

EL DORADO COUNTY

2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

ABOUT EL DORADO COUNTY – Our History

El Dorado County is a tapestry of rich history. Our County is the traditional homeland of the Nisenan, Maidu, Miwok and Washoe tribes that lived in the foothills of the High Sierras and whose influence continues today. Our history has also been immortalized by the remnants, bounty, and legacy of the California Gold Rush when, in 1839, a German-born Swiss businessman named Johann August Sutter founded a settlement at the confluence of the Sacramento and American River after obtaining a land grant from the Mexican Governor. By the early 1840's, the first organized settlers began arriving. In 1846, Sutter contracted with James Marshall to establish a sawmill on the American River in Coloma to support the growing region. When flakes of gold were found in 1848, the world forever changed as the Gold Rush sparked the largest mass migration in United States history. When California became a state in 1850, El Dorado County was established as one of the original 27 counties. Known as the heart of the Mother Lode, our name, “the Gilded One”, reflects our affluent origins and golden past.

El Dorado County is now home to 191,185 residents, according to the 2020 census. Located in the northeastern part of California, El Dorado County encompasses over 1,700 square miles and roughly 73% of our land mass is part of the Eldorado National Forest. From outdoor adventures on Lake Tahoe, the American River or the Desolation Wilderness to the wine regions and family farms of Apple Hill, El Dorado County offers an array of unique experiences.

While El Dorado County was forged on a golden past, our future is ripe with opportunity. We are proud of our rural, historic roots and are committed to value, honor, and protect that heritage. As guardians of our county, we are proud that the entrepreneurial spirit of the California Gold Rush is shining bright. With our diverse landscape, abundant recreational opportunities, quaint historic hometowns, rich agricultural regions and thriving business sectors, El Dorado County is the ideal location to visit and to call home.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

El Dorado County is a special place full of extraordinary people. Whether you live, work, or play here, we are committed to ensuring that you experience an exceptional quality of life in this unique, historic, and beautiful place that we are grateful to call home. To that end, and on behalf of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, it is my pleasure to share with you our updated Strategic Plan.

In 2019, El Dorado County embarked on a robust and collaborative community planning process to further update the goals, objectives, and priorities in our Strategic Plan. Recognizing that an effective plan guides programs, services, and budget allocations to accomplish identified goals, it is critical that this Plan be a living document that is timely and relevant to meet community need. Since 2019, our county has stood strong despite a global pandemic, catastrophic fires, unprecedented storms, and a major disruption in the labor market making it essential that we revisit and refresh our goals and objectives to ensure that the residents of El Dorado County are best served by our work and investments.

EL DORADO COUNTY

2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

This year, the Board of Supervisors along with county leadership, embarked on a multi-day, facilitated process to dive into candid conversations and deliberation around our mission, values, and priorities. Together, we wrestled with our essential mission and vision for the organization. While it is easy to say that the foundational role of any county government is to provide core services, it was important to all of us that we embody aspirational ideals, not just essential, administrative functions. We also emerged with a renewed commitment to people, both in our community and within our county family, recognizing that our residents will be best served by a valued and thriving workforce that finds satisfaction and meaning in the daily context of that service. The word “together” kept surfacing as we pledged to break down internal and external silos, driven by the common ground of love for our county and the people in it.

Following a refresh of our mission, vision and values, this Strategic Plan contains five strategic focus areas that will drive our work for the coming years: Thriving Economy, Workforce Excellence, Safe and Healthy Communities, Strategic Innovation, and Public Infrastructure. Recognizing that as a public service organization there is never enough time or money to do everything we want to; we will balance investment in these focus areas along with state and federal mandates which encompass a large majority of our workload.

I would like to personally thank my colleagues, our county staff, Robert Bendorf from MRG and all those who contributed to making sure our Strategic Plan is an inspired beacon to guide our endeavors on behalf of the people we have the privilege to serve.

Wendy Thomas,
Board Chair, 2023

CORE SERVICES

California counties are the most unique and complex local government entities in our state. As extensions of the State of California and responsible for operating ever changing programs mandated by law, counties continually evolve and re-prioritize their service approach. Programs such as health and social services, behavioral health, probation, corrections, environmental health, elections, property assessments, tax collection, countywide fiscal management and auditing and recording of legal documents are only a few that carry with them great responsibility and command a significant time commitment. Approximately 70% of services provided annually by county departments and staff are legally required by the State, with the remaining services not necessarily mandated but necessary to protect public safety and provide support for local initiatives. In total, funds in excess of a half billion dollars must be managed effectively to provide accountability for service delivery to local and state taxpayers.

In the development of El Dorado County’s 2024 Strategic Plan Update, we attempted to achieve a balance between mandated services and priorities that serves our population, while allowing for a “future-focused” approach that protects our landscape and people for future generations.

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

MISSION STATEMENT – Working Group Recommendation

Together, we enhance the well-being of all residents, businesses, and visitors by delivering effective public service.

VISION STATEMENT – Working Group Recommendation

Exceptional quality of life with a strong sense of community and opportunity for all.

