think we are going to run out of oil, then you are not paying attention.

It would look like Folsom

It would look like people relying on themselves, it would be quiet and peaceful it would feel like home

It would look like Texas-Job growth off the chart

It would look rural, natural, a place everyone would like to come to. Not like every town USA! It would sound quiet, you can hear birds and other sounds in nature. Dark at night, not so much commercial lighting that it is never really dark to see stars. Not so much traffic that you have the constant sound of cars at night. It would feel peaceful, not constant noise like Sac. It would feel like a community not a town that is so big that people keep to themselves.

It would look the same. It would have supervisor working for the common good, not the few. It would have happy employees who would greet you with a smile.

It would feel good to know that the future is safe for our children and grandchildren. That they will have the same great life that I have had here in California growing up and with a happy retirement.

It would look, sound and feel like an agency that supports its residents through transparent processes, accessibility to governing bodies and staff, as well as reasonable fees for development and start up businesses. I would like to see the County take a more "pro" growth (moderate) approach without focusing that growth on just concentrated areas.

It would look, sound and feel like Placer County

It would not have any developers on the Board of Supervisors. County employee pensions would be in line with large corporate pensions. There would be lots of county funded day care facilities for children of needy families.

It would not sound or look like Roseville or Folsom, heavy traffic and no land

It would probably resemble what it is now. We do OK

It would remain a rural area and the community would have more input and access to parks and other recreational activities. It would feel like home.

It would represent the public opinion. Less infighting, less using positions for power or favors, more equal spread of resources.

It would retain its primary function of no over congestions on roads, housing and safety.

It would run like a private company like Google

It would sound and feel more calmer with less anxiety and worry.

It wouldn't have a HUGE budget deficit and it would listen to the county controller, not some over-paid, underqualified person or an out of county analyst.

County staff would answer their phones, or return messages promptly.

It'd be the type of government where a normal person wouldn't 'see it' 'hear it' nor 'feel it' but when the time came it'd be there when it's needed.

Joe Harn would be gone. No, seriously.

John Lennon song right? In that perfect world I wouldn't be asked questions like this.

Just exactly how we look right NOW! We are AWESOME! ;^)

Lean and mean and reduced to the bare bones especially in the CAO/CEO areas and allow all employees to be able to put in a "whistle-blower" appeal without Identification that will be turned over to the Grand Jury instead of department heads for investigation.

Less barriers to innovation. Less red tape. Better customer service.

Less drama, bickering and deception among executives. Shut up and let your staff work.

Less drama, more accomplishments, and better trust in policy makers.

Less elected officials, less committees that hold up processes but clearer times for the public to participate when decision making is done, more County staff to help public.

Less embarrassing scandals involving the Board of Supervisors.

Less homeless people milling about, no gridlock on Hwy 50 westbound, more parks and restaurants.

Less like the DMV office and more like a business such as Costco, Starbucks, In and Out.

Less people showing up at board meetings, demonizing the board. At the same time, a board that shows leadership and is not afraid to make decisions. The criticism is rampant from various groups and interests. Grand Jury reports are stirring up a lot of discontent, and sometimes I believe does not have full knowledge of process. Also, when they issue their findings, most do not see any follow up or fixes occurring.

less steps to complete a request, more electronic applications, happier employees

Less traffic and more recreational facilities

Like a mountain town in Colorado. Get things done to improve our town. Make a few people mad, which will make most of the people happy.

Like a successful business, with a charismatic leader who is honest and talented, who inspires the team to create a feeling of home and security for all of its residents

Like a very small Midwestern town, with a more modern approach to human rights and a collectively collaborative population working towards sustainability.

Like a well run business. You would be made to feel like you were getting the most helpful and courteous service ever.

Like a well run county, run for the people, by the people. Not the politicians looking to make a name for themselves and move on to bigger and better things. I know it is difficult, but too many of people in places of authority are looking after their own interests and not those of the rest of the residents of the county.

Like it did when i moved here twenty three years ago. Helpful, caring, receiving reasonable pay and doing a good job. The government functioned Elected officials exercised less interference with those people.

Like it was when Supervisor Nielson challenged the county CEO on the false budget crisis presented by the CEO
Like our county truly cares about our citizens and their/our well-being all around; if our county truly cared and everyone was honest and good it would be close to heaven; music my ears and feel good, very good
Like Sonoma county, rural yet cosmopolitan.
Like the City of Folsom :-)
Listen to all the people. I will not go to a community meeting regarding pot and drugs because of the larger pro pot people. But the county has made it too easy for the big business to sneak in at no financial benefit. They take their stuff south to sell. If pot becomes legal, make them pay big time. Make money off of them.
Listen to the public instead of the local political custom of office holders acting like Mommy and Daddy knows best.
listen, respond, educate residents to services, budget and needs
Listening to the public
Local LE that community knows
Local voices are heard.
Look and feel like Placer County...(Roseville, Granite Bay, Rocklin, and the growth happening going up Hwy 80.)
Look at almost every department in the county, and make them justify the way they do business. There is huge room for improvement. Most of the residents in the county get little or nothing from the count government. That must change.
Look at Folsom. But ignore Sac County. It's horrible
look at previous answers
Look into City of Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova system- fiscally conservative, but have made great improvements to their communities.
lots of activities, family involvement, safe places to walk, run and bicycle, very little crime, newsletters sent to residents regarding both negative and positive happenings. Lots of support for the libraries, less technology, more quality time, outdoor activity, and books! Happy kids, happy future.
lots of agriculture, tech jobs, single family residences, reduced crime in areas between EDH and South Lake Tahoe, would not be afraid to live in country for fear of being killed or attacked
Maintaining quality of living here, trust and integrity in county gov., vibrant community centers, and out standing public services.
Making clear and accurate descriptions of measures on the ballot instead of the confusing and misleading statements that are sometimes allowed in the voter booklets.
Managed growth and development, proactive choices, serving people
Maybe start with a functional website that is navigable and kept up to date
Mayberry USA with technology.
minimal unemployment - negligent crime rates - health community activities to promote community members getting to know and help each other.
Moer citizen control like this.

