

To all community members, county Administration and staff who contributed observations, concerns, ideas and aspirations to the County Strategic Planning Process, we owe a debt of gratitude.

The inclusion of diverse perspectives is crucial to planning the County's future.



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Executive Summary

What follows is the draft 2023 Imperial County five-year Strategic Plan. This draft is unique in its design and development to ensure it includes input from the diverse communities and people of Imperial County. The emphasis on community input was a priority set by the Board of Supervisors. This draft includes comments gleaned from a survey and from meetings, events, small group, and individual interviews with more than 900 local residents from various demographic groups, ages, and communities throughout the County. Business and civic groups and regional organizations also participated in the extensive community visioning process. Members of the Board of Supervisors, County administrators, and staff also provided comments and ideas in an extensive schedule of meetings and workshops.

Modified Mission and Vision Statements are included for the Board of Supervisors' consideration. The draft contains goals and strategies. However, the development of robust objectives, including timelines and specifics needed to realize some plans, was limited by County staffing, funding, and other concerns.

Details of issues (i.e., funding, changes in state and federal mandates, aging infrastructure, etc.) impacting the County's current operations and its ability to overcome challenges and realize opportunities are discussed further in a section of this summary labeled "Observations."



PROCESS:

 Received input from members of the Board of Supervisors about issues facing the County.

Designed an extensive community outreach and information-gathering plan to ensure that the diverse people and communities of Imperial County are at the heart of the Strategic Plan.

Developed an Imperial County visioning questionnaire based on 20 key issues identified that was used for meetings with County administrators and staff. A bilingual version of the questionnaire was adapted to gather comments in community and interest group meetings.

Held a series of workshops with County department heads and staff to identify concerns and challenges within the County government and those facing the people of the County, as well as suggested changes.

Developed a community outreach and information-gathering process that invited dialogue by asking open-ended questions about issues, perceptions, ideas, and proposed changes. Met with County community advisory committees to get their input.

Developed a community vision survey that was administered at the California Mid-Winter Fair, at various community, civic, and business group meetings, and on the homepage of the Imperial County website. A total of 123 surveys were collected. (A copy of the survey and a spreadsheet of comments are included in the appendix.)

Input from community members was also gathered at meetings held throughout the community that focused on issues such as lithium development, Salton Sea concerns, and proposed geothermal development.

Altogether, comments from more than900 people were captured.

Held multiple meetings with County department heads and staff to refine objectives and invite proposed projects for their departments to implement to attain goals of the draft County Strategic Plan.

OBSERVATIONS:

From the start of the process, change and challenge were a constant for Imperial County.

For instance:

The potential closure of El Centro Regional Medical Center announced in December and state legislation to create a single hospital district.

Lithium Valley and the permitting of Energy Source lithium extraction facility near the Salton Sea.

The drought on the Colorado River that threatens the Imperial Valley's sole water supply. The governor's executive order mandating the end of the sale of combustion engines in the state by 2035, which has a dramatic impact on the County's fleet and charging infrastructure.

A governor-proposed plan to divert some of Behavioral Health funds to homeless housing.

Two major flooding events hit Imperial County in the space of two weeks, necessitating an all-out emergency services response and disaster declaration.

Increasing fragmentation of local media coverage.



These and other changes come as the County administration and local communities continue to reel from employment and social issues exacerbated by the pandemic.

A pervasive sense of burnout and frustration over staffing and funding complicated the County administration process of developing objectives with detailed budgets and timelines.

And in meetings with community groups, there was a frustration over isolation and a skepticism about whether anything would change.

But the one constant in all the meetings held is that the people of Imperial County love their community and they want to see it improve and provide more opportunities.