VALUES – Working Group Recommendation

INTEGRITY

We are responsible for our actions and accountable to our citizens, workforce, and stakeholders.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE

We provide responsive, transparent, and quality service to all citizens of El Dorado County.

THRIVING WORKFORCE

We value employees performing meaningful work, with professional growth opportunities.

COLLABORATION

We engage, communicate, and connect to achieve the best possible outcomes together (external and internal).

STEWARDSHIP

Through collaboration and advocacy, we honor and protect our natural and historical resources, agriculture, and rural character, for future generations.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Through sound decision making we apply best financial practices that protect and enhance the assets and resources of El Dorado County.

EL DORADO COUNTY 2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Thriving Economy

Workforce Excellence

Safe and Healthy Communities

Strategic Innovation

Public Infrastructure

PLANNING HORIZON

Plan Time Frame - 3 Years (El Dorado 2024)

Report Out to BOS - TBD

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PRIORITIES	ACTION ITEM	LEAD	TIME FRAME
Strengthen Emergency Response Capabilities and Effectiveness	Lead and facilitate the creation and maintenance of fire-adapted communities through a comprehensive update of the Western El Dorado Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that is in alignment with the Tahoe Basin CWPP and other relevant local, state, and federal agencies plans.	Office of Wildfire Prevention and Resilience	Spring 2025
	Develop and implement community disaster preparedness programs and initiatives, engaging with community partners and stakeholders	Sheriff's Office	Ongoing – Beginning 2023
	Complete Simulcast system for West Slope Radio Operations	Sheriff's Office	Winter 2026
	Enhance disaster resilience by developing and implementing robust recovery strategies	Sheriff's Office, County Departments, Community Stakeholders	Winter 2026
Enhance Information Sharing with Neighboring Law Enforcement Agencies	Leverage current investment in records, dispatch, and custody management to share with local agencies and collaboration group	Sheriff's Department Probation, District Attorney, Local Agencies, Information Technology	Summer 2023
Develop a continuum of support and housing opportunities for unhoused individuals	Complete the Navigation Center	Planning and Building, Facilities	Winter 2024
	Develop a comprehensive plan for affordable housing opportunities	Planning and Building / HHS	Fall 2024

EL DORADO COUNTY 2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

	Continue Engagement with county departments, the homeless community, and countywide partners to develop effective strategies including for example, transitional housing	HHSA, Sheriff's Office, Planning and Building	Ongoing
Achieve CalAIM requirements and maximize opportunities for service delivery	Create a CalAIM workgroup (focused on PATH grant) consisting of county departments, stakeholders, and managed care plan representatives	Sheriff	Spring 2024
	Coordinate Re-Entry Services Plans with county partners	Sheriff/Probation/HHSA	Ongoing
	Implement CalAIM payment reform within the Behavioral Health Division	HHSA	Winter 2024
Develop key strategies / priorities for Health and Human Services	Create a three-year HHSA strategic Plan aligned with the county's strategic plan	HHSA	Summer 2024
Conduct an assessment of the Health and Human Services Agency's structure and service delivery	Work with a consultant to assist in coordinating due diligence, provide recommendations to the Board	HHSA	Spring 2024

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

THRIVING ECONOMY

PRIORITIES	ACTION ITEM	LEADS	TIME FRAME
Explore Feasibility of “Waste to Energy” Industries	Prepare a report for the Board of Supervisors, identifying best practices, examples of co-generation and / or biomass facilities, identification of stakeholders and next steps	County Administrator, Environmental Management, Board of Supervisors	Summer 2024
	Appoint an Ad-Hoc committee of the Board of Supervisors to begin initial coordination steps with staff	County Administrator, Board of Supervisors, Stakeholders	Winter 2024
Develop a Business Recognition Program	Create a social media-based program that promotes and celebrates our diverse businesses and their stories.	P & B (Economic Development), Administration, Stakeholders	Spring 2024
	Create a unique annual event to recognize EDC businesses in targeted categories and highlight available programs and resources.	P & B (Economic Development)	Summer 2024
Develop a Countywide Economic Development Strategic Plan focused on managed growth and economic stability	Gather input from stakeholders/community on items to address in the plan, and develop a scope of work including goals, community input and action items. and the community on broad topics the plan should address.	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Spring 2024
	Analyze countywide tourism benefits and impacts	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Summer 2024
	Prepare a scope of work to write the Strategic Plan	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Summer 2024

EL DORADO COUNTY 2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Streamline and Increase Transparency of Projects and Permit Processing	Increase the types of permits that can be submitted electronically.	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Summer 2024
	Gather and review data on “lifecycle” of a permit and identify points that cause the permit process to slow or stop. Revise processes to address.	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Fall-Winter 2024
	Create a regular report of key statistics and metrics to share with the Board and public.	Planning and Building (Economic Development)	Spring 2024
	Develop an online, map-based tool for the public to easily access information about development projects of public interest.	Planning and Building (Economic Development), IT	Spring 2024
	Create flow charts and brief “how to” videos/slideshows for the most used processes to help customers successfully navigate.	Planning and Building (Economic Development), Administration (Communications)	Summer 2024