More accessible public forums to discuss issues and for leadership to hear concerns from residents
more autonomy for edh; fairer share of tax revenue.
More honesty and transparency; greater efforts to communicate with all the citizenry. Just having "meetings" at dinner time or during the day that only 30 people attend is not genuine outreach.
More interaction between county and city to help support financially the use of the aquatic center which is used primarily by county residents.
More like a private business enterprise where accountability is key.
More like Sacramento or Placer Counties...more professional, better decision making
More money put into services, much less put into high level bureaucrats who do very little to help people's lives.
More Outreach and listening. It's sometimes harder to do the right thing but that's not an excuse. The outreach could be location specific. Like I said earlier, signage works amazingly well.
More parking on Main Street. More bus services and locations. No more signs in spanish, too confusing. Get a handle on the Tribe property, you want all the income but at what long term price.
More private citizens would be willing to serve on advisory committees because they would feel that their time and expertise was being valued. This, in turn, would provide the County with more resources and would help it function better.
More responsive to citizens living in the County who are so impacted by development of high density efforts and the decline in the rural nature of the County impacting both traffic and displacing animals and loss of habitat and native trees.
Most citizens would be able to explain the available county services. Most individuals would use County services. Most would be very pleased with their experiences with using County services.
most importantly it is a strong and secure feel
Most of us have heard the same rhetoric, more accountability, integrity, transparency. It would look like less government due to less social services, less regulations.
Much like a good umpire in baseball, a high function government (to me at least), would be one that provides the services it needs to while staying off the front page of the local newspaper. It would allow for a healthy, growing, attractive El Dorado County without the drama that has all too often been the norm at the county.
Much like it does now save for the three suggestions I just made.
My concern is that nowhere is there true wilderness. What we call "wilderness" is full of loggers, hunters, fishermen, back, off-road drivers, equestrians, hikers. I want to identify "wilderness" where wildlife has true security of life.
Never going to happen
New business friendly, support the existing businesses you have , develop commerce, treat businesses fairly
New water, sewer lines where needed. Nicely paved roadways and repaired sidewalks. Hand-rails added where needed for safety (see Clay Street near the Broadway bridge....sidewalk is about 4 feet high with no railing). Outdoor dining along Main Street where space allows.

Nice try. Answering this question would require a thousand words. I don't even know how to describe what a fully functioning government would "feel like". Does a government even make sounds?

Nirvana.

No clue

NO DEFICIT. Board of Supervisors should be less of the CEO and not the reverse. The CEO is just an employee.

No fear of "gotcha." El Dorado Hills would rejoin "530" land. Veterans are housed, instead of memorialized.

No headlines across accusing BOS and others of improprieties.

No idea. Won't ever happen.

No losers in staff from other failed organizations, staff doesn't rule the decision making, bos actually listen to the people, it would feel more like a well oiled business than a huge incompetent government agency full of corruption.

No more growth or traffic

No more new residences North of highway 50, Sports Complex (Stocked fishing lake) for children where they want to build homes north of 50. A Board of Supervisors that LISTEN to the Community instead of going against what we want.

No new taxes

No one sector of the County would feel burdened, because everyone would be giving and helping according to their ability. It would be a happy, fun place to live, void of laziness but also void of weariness.

Roads and sidewalks would be well-maintained within a reasonable time and cost. Police and Fire would be available when needed, but not be overbearing or stifling to daily life. Seniors and Vets would get the services they deserve, having contributed greatly to society. The private sector would be supported by the public sector, but would not compete with it. Public Sector unions would be unnecessary, and would be dissolved.

No pan handlers, free mental healthcare to those that need it. It would feel like a warm log cabin welcoming friends into its home with warm Apple cider.

No scandals with the BOS

BOS members who actually supervise the county administrators who work for them.

Bos members who actually can vote on matters in their district.

No such thing as a perfect world. When EDH has more business move in they will become a city and then the rest of the county will be trying to figure out how they can pay for all the maintenance, roads, human care, and they will fall short trying to maintain their No Growth position. By the way how many homes have been built in the last 15 years east of Shingle Springs? Did I make my point? Someone will actually have to lead.

No ugly buildings or billboards when driving up 50. Parks to stop and enjoy the pretty spots that we have saved from construction. Smooth roads. Walking trails. Unique attractions. Historic buildings preserved. Love the railroad, miss the engine. Homeless moved into homes and receiving alcohol and drug counseling. Plenty of restaurants. Children's activities, teen centers and places for the retired to meet and hang out. Jobs galore. All overseen by efficient, caring, knowledgeable county workers. Lots of workers, fewer managers.

No unions. Instead performance based pay with bonuses for implementing Lean strategies that remove waste and put speed into processes.

No vacant shops on the Main Streets in any of our communities, special events (fair, car shows, Cowboys & Cornbread type activities) that reflect local heritage (how about some kind of logging fair?) regularly in all our little communities with convenient shuttle buses for tourists from centralized type parking areas, maybe a few more bed & breakfast or nice overnight accommodations so that tourists spend the weekend instead of the day, and more of the smaller communities could coordinate to offer additional activities for the weekend.

As far as government, there would be more opportunities and welcome for ordinary citizens to participate in decision making, government employees doing more outreach on a regular schedule to involve citizens. Services available would be easily understood without being bounced from office to office or phone to phone to find out how to access those services.

None of the current Supervisors would be there.

non-intrusive, efficient, lean

Not hot asphalt.

Not like big business.

not necessarily in this order: Less crime, faster fire and EMS response time, better roads,

Not possible. This is a governmental organization where productivity rises to the lowest level.

Not seen, not heard, not felt.

Not sure

Not sure

Nothing like it is now and probably what it will never be, due to politics.

nothing specific, but it would meet more needs of the poor and elderly

Obvious! Things would be accomplished. Changes would be apparent. Money spent wisely.

Officers would be out and present at county functions; residents would feel comfortable engaging with county officers regardless of the issue; officers do not work to their own agendas but for our collective good

Oh Happy Day! People would be less stressed, more optimistic and energetic.

Oh I think I've already put all this out there in other answers. Repeal the Charter, give us a CEO model and get the elected people out of the weeds, that is better left to the professionals. Consolidate. The rest will fall in line.

Oh please....somebody has gone to one too many touchy-feely "How to engage the Public" seminars.

This is supposed to be a survey about what we think, not how we feel. How do I feel?: Discouraged and disgusted.

One thing I have noticed is that many Social Workers will not answer their phone, even if they are sitting at their desk. When messages are left, they don't clear them frequently and there often comes a time when callers cannot even leave a message for the Social Worker they are attempting to reach.