Strategic Plan Outreach

Visioning Meeting / Group	# of Individuals Contacted	Communities Represented
Dec - Jan		
Supervisors	5	
Jan 17		
IC Departments, Public Safety	18	
IC Departments, Finance, Gen Gov	28	
Jan 19	105	
IC Lithium Specific Plan Workshop, Calipatria High School	125	Various demographics, including North- end communities, electeds, EJ and Social Justice Leader
Jan 23		
IC Departments, Land Use, Environment	25	
Jan 25		
IC Departments, Health, HR	17	
Jan 30		
IC Local Health Authority	14	
Feb 22		
IC Transportation Committee	14	Cities, county, IID
Feb 23		Calipatria, Niland, Bombay Beach, Slabs,
Northend Action Council	20	Salton Sea communities; ÉJ and Social
March 2		Justive representatives, media Calexico
Equity/Social Justice Leader	1	Culexico
March 3-12	122	
CA Mid-Winter Fair Booth (completed surveys counted separate)	120	Various Communities
March 6		
Ocotillo Community Advisory Committee	10	Ocotillo Area
March 8		
COLAB Strategic Plan Workshop	14	Various Communities
March 10		
EC Kiwanis Club	12	El Centro
Märch 20 March 20	When while while all	We all a strate and a street and
Farm Bureau // Veg Growers	11	Various Communities
March 22		
ICTC Visioning Session	12	Cities, County, IID
March 27	a state a	
Heber Community Advisory Committee	4	Heber
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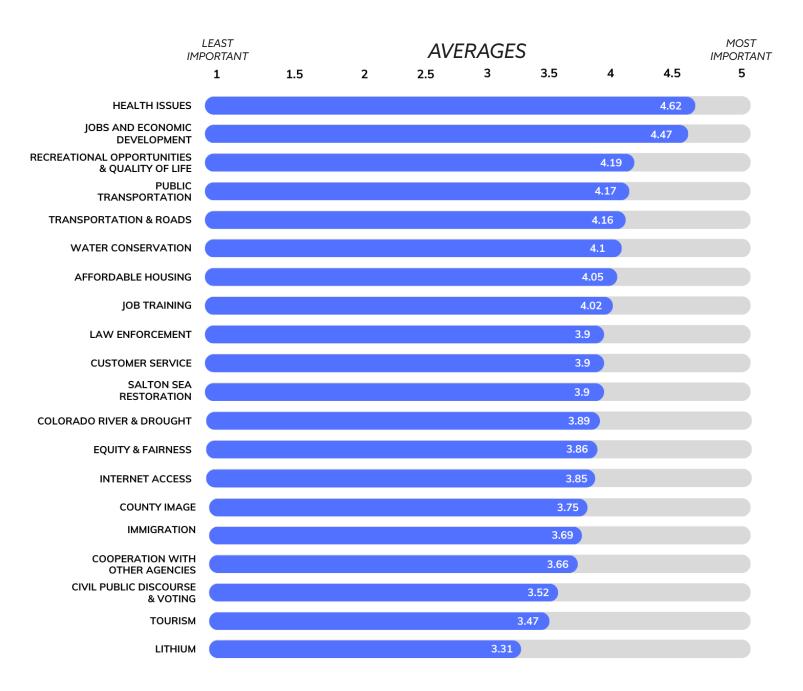
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Visioning Meeting / Group	# of Individuals Contacted	Communities Represented
March 28 IC Ad Hoc Election Advisory Committee	5	Electeds, EJ County Staff
April 4	5	·····, · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
West Shores Community Advisory Committee	75	Salton City, Desert Shores, EJ Social
April 12		Justice groups
IV Regional Chamber of Commerce	10	El Centro, Imperial, Westmorland
AB 617 Committee, Heber	18	Social, environmental justice, Heber, Calexico and various other areas
April 18		
IC Mental Health Advisory Committee	12	Various communities
April 19		
ICOE Schools' Superintendents	12	Education
May 1		
Los Amigos de la Comunidad	1	Civic engagement, equity, inclusion
May 2		Education (
IVC Leadership Cabinet	6	Education
May 3 Imperial Rotary Club	17	Imperial area
, ,	17	Impendiarea
May 5-16 Workshop on the Salton Sea Management Plan	75	Various communities including EJ, Social Justice Leader and communities around
	/5	Justice Leader and communities around the Salton Sea
May 22 Brawley Chamber of Commerce		Brawley Area
March 3 - May 16	7	,
Community surveys collected at the fair, county website and various group presentations	123	
Aug 31		
CA Energy Commission Scoping hearing for BHE		
geothermal plants	100	
Sept 9		
Prospective candidates for Public Office at Candidate Training held by COLAB and the IC Registrar of Voters	23	The states and the st
Week of Sept 18 Representative for Veterans	1	
	and an and the determined	and an approved the second