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

PRIORITY	ACTION ITEM	LEADS	TIME FRAME
Focus on Employee Development & Well-Being	Enhance our El Dorado County Leadership Academy and provide an annual summary to the Board of Supervisors	Human Resources	Ongoing
	Create a comprehensive employee recognition program	County Administration/ Human Resources	Spring 2024
	Continue to implement Wellness Initiatives and Activities for El Dorado County employees	Human Resources	Ongoing
	Begin informal brown bag lunches/coffee led by the County Administrator, with special guests from the community	County Administration	Summer 2024
Enhance Employee Retention	Attract and retain the best employees by providing competitive compensation, training, and advancement opportunities, and creating a positive and thriving culture	County Administration/ Human Resources/ All Departments	Ongoing
	Explore best practices and opportunities to assist employees in achieving a work/life balance	County Administration/ Human Resources	Summer 2024
	Create a workforce excellence committee to explore best practices related to employee development and retention	County Administration/ Human Resources	Winter 2024

EL DORADO COUNTY 2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Perform Data Collection & Reporting	Conduct countywide surveys to assist in making informed countywide workforce decisions by understanding employee priorities	County Administration/ Human Resources	Spring 2024
	Initiate a review of all Human Resources policies and procedures	Human Resources	Ongoing
	Improve exit survey process to better understand and assess the reasons for staff attrition	Human Resources	Summer 2024

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY	ACTION ITEM	LEADS	TIME FRAME
<i>Facilities</i>			
Enhance communication about Funding and Resources for Facilities Related Capital Improvement Plans	Create 5 year rolling CIP including new capital projects and deferred maintenance	Facilities	Winter 2024
	Provide a project cost update, project prioritization and funding needs to the Board of Supervisors	Facilities	Annually, beginning Spring 2025
Create a long-term plan for the transition of leased facilities to County owned facilities	Create a program inventory of departments/programs in leased facilities; identify funding source and associated constraints; and develop a long term plan for transitioning to County owned space.	Facilities	Winter 2026
Complete the Parks Master Plan	Guidance and review of Master Plan draft sections from Parks and Recreation Commission	County Administrator, Parks	Ongoing
	Presentation to the Board on the outcome of public outreach efforts.	County Administrator, Parks	Spring 2024
	Plan completion and presentation to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.	County Administrator, Parks	Spring 2024
<i>Transportation</i>			
Enhance communication about Funding and Resources for Transportation Related Capital Improvement Plans	Complete a needs assessment, Project cost update, prioritization and funding needs	Transportation	Spring 2024
	Provide a project cost update, project prioritization and funding needs to the Board of Supervisors	Transportation	Annually, beginning Spring 2024
	New project determination / evaluation	Transportation	Ongoing

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

Implement Measure “S”	Identify Oversight Committee (OC) priorities and funding, scope projects for equipment needs for following year, and share projects and program to OC for upcoming year	Transportation / Stakeholders	Bi-annual
Enhance Communication for Road Maintenance	Present project scopes and project completions to the Board of Supervisors and Public after coordinating project due diligence	Transportation	Annual Report
<i>Information Technologies / Broadband</i>			
Implement Broadband Pilot Projects	Conduct a review of the master plan, identify, and secure funding sources and begin design/construction	Transportation / Economic Development	Spring 2024

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

STRATEGIC INNOVATION

PRIORITIES	ACTION ITEM	LEAD	TIME FRAME
Work as One Organization	Improve understanding of current operations by initially appointing a Strategic Innovation Team	CAO	Spring 2024
	Schedule quarterly department head meeting focused solely on sharing challenges and allowing time to brainstorm solutions	CAO	Summer 2025
Promote a Culture of Creativity	Identify how departments currently innovate and develop new ideas to achieve goals	Department Heads	Summer 2024
	Compile department innovative strategies to present to all department heads	Strategic Innovation Team	Winter 2024
Identify challenges and constraints solvable by innovative solutions	Departments to perform internal SWOT analysis	Department Heads	Summer 2024
	Identify one priority challenge per department (What needs to be achieved and by when)	Department Heads	Fall 2024
	Prioritize top 5 challenges	Strategic Innovation Team	Winter 2024
	Brainstorm innovative solutions and present at Department Head meeting for discussion	Strategic Innovation Team	Spring 2025

EL DORADO COUNTY 2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Improve external and internal service delivery in a more convenient and efficient way	Identify one priority service delivery that needs improvement	Dept. Heads	Summer 2025
	Prioritize top 5 service delivery needs to improve	Strategic Innovation Team	Fall 2025
	Compile ideas for service delivery improvement to present to department heads	Strategic Innovation Team	Winter 2025
Develop solutions through leveraging of technology	For Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders, use existing social media and applications and pursue in-house technology development to aid engagement with the public on community concerns and safety issues	Sheriff's Office, Information Technology	Ongoing

**EL DORADO COUNTY
2024 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**