On-line services that are user-friendly; friendly and knowledgeable counter staff in all departments, timely responses to constituents by the Supervisors and Department Heads; Board agenda items (impacts of decisions) that are understandable to the lay person; Department Heads that are accountable to the Board, whether elected or not; Department's inter-communications are effective with the technology to support the efficiency of the work to be accomplished;

Only spending money when absolutely necessary, a better irrigation system for gathering rain water, and honest people doing what is right.

Open and transparent govt not cutting deals in back rooms to benefit developers. Holding workshops and talking to the citizens about the future of the county vs talking in developer code, silencing anyone with challenges to yours and the developers plans.

Open information, not an impression that the developers run things

Open notice of developers or agencies requests for changes to general plan or air routes over county..no surprises!!

Open, honest, straightforward, ethical, transparent, cost effective, and responsive.

Operating government in a fully transparent mode, with proactive notification and disclosure on the issues.

Organized, respectful of all parties with more public input

Our County planning staff and LRP would be working for residents, and not developers. They would not be advocating for increased density and changes citizens do not want. The public has this perception for a reason, and it needs to stop.

Out of the public's way. Providing more, "less stiff" presentable meetings for the public to attend or more "user friendly" add's. Why not have a County day and provide hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids AT YOUR LOCATION so people know where you are. Advertise it on the radio and tell them their taxes pay for these services we offer! Friendly counter staff that doesn't make too many mistakes and make you jump through so many hoops like the TRPA.

Outstanding internal and external customer service.

Parks, open feel. Bring the county into this century-continue to modernize and higher people with more vision and experience in long term growth and development. Communicate with the public the challenges to blocking developer agenda and get the community active in preserving their quality of life. Why most people are here instead of the bay area options.

peace and quite and have a State of Jefferson flag.

People living and visiting the county to enjoy the rural setting and escape from all other city stuff. Visiting us to experience dark vibrant skies.

People treated fairly

People who can say, "I don't know but will find out" rather than giving misinformation.

People working a solid 8 hour day and not doing their personal emails, etc. A call to a govt. agency to be answered by the 3rd ring and have it be a live person and not a recording. Have the person on the phone know what to do and not to say, "I will get back to you" and then never do so. More just good common sense!
People would have good local job and live in reasonably priced housing that they enjoy. Their children would view the future with optimism and knows the community cares about them.
People would want to volunteer to help others in the community.
Placer County
Placer County
Pleasant, seamless, efficient
Poor question.
Portland, Oregon
Positive atmosphere at the county for its employees and the public that interface with employees, roads in good condition
Possibly more police presence in town. I saw an officer across from Cosmic Cafe where young druggies like to hang out - talking with the kids. I like that. Could use more of it - maybe more officers on bikes - walking through town.
Pretty much as is now. Still need to boost staffing to pre recession levels
Primary focus should be sustainability and not growth. Growth is fine where warranted, but it appears the growth is not sustainable with current resources and infrastructure.
Problems would be handled in a faster manner. Waiting a day or more for a call back would be a thing of the past.
Process/policies/procedures would be well understood by citizens. Employees would treat citizens with dignity and care...think about the disneyland "guest" model. Getting mental health services would be easy and available to all citizens not just the "severely ill under certain conditions." County would be winning awards for best-in-class service in ..... BHC, County MH, etc.
Progress toward goals, better service delivery, happier workforce, healthier, more stable community.
Prospecting for new businesses and new housing. The reputation El Dorado County has throughout the area is extremely unfriendly to business and any development.
prosperity, housing, good business'
Protected green/open space, government living within its budget, limited residential growth, family-centered gathering places, stronger police presence in positive lights (such as booths at community events, the CHP Hotrod show at the Fairgrounds, etc).
Providing support for key needs and creating vision for tomorrow. Need to retain history and rural environment but also create managed grow and a reason for our children to stay in county.
Public committees that would look at projects with the assistance of county employees. Police that are polite and not necessarily take a strong arm approach. Contracted services for things like road maintenance where the contractor has a stake in the repair and guarantees the work for a period of time.
public records should be PUBLIC: online AND accessible (cdfs and .pdfs not sufficient). data should be filterable and

downloadable. period.
Public transportation available to all. Even outlining areas
Pure functioning with willingness to work together as one large community.
Put protecting the environment first. Improve roads and bike lanes, add recreational areas for kids and families. Keep the community safe and healthy and clean.
Quiet, trustworthy, balanced
REAL People in positions who respect the Community and genuinely work for the Community - rather than the local agencies !
Really embrace the rural areas and foster small farms and services. Loosen animal and zoning restrictions to allow and promote small farms.
really look to the needs of young families...they are the counties future.
Reduced size & cost, transfer governance to local communities. Support the Incorporation of El Dorado Hills
Relaxed citizens and visitors.
Walking and bicycling from the Sacramento valley to the Tahoe basin.
Relaxed, uncrowded driving due to good planning and maintenance. Secure feeling due to effective law enforcement.
replace Tammany Hall bosses and get in fresh, professional and competent people- why is Vern Pierson functioning as CTO without experience on top of DA duties?? That's an example. Clean house!! Expose everything so that we can get to bottom of the dysfunction and rebuild. Do not refuse TARP or other funds for roads. Our roads are terrible. TARP funds were refused simply because of political ideology - BOS should not bring in those ideologies. Employees should not be bullied or intimidated. Marginalize those who are doing this - grand jury is not working.
Residents confident in the county and it's operations, in our police and fire protection and comfortable with the services provided, traffic management and road maintenance and use.
Residents know what the county is considering before decisions are made, and have input. The county understands the consensus that the residents are here for a more rural lifestyle. Employment grows, and is based around business centers, close to the highway. Broadband is affordable and in abundance. Rezoning is rare.
Residents would know they are part of all county vision. Visitors would know all county values and appeal for temporary or longer term stays. Environment including wildlife and recreation protected, valued, shared.
Respectful environment that feels like all individuals in our county are understood.
Respectful, trustworthy, no silos, collaborative, purposeful direction with meaning
Respond to people living in the county and not cater to the multinationals
Responsive to residents not developers
Responsive to the citizens, not just the big money developers. Elimination of "good ole boys" power.
Responsive, caring, involved, communicative, interactive, uplifting, enhancing lives of people in the community. Making life better for people. Helping the most vulnerable--the elderly and children and disabled and disadvantaged

as well as animals who need homes.

