



The following is a summary of the **comments** to the Slide Show Presentation conducted at the four Vision and Issues Workshops held throughout the Valley in April and May 2001. Participants were asked to respond to statements made that summarized resident input gathered through stakeholder interviews and a Valleywide survey. (*A full transcript is available under separate cover*).

**Synopsis:** Workshop participants were mostly in agreement with previous statements regarding Santa Clarita Valley's future. Most comments reiterated and reinforced the statements made in the presentation. A number of comments indicated desire for more in depth review of the issues, and a minority of comments were made regarding the representative nature of the survey-stating it was inadequate. (At this point we have just under 2000 surveys completed; total surveys distributed equal approximately 14,000. Of the nearly 2000 surveys completed, about 350 were completed on-line. This means nearly 1450 of the 14,000 were completed, resulting in a survey return rate of over 10 percent. The normal return rate is about 3-4 percent indicating a higher than average rate of response from Santa Clarita Valley residents.)

### **Vision**

Residents want a variety of character, housing types, employment, shopping, entertainment, and lifestyle choices. They want a balanced community but want adequate schools for the existing population. They do not want to become the San Fernando Valley. Residents desire a decelerated pace of development that results in more careful planning and allows services to catch up to the level of growth.

### **Natural Resources**

Residents want to preserve and protect existing resources including the Santa Clara River, hillsides, and ridgelines in particular. Residents want to see an interconnected Valley with trails linking open spaces. People want clarification of the water issue: is there adequate water (quality and quantity) in the Valley? Some interest in wildlife conservation was expressed.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Residents would like to see more parks throughout the Valley especially variety and location of parklands; for instance, they would like more dog parks, passive and active parks, observation/picnic areas and park facilities, created in areas such as Canyon Country and Agua Dulce.

### **Housing**

No real consensus on housing. Some residents want a stop to construction of new housing because they feel there are too many houses built and planned, while others see the need for more variety of housing types-although small group prefers only single family homes. Residents are concerned about affordability. Some concern about increased density and the ability to provide adequate schools to keep up with the pace of development. People want to see more housing options for young families and seniors.



### **Economy**

People want to see more business opportunities within the Valley to decrease traffic problems and increase jobs/housing balance. They want to see higher wage employment opportunities and higher wages for lower income workers. Many people feel wages are lower in the Santa Clarita Valley than in comparison to Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley. Some residents indicate desire for more shopping options in Canyon Country. People want to see old Newhall revitalized. Older strip malls should be renovated.

### **Transportation**

People agree transportation in the Valley is problematic. Transportation options to and from Santa Clarita Valley need to be integrated with other community transportation systems. Residents want more roads and more options for cross-Valley mobility. Some think more buses are needed for lower income residents. Suggestions were made for providing more bus shelters and benches to increase bus ridership and also more public education to increase use of public transit.

### **Schools**

Residents see a shortage of schools and want new schools to be built prior to completion of new housing developments. Existing schools are overcrowded; need to address supply problem now.

### **Growth/Future Development**

Need to slow down growth until we can get a handle on current traffic, school overcrowding, and threats to natural resources. Some suggest a moratorium on construction until problems can be sufficiently addressed. Residents want to see older, underused commercial areas in Newhall and Canyon Country revitalized. People want to see some areas developed more densely (i.e. Town Center, Newhall) and other areas preserved for more rural living (Acton, Agua Dulce). Need consistent development standards for each of the distinct areas in the Valley.

### **Other**

A few residents identified a need for more hospital facilities in the Valley. Others would like the paseo system expanded. Some want more options for youth in the Valley.