



Santa Clarita Valley School Activities Summary for
ONE VALLEY ONE VISION
Summer 2001

Schools throughout the Santa Clarita Valley were invited to participate in *One Valley One Vision* classroom activities during the winter/spring of 2001. Stevenson Ranch Elementary, Sierra Vista Junior High, Saugus High School, and Canyon High School classes completed activities created especially for Santa Clarita Valley students. Exercises teaching students about the General Plan process were developed for grade levels K-3, 4-8, and 9-12 and were administered by teachers. In all, more than 120 students participated in classroom exercises. The results are summarized below.

Picture This!

Places, Spaces, and Words

Mr. McMenamín – *Stevenson Ranch Elementary, grade 3*

Mr. McMenamín's students completed two in-class exercises. The first exercise, *Picture This!*, asked students to categorize and illustrate aspects of the Valley into "Likes" and "Dislikes." Students most frequently mentioned the ability to "see the mountains," followed closely by the "great schools" as qualities they enjoy. Students also mentioned liking the parks, wildlife, hiking and friendly neighbors in the Santa Clarita Valley. Among their dislikes, students identified traffic, pollution, too many houses and "higher prices." Also listed under those characteristics they found disagreeable were construction, crime, the electricity crisis, and the existence of too many factories.

In the second exercise, *Places, Spaces and Words*, students were asked again to illustrate their responses to various prompts about the Valley. The prompts included the following: *Scary, Fun, Cool, Pretty, Explorable, Dangerous, Boring* and *Curious*. Students mostly answered similarly to the previous exercise citing hiking, mountains, wildlife, sports and theme parks under the *Fun, Cool, Pretty*, and *Explorable* prompts. For the *Scary, Dangerous*, and *Boring* prompts students listed natural disasters, snakes and bugs, crossing the street and homework most frequently. Responses to *Curious* included roller coasters, chocolate factories, books, and blooming plants.

Santa Clarita Valley Vision Statements

Ms. Krantz—*Sierra Vista Jr. High, grades 7 and 8*

Students composed vision statements for the Valley in 2020 that articulated desires for more schools, more kid-oriented places, and additional public safety services such as fire stations and a new hospital. Common themes stated were the desire for less development in the Valley, increased open space and better safety. Students are happy with entertainment options in the Valley, although they would like to see more community centers, improvement of the existing mall, or the addition of new mall in Canyon Country. Several students identified the need for more buses, improving the perception of buses or utilizing electric buses. Students realized but did not resolve the conflict between a desire for the conveniences of a more urban area-shops



and roads- with the desire for the preservation of the Valley’s rural heritage. While many students indicated there were too many houses in the Valley, others identified a need for housing variety in both type and price options. They also specified they would like to see more recycling in schools.

In addition to composing written statements for their visions of the Valley in 2020, students were also asked to create collages of images representing their visions. Those collages included images characterizing:

- Too many houses, “stop development”
- The need for more schools
- Desire for increased open space
- More after-school programs and community sports
- Wildlife protection
- Improved roads
- More job opportunities
- More trails
- More parks with active and passive recreation

Santa Clarita Valley 2020

Mrs. Phillips — *Canyon High School ASB, grades 9-12*

Students in Mrs. Phillips’ ASB classes were not optimistic for the future of the Valley. In general, they saw a continuation of current trends leading to population overcrowding, too many houses, too much traffic and not enough schools. Pollution and lack of employment opportunities were viewed as possible side effects of this continued unchecked development. The Valley’s characteristic ridgeline and hillside topography is also threatened by the rampant development of housing.

Santa Clarita Valley Vision Statements

Mr. Arrowsmith—*Saugus H.S. grades 9-12*

Mr. Arrowsmith’s students composed group vision statements for the SCV 2020. The common themes were:

- Preservation of the environment-ridgelines and open space
- Construction of more schools
- Halt development
- End overcrowding
- Continue cultural diversity
- Provide more safety services
- Provide more activities for teenagers
- Flourishing commercial and entertainment centers
- Restoration of oak habitat

A divergence of opinions was evident between students who wanted more development with increased shopping and restaurant opportunities and those who want no more development in the Valley.