Roads that don't damage your vehicles. Government that anticipates problems and come up with solutions.  
Example: Marijuana. Neighbors get permit to grow marijuana but no provision is provided for the neighbors around them to protect them from the "skunk odor" that lasts for months. Why is it considered legal for a "pot grower" to destroy the quality of life and the use of our property.

Roads would be in good shape, decisions would be made democratically, housing for low income would more meet the need, school children would attend their neighborhood school. People would be more comfortable in daily life, no excess noise, less crime, more employment, natural environment preserved.

Roads would be paved smooth --- more parks would be built -- there would be lots of open space -- shops would be in Town Center or down by the freeway -- we would have a new responsive Supervisor in Dist. 1

roads would flow easily, communication would be efficient and full, an effort to address all the residents would be made

Roads wouldn't be torn up. Road work wouldn't happen during commute hours. More deputies would be hired to handle the amount of car theft and home robberies as well as meth dealing

Rural and agricultural areas remain essentially the same, with slow changes that fit what is already there, prevent mega-mansions in view of roadways and neighbors. The development of land near highway50 should not alter the rural look and feel of ElDorado Co. Roads should not be improved according to one set of standards. Each road should reflect the adjacent community feel and look.

Don't make more commute speedways.

Safe roads, safe schools, no homelessness, more community meetings, more parks, more ballfields, very low crime rate, lots of housing options, government being effective, trustworthy, transparent, and forward-thinking.

Safe, healthy, secure multi generational living.

see above

See above.

See above.

See above. Overall, it would be a place where employees would go to work, and do their work without fear of retribution - or loss of employment or harassment.

See other comments.

Seemless, one stop shopping, warm hand-offs. Open Data, online 24/7 services (license renewals, payments, permit applications, application for services/programs. Online chat capability to assist community members with locating appropriate services. High importance given to customer service and employee satisfaction.

Serve citizens and business

serves all people, not just the rich and privliged or well connected.

Services available to the clients and not having to access other counties for resources.

Services would be centered in one area. Not scattered throughout town.

Services would be provided to the citizens without having to weigh the financial consequences. In other words we would have lots of spendable dollars to fulfill needs, but how likely is this, when future growth is so tied to shrinking water supplies.

Sheriff's presence, drug abuse under control, more jobs available, better control of preserving historic downtown areas from stores like Dollar General

Sigh. It would be more free to raise and distribute its own revenues.

silence from within and without with total trust

Similar to what it is now with less of it.

Since i live in south lake tahoe, my interaction with actual county needs in limited.

Small satellite offices within each community staffed by one or two employees for short weeks (2-3 days a week), more technology based interaction, Government employees living IN the area they represent; distributing growth throughout the county; business growth throughout the county; majority of people who live in the county actually working here.

small, rural, close community

smaller with less bureaucracy in all departments

SMALLER, leaner and less expensive , less intrusive.

Smaller.

Smaller; less regulated; less costly

Smart growth, good health services and comprehensive transportation

Solar for new building & reconstruction. Put people to work that want to work like our Veterans. Better health care for our Vets. Grey water usage, better roads so bikes can be ridden on roads like Bass Lake Rd. Parks that have more activities for adults & children. Supervisors that actually understand their areas & what concerns are needed to be addressed. Public services for educating the public about what is needed in our county. Traveling Library services for disabled & elderly. Better education for our children always!

Sound like? huh? Who came up with these questions?

Special interests would be subservient to the general public

Stay small and make yourself accessible to us. Work harder at keeping people happy and less on trying to grow. Growth will happen on its own.

stay within budget

Storefronts / commercial space would be full or close to capacity so commercial development that was planned for could proceed and draw in new businesses that would provide employment for local residents. Moderate growth within a well-thought out plan. County government that focused on the citizens as opposed to being self-serving. County employees who love their jobs and who do not feel the need to "toe the line" to tyranny.

Streamline depts, allow people to speak to issues before the board. Get new people on commissions appointments, stop putting the same on all boards. stop letting monied interest direct the county. let the communities decide on their planning

Streamlined easy cost effective process for obtaining building and other permits. County roadways newly paved, safe, adequate for present and future traffic. Homeless folks have a temporary shelter and services to help them back on their feet. The absence of pot farms and drug addicts who commit the majority of crimes.

Strong collaboration with the non-profits in our County so services are not duplicated. Also, a collaborative relationship with the City of Placerville and the CSD's that looks at planning and services from a regional perspective.

Strong policy focused BOS, County staff that is confident, loyal, capable and not afraid of workplace bullies. Shared vision among all communities of EDC to grow in a manner which is sustainable across all economic sectors, attracts diverse age/socio-economic residents, and leads the region in sustainable job growth.

Students of all cultural groups would be treated equally - they would have an equal shot at local jobs, they would be recognized for their efforts, their families would have enough to eat, and they would feel as if they have representation and connection to the community. This applies to any group that is mis- or under-represented. Also, places in the community that represent potential safety hazards would be targeted for improvements, and you would use local labor to help address these issues.

Studies show that crime rates are lower when there are trees, gardens, robust family activities and safe walkable neighborhoods. A government infrastructure that valued and protected our natural resources would attract families to live and work here. Transparency is key, social programs over reactionary politics would get a long way.

Supervisors who put away their personal interests in the interest of the good of the community.

Supportive and helpful for those who have difficulty accessing services

Surely you jest or you Dr. Keily think you are the only one to make money on the fiasco. My time is valuable also.

Sweden

Take a drive along trinity river bathrooms and pull outs every where we have o. Dante

Take a look at Grass Valley, Ashland, OR, or Bend. These are hip, small towns which attract tourism, have art and culture, recreational opportunities, and a budding scene of artisan entrepreneurs. Play to our strengths and don't become another (suburban) Roseville.

Taking care of business without intruding on individual rights. We do not need a big government watching our every move or regulating everything we do. Business in this case defined as sheriff protection, infrastructure improvements (roads, overseeing building, planning, etc).

Taxes are modest so that county residents have more money in their budgets to spend on so many other things than just increased sales tax and every-increasing property taxes. Taxes go down and spending goes up making it possible for business to expand or hire more personnel. Zoning favors Ag related jobs and businesses. Urban creep has been stopped. Agenda 21 has been banned along with high density housing. The County is known for more than wine/apples/pears. It favors homegrown beef/chicken/pork products and has it's own butchering facilities making it unnecessary for producers to go out of county.

teamwork, sounds friendly and feels inviting.

Texas, New York, North Carolina - plenty of success stories to look at!

That is difficult to do, primarily because of ignorance. The general public here seems to be operating on ideas based on fear, contraction, withdrawal, and exclusion. Not a very mature group on the whole, it would seem. There are exceptions, but they are rare.

Our County functioning at its most effective and efficient levels might look a lot cleaner. It would look more like its own history, as exemplified by say the Diamond Center and the architecture and community it points too. It would sound happy and interested, with people doing things in more public squares or street closures such as Placerville does to some extent. Public transportation would be easier to use. It would feel like people would want to come here to be with us and with each other in our various communities.

That the BOS and top officials were consistent in their communications, that would lead a resident to believe they were getting the whole story.

That we look at the best ways to improve quality of life and health and leave the politics out of it. We don't appreciate a public servant telling us what their political affiliation is. We want to know in public meetings about how we can work together to address issues that arise. It should not be adversarial. We all live here and benefit from open and fair processes.

The ability to hire and fire people based on performance, not tenure, not affirmative action, not nepotism, etc. The ability to reward good performance with tangible rewards. Making sure that servant-leadership is a core value starting from the top down.

The air would be clean, there would be no traffic, there would be less crime, less illegal drugs, less homeless.

The amount of public dismay and negative opinions of county government would be much less than it is today (read negative opinions about the way housing development and planning is conducted with little community outreach)

The Board is better than it was and is moving in the right direction. Qtrly budget updates happen without controversy. Proactively addressing strategic issues. Equal numbers of supporters and opposition in the room for public hearings....

The BOS would actually take responsibility for their jobs. The county auditor would actually take responsibility for the fiscal nightmare that exists. The county employees would be polite and understand that they work for the citizens not the other way around. Waste would be acknowledged and fixed. When there is no snow, the workers would be sent home, the money saved for when it is busy.

The BOS would be running our county with true passion for the local interests not their own agenda. The BOS would not be elected by their wealth. The local businesses would feel the county supports them and praises the county efforts to help them open a business. Residents would attend the BOS meeting and feel their voices are heard, not that the decisions will be made regardless.

The budget would be balanced. The roads smooth and no traffic driving through Placerville going up to Tahoe on the weekends. More decent restaurants and entertainment choices to keep residents in the county.

The City of Folsom is a model of how to run things

The county currently has very good services available. I am greatly concerned that an influx of new residents in high density housing would overwhelm the system that is currently in place. A suggestion I would make to improve it is

more youth oriented activities for teenagers.

The county government would be self regulated towards an efficient and transparent government. When a county employee retires, quits, or otherwise levels their position there would be a way to first see if the workload could sanely be spread among the existing employees. This way we could begin to reduce the budget over the long haul. Friendly, clean facilities, and a dedication to what the USA stands for - Freedom and Justice for all. A county that stands up and backs down big government for the sake of local rule.

The county is so dysfunctional now that we need to take positive steps go improve, not go from where we are now to utopia in a couple of paragraphs.

The County needs a solid continuing education base, committed professionals, and to use globalization as a resource to enhance El Dorado Counties economy instead of our wealth being sucked away from us.

The County needs to drastically improve their technology. This will enhance financial transparency and restore Community trust. It will provide better Community communication and enhance the flow of information.

the county should have the look and feel of the people that live here ,it should sound like we know what we want and do need anyone to tell us what we want.

The county website needs to be updated and modernized. All departments should be able to accept credit cards, even the library. The El Dorado County website is not user friendly and is extremely outdated. The county spent \$100,000.00 to update the website a few years ago and nothing changed. Start with changing the County image and get something done. Encourage businesses to relocate to El Dorado County.

The County would be a beautiful, well run and economically sound place to live and work. Less people would have to commute to Sacramento or Placer Counties. More dollars would stay here. People would have confidence in and trust their local government. Tourism would be booming, allowing more money for much needed infrastructure projects like water and sewer lines. The high level of Hospital and other Medical care would be envied by other counties.

The County would be able to keep top employees because management would be fair and pay and benefits would be fair. There would be more and cleaner mass transit so that we could reduce pollution and be a greener county.

The County would be community oriented. The County would respect, not ignore, residents. The residents would feel included in decisions. Rules would be enforced, and they would be enforced equally. Consider using advisory votes to find out what a community does or doesn't want.

The county would be much like Park City in Utah. Supervisors would take leadership in providing representation to restore forestry and mining in El Dorado County.

The County would be respected by other agencies in the region and state. County employees would feel pride in being a County employee. The County's current reputation internally and externally is such that it is difficult to recruit and retain quality staff, especially at the leadership level.

The county would be spending a good portion of its employee hours trying to create funding streams rather than hiring incompetent low level angry and bitter people to spend what little we do take advantage of that's out there. Go study a few successful counties and bring back some good news. Let's get dollars flowing in from the feds to help kick start our economic future decade(s).

The county would feel like a place of positivity, helpfulness, solutions oriented, employees and the public honored and well-treated, a place of pride and satisfaction, a fun place to work, and a place of wellness and longterm health.

The county would join the effort to support the State of Jefferson to better reflect its residents' conservative political views and gain better representation at the state and federal level.

The County would provide high level vision and concrete planning guidelines for its cities, which operate in a cooperative manner. Although the cities would have a somewhat common "look and feel", they would still retain an individual identity. The lines of responsibility between the cities and county would be well understood, and there would be no sense of favoritism (e.g. "The county only cares about Placerville").

The County's strategic plan, actionable objectives, and budget would align. The budget would be zero-based every year, and re-align to the 5 year strategic plan annually. All projects and on-going services would be measured against the strat. plan and annual budget, and employees would be incented with bonuses to come in under budget. Think Ted Gaebler (fmr. Rancho Cordova City Manager) and his "Reinventing Government " concepts on plan-driven budgeting, transparency & accountability (which is very much easier now with so many internet media outlets).

The Fifties – when law enforcement was respected, the economy was solid with little unemployment, society and culture reflected high values and morals, before drugs were rampant destroying brains and lives. Government officials that you could trust to do the right thing and to tell the truth. The fabric of our society has eroded to a point where it's doubtful it can be returned to a civil one.

The focus would be on the real needs of the residents, not on empire building. Less money would be spent on guns and law enforcement - more money would be spent on programs for children, the elderly, the homeless, and the vulnerable. Literacy would have top priority. Economic growth would be linked to quality of life, and restrictions would be placed on greed, selfishness, and mis-use of natural resources. The Board of Supervisors would have to demonstrate an ethical basis for every decision they make.

The majority of voting public would ideally be involved in major decisions. This assumes a fully informed citizenry. Not exactly sure how to implement this. Maybe moving BOS meetings away from the public's work hours would be a start? Do they really WANT public comment/input?

The MH needs of the community would be met, not contracted out to the lowest bidder. Growth would be steady and allow for infrastructure to catch up.

The older hotels cleaned up but not made larger, less Corporate businesses, more mom and pop smaller businesses

The part I am familiar with - homeless women and families, could be safe and warm with opportunities to get out of homelessness.

The person who I have the initial contact with will treat me with respect and understanding that just because I don't understand the rules/procedures, I am not a fool. Be able to either answer my questions or provide me with the correct contact department; even better, locate that person and have them call me back. Have patience when explaining a process. Listen to my individual situation and try to fully understand before providing the standard answer. The individual District Supervisor would not play favorites but would strive to fully understand the situation and take the right stance, whether it supports the County process/employee or the member of the public. Treatment would be FAIR and CONSISTANT.

The planning department fees were reasonable compared to other similar counties and growth was possible for more people. Home businesses and agriculture businesses would thrive instead of being over regulated. We would finally have a accountant that we could trust with our money.

The public would participate in gov't processes and the County staff and elected officials would respond and be open to discussing new ideas (with residents, as it appears the County already discusses 'new ideas' with developers). The County would engage communities and ask them what they want in a future plan, rather than letting proposed projects dictate this 'process.' There would be a more sustainable budget that would focus on improvements to existing infrastructure over building new capacity. Developers would pay their fare share. The County would retain its rural character and our communities would be allowed to grow in the way and scale of what residents want.

The relief of having a governing structure that would be respected and not the brunt of negativity and jokes.

The joy of not having to go through a maze of departments in order to receive an answer.

The surprise of quick follow through on what is promised.

The astonishment that all areas of EDC are treated the same, with no apparent favoritism ~ i.e. Pollock Pines vs. El Dorado Hills.

The roads and infrastructure would be fixed. If we did not need to meet State of California regulations we would have mover money to spend in our county and jobs would return such as logging and mining.

The roads would be safe, there would be places for the homeless to go for shelter. People would be healthy, there would be more farmer's markets and small farm stands in rural areas. It would be nice if there were weekend farmers markets at schools on the weekends. I think schools should be able to reap the benefit of the empty school grounds by charging vendors fees to have farmer's markets and art and craft sales on weekends.

The rush of urban life is remote from the county. People would respect each other.

The State of Jefferson.

The towns people dream of living in- Cary, North Carolina, Florence, Italy

The typical government mentality of working without supervision or accountability would not exist. Roles of employees are clearly defined and evaluations completed to ensure that everyone is working at the expected high level of achievement.

There are many Utopian scenarios. The greatest one is simple, easy, and less expensive than many might think. Here's what it is: Take care of each other. Promote your neighbour. Make it attractive and welcoming to be here. Make money by stopping extractive economies such as damned WalMart, or at least make them build apartments or solar panels on all that wasted roof space. Safeway did it. Every blessed box store in the County can do it. A LOT of your work has been done for you by many local citizens who have pretty much given up on you; you just need to listen:

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAR8Uqw3GIY>

And this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1Bxgoy6FQg>

There certainly should be a feeling of teamwork and respect for the public. If someone is unhappy with their job or boss, I, when I come needing assistance, don't need to hear or overhear about how unhappy you are.

There should be proper reporting out of the business of the County -on-line. There should be friendly county employees with access to information when someone calls in for requests. Residents should feel safe in their neighborhoods, social support should be there ready for someone when they need it, and a justice system should be ready to help those who are going through the system with rehab and counseling available.

There should be sufficient funding for all departments to meet the needs of all residents. Transients should be offered beds, and an opportunity to go through counseling with proper drug rehab.

There would be "hubs" throughout the county where county officials (even if it's two days a week) can provide services that are attainable in Placerville. It is almost an hour drive (one way) to the county offices to get anything done. There would also be sheriff "hubs" stationed throughout the county as well. There wouldn't be a water shortage due to more development because you re-zoned a bunch of parcels so more new construction can take place (though this idea raises A LOT of money for the county, it is an insane idea). The idea of taxing home owners with wells and monitoring the water usage would not happen. There would be no extra "fire" tax like we have now (we already pay fire tax in the INSANELY high property taxes). When we walk into the county office for permits, we should be able to get the same information and answers no matter who we talk with (this does not currently happen). Dealing with permits is an inefficient nightmare. The County Office of Education would hold their administrations and teachers accountable so my kids could attend the schools where we live. (A LOT of money has left the county office of education due to people taking their kids out of the education system they reside in--but that's probably for another survey!).

There would be a better schooling administration in place and better teachers. Housing would be more desirable because of the people and businesses in the area.

There would be Board of Supervisor meetings that people would attend and reports from them through the media.

There would be consistency, i.e., building inspectors being guided by rules and regs, not personal interpretation--it would help the construction industry. Consolidate some departments. Encourage stellar customer service, i.e., do not allow anyone to answer, "I don't have a clue!" and then not offer to help or find 'the clue'. All-in-all, it would look efficient, polished, effective, engaged. It would sound ready, positive, informed/informative and cohesive. It would feel like people's time is valuable and not to be wasted; it would feel engaging and beneficial.

There would be discord...and loss of hope.
There would be enough people to get the work done and provide pleasant customer service. Many of the county employees are not happy people, they are overworked and bullied by their supervisors. ( I recently worked for the county and was one of the unhappy people - happiness returns when you leave).
There would be fun things to do in the county.
There would be more after-school programs, subsidized day care, the roads wouldn't be in such awful gridlocked shape. There wouldn't be so many homeless, so many people in crisis or depression w/ no help available, or so many crimes happening because there aren't enough police patrolling & lack of response time a deterrent. Lastly, the problem of all our Board of Supervisors selling us out year after year after year to developers, regardless is we have the water to support the new houses, they cars they would bring couldn't begin to get to their jobs in reasonable times because of our already screwed roads & our some of our schools are shipping students to other schools much further away because they're already full (like Buckeye).
There would be more consensus and less conflict.
there would be more time to enjoy the beauty of the place...there would be more time for families...less stress...
There would be people getting services they need , particularly mental health. This would decrease crime and improve the look of the area
There would be trust and accountability. Citizen comments would hold equal weight with developers wants and needs.
There would not be a need for finger-pointing because all of the employees and citizens are involved in the process and making our community great.
There's always room for improvement. Less government is a good government. Elected officials should not be compensated except for basic expenses.
They would asses the problems at hand, quickly and efficiently with minimal controversy.
Things getting done in a timely manner. Minimal controversy due to good communications. Keep special interests at bay.
Things would get done! Sup's wouldn't continue to kick the can down the road. There would be a balanced compromise between growth and the sustainability of the reasons people live here. Communities in EDC differ vastly, as do the people that live there. These communities should have the ability to shape their futures, or hold onto their past, as they see fit.
This area would take me a 20 page letter to tell you. Again, my suggestions previously given would be a great start!
This county has beautiful resources. People come here for recreation, a rural environment and to realize the dream of owning property. The schools here are state recognized and aren't plagued with crime, drugs, or low academic achievers. Let's keep our county as is with managed, responsible growth.
This is an essay question, not a survey question.
this is stupid
This question is absurd. Utopia is unattainable. EDC/USA has passed the point of no return.
To borrow an overused and underutilized we'd, "transparency"

Top among U.S. destinations, accessible and affordable to all ages and income levels, with robust activity attractive to a variety of businesses. Fewer criminals, safer neighborhoods. Clean Tahoe is getting it done now (immediate response to trash and safety issues), and the County Library provides access to all (imagine what the Library could do with more funding). A well-functioning EDC will look like these two agencies, if allowed to grow.

Total trust from the people in our government. There would be no waste.

town centers would be improved, attract more visitors, offer more upper scale dining and entertainment and less junk shopping and thrift stores

Traffic would flow at all hours of the day with predictable timing between destinations; roads would be smooth; large parking garages would be served by frequent bus/rail connections to Sacramento & Lake Tahoe; homeless would receive health care and housing; kids would have an extensive parks & recreation department; urban centers would be dense and walkable with open spaces in between each other; developers would pay the full impact of their development, not an artificial increment; County Sheriffs would assist citizens rather than arrest them.

Traffic would not be stopped on highway 50 at all. If people want to get into our city, they can use the off ramps. Another method of getting OVER or UNDER the highway should be improvised. Allow downtown parking for more than two hours to induce patrons to shop longer.

transparency

Transparency to residents on both sides of the Sierras and harmony between departments and elected officials.

Transparency, employee retention and compensation with consistent cost of living increases, commercial growth and employment. Improved mental health/education/youth and elderly services and public safety funding.

Transparent and running with a healthy budget

Transparent, efficient, & fair.....

Trust in the county governing body...a body that is genuinely trying to do what is best for both county people and businesses, without being influenced by long time county cronies.

Up to date website. Consolidated County offices in Tahoe. A County facility in Tahoe where the BOS can meet.

Use modern technology more and modern communications, like blogs and electronic newsletters. Water usage and information should be available in real time at any time, not once every two months. Get updated to modern communication techniques.

Utilities would be regulated. We pay some of the highest electricity and water rates in the area.

Very professional. Count on the answer you get from an employee as being the truth and not have the ability to bend someone's ear in order to get the answer you want. Sounds very confident and respectful. It would feel like the first person you encounter when you walk through the door at a county department to be welcoming and treat you the citizen with the respect you deserve. That should be exhibited by all county employees.

vibrant excitement for future moderate growth and prosperity opportunities

Visibility: local offices and officials to make themselves more integrated into the community. Enlarging the library and utilizing their meeting rooms to reach all citizens would help in this.

vulnerable members of the community can get the services they need. The budget focuses on building our community and not just policing it. When you go into the county building things are happening and well organized. Getting a permit should be impressed with the efficiency and not impressed that they are still running that kind of software or use typewriters.

water use to race through...now it doesnt even trickle

we moved here for #1 family and #2 here is far more sane than Santa Clara County. we enjoy EDH, Cameron Park, Placerville, fishing, the surrounding small bergs and Folsom. it's peaceful and the people are good. it feels comfortable. we really don't want to hear any sounds other than fireworks. and except at 7:30 am it looks like you can get from here to there with very few cars in your way. we would like it kept that way.

We need to address pollution and climate change by creating a vibrant local economy and a pedestrian friendly community.

We should look at it like a business and determine what is working and what is not. More focus groups to really look at the processes.

We the people and for the people. Follow the Constitution.....

We will have transparent government and honest and responsible supervisors on our board. We will be supporting a library that is open during full business hours including several weekdays and at least one weekend day for each branch except for the most rural branches. There won't be duplication of effort between the county and community-based organizations and collaboration amongst everyone to see a common vision. The vision should be revisited periodically to ensure that the direction the county is heading is in line with the expectations/desires of others (citizens, businesses, non-county organizations, neighboring counties, visitors/tourists, etc.), too.

We would be the model that other Counties in Northern California would try to emulate. Positive press in the news resources on a weekly basis, people would seek out County services (rather than dreading the interaction) when they had a problem, and folks in our community would know County workers on a first-name basis -- for good reasons. County workers would be proud to wear their name badge outside of work.

We would have a balance budget with a surplus for hard times. Staff would be lean and efficient. The need for these surveys would be eliminated.

We would have a balance budget, fully funding health and public safety, roads, and general government. A government that's fully transparent to the public and a boar of supervisors not being influenced by developers wanting to over populate the county with additional houses. A reliable revenue stream, such as sales tax increase, to provide the funding needed to fund the services and general government.

We would have a culture here that we could celebrate, not an community at the mercy of developers

We would have a government that we can trust, a paper that actually was bi-partisan and accurate, we would have a government working to bring in good, solid business and we would build new housing that fit the unique aspects of our community.

We would have jobs, businesses thriving, people not afraid to get permits to build on their property because they are so expensive, roads that did not ruin our cars, not have people in positions in the county that cause others distress and other departments fear.

We would know what our citizen's want, not just what the ones that say they represent everyone want.

We would know who represents us. The money raised via various taxes should be used more effectively and openly. When we call an office, a responsible person should speak with us, not a telephone tree. More communication from the county officials. Ask the people of the county what they want when a 3 year plan is made....in frequent meetings and emails. These decisions should not be made quietly in a meeting. More people would be employed in real jobs, not temporary jobs and not government.

we would no longer be making decisions based on money and be willing to tell rich no.

We would see an influx of new residents. We would be know as "the County that gets it". And our natural resources would be managed and shared responsibly.

We would stop selling out to developers and all communities in El Dorado County would feel they get the same attention as we enjoy the absolute beauty that surrounds us as we go about our daily lives.

We wouldn't even know they were here. Things would get handled without unnecessary political agendas.

We'd see dead lawns, we'd see more wild gardens, we would have little to no development, we would see the reding of existing infrastructure, we'd have clean air and wet wetlands..there would be slower, more conscious drivers and county folk.

Well informed community, outreach to those not informed or able to receive information as easily as others.

Well managed, effective employees and better services.

Well taken care of roads. Cost of doing business is lower. Homes are affordable.

We've never been dissatisfied with any County services/personnel. Keep up the good work!!

What few services I have used have been friendly and pleasant.

When a call is made to a county office, the call would be answered promptly, or if a message is left for an employee, the return call would be made within 24 hours. The caller would be treated respectfully, and would be directed to proper assistance. Services would be affordable, and county citizens would be gainfully employed. Businesses would be encouraged to open and assisted in growth.

When I think of what it would look like, I take that literally. In many parts of the world (for example, Singapore and Zurich) there is a tidy appearance in the public places. El Dorado County would be clean, roads would be maintained well, architecture would be diverse and conforming to consistent models that would better define our regions. People would be out taking care of their own and our public lands to make this tidiness and orderliness a reality. We would have more informal public places for people to meet and interact consistent with the advice of Alexander, Ishikawa and Silverstein's book "A Pattern Language - Towns - Buildings - Construction." A good example of this is the waterfront aspect of Town Center in El Dorado Hills. There is much more to this "look" of our county, but I will spare you the details unless you want them. What EDC sounds like is: people speaking up to ask how they can help each other and our community, praise of the good that is done every day that often goes unnoticed, children laughing and playing together and with safe adults (much of this already exists). Further, the sounds of honest divergent discourse on real issues seeking working solutions for the benefit of most of the people and silence where there has been voiced the aberrant perspective that I must have all things my way. I really like to hear the carillons of a college campus

signaling the hours of the day reminding us that time is passing and the subtle underlying message that we should attend to important priorities during our days. There is a saying I appreciated in my USAF career that "jet noise is the sound of freedom." I think of the stamp mills of our gold mining history as a cacophony that was likely annoying for many but the sweet sound of success for others. We need to sound industrious in the right places at the right times whether that is a train coming through town or a construction project rebuilding our community infrastructure. As a kid, I awoke many morning to the sound of the Southern Pacific Daylight train roaring into Los Angeles -- the sound of industry. The ring of the blacksmith's hammer, the sound of an ambulance siren, the "five o'clock whistle" a kind of Rockwellian symphony of sounds. That is what our county sounds like at its best. Feels like? I think the most primitive answer is "safe!" Home is a place where we should all feel safe. We have an incredibly dedicated Sheriff who takes his job very personally because he is just made that way and because he has a family that also lives here. I know him to be an exemplary man of his word who has our safety at heart and works diligently to maintain it against some unreal forces of evil that threaten our community. El Dorado County should also feel alive! We need to grow, not stagnate and die. Fredonia, Kansas was once a thriving coal, oil, gas and cattle town. Its industry was not diverse enough to sustain growth, and it has declined to about half the population it had in 1930. It does not feel alive; it feels sad and dying when you drive through town. We have diversity and need even more to remain vital and we need to protect and expand our agriculture while increasing that diversity. El Dorado County needs to feel happy and friendly. I think of "The Friendly City(ies)" - Fortuna up on our North coast and Port Elizabeth in South Africa and probably a lot of other place as well. El Dorado County is "The Friendly County!" What does it take to deserve that moniker? At our most effective and efficient level of functioning, we are that friendly county.

When needed, services are available.

When the County listens to the concerns of the community and acts on those concerns.

Who thought of this question? It is way too open ended. "Look like, sound like, feel like" ... Why not ask what it smell like, too?... Oh, the answer to that is cinnamon rolls. Sorry, I don't have the time to write an essay.

WHY I MOVED HERE IN 1978, BECAUSE IT REMINDED ME OF LIVING IN RUAL OHIO WITHOUT THE SNOW

work week Tuesday through Saturday

Work would be undertaken with speed and professionalism, lack of cronyism, equal opportunities to all, and without burden of heavy handedness and budget constraints.

Working to support the desires of the community, not developers. Working towards an inclusive, diverse community. Lowered domestic violence incidents, increased support of or awareness of support for those in crisis. Pregnancy and childcare classes at library.

Would like to have all parties within government be able to get along and not have discord. Work together for the good of all.

Wouldn't be dominated by selfish personal interest groups

Wouldn't even know its there,

Wouldn't know, haven't seen it

Xanadu

Yolo county, they looked at zoning, ordinances, etc... and changed it when it needed to be changed.

You could get a building permit for 20K and pay for building inspections based on the actual cost of having an inspector drive out and inspect. You could get EID to deliver quality service in a reasonable manner, not like they know they have a monopoly on providing water & sewer service.

You could get answers to questions on the first try. You would talk to and work with well trained motivated county employees who are empowered to solve problems and provide service.

You could walk into the County Offices and talk to caring people who would be happy to help you....experts in their jobs who know how to get things done. Community projects are getting done without fights with officials to get them done. County officials who are engaged and knowledgeable....they are here to help because they love their community and county. Elected officials who put their personal agendas aside for the good of the whole community.

You must be joking. This is not a question that will answered on this site.

You must believe in the tooth fairy and the Easter bunny that government could achieve such a level of functioning, but it should be a constant goal to strive toward.

You would see and hear about it. In SLT we know what the City is doing; however in Meyers we have little knowledge of what the county is doing for our town.

You wouldn't have groups putting initiatives on ballots, recalling elected officials, etc. Much change is needed.

You wouldn't notice it because it would be working so well. (In the background.)

You'd be able to make a phone call about an issue, and not get voice mail on the other end. You'd be able to state an issue and have someone really check it out and try to fix the situation. Not just get the same old dribble, such as "there's no money" for that problem. That has happened to me a long time ago in the past with questions about our roads in the county of South Lake Tahoe. Therefore I gave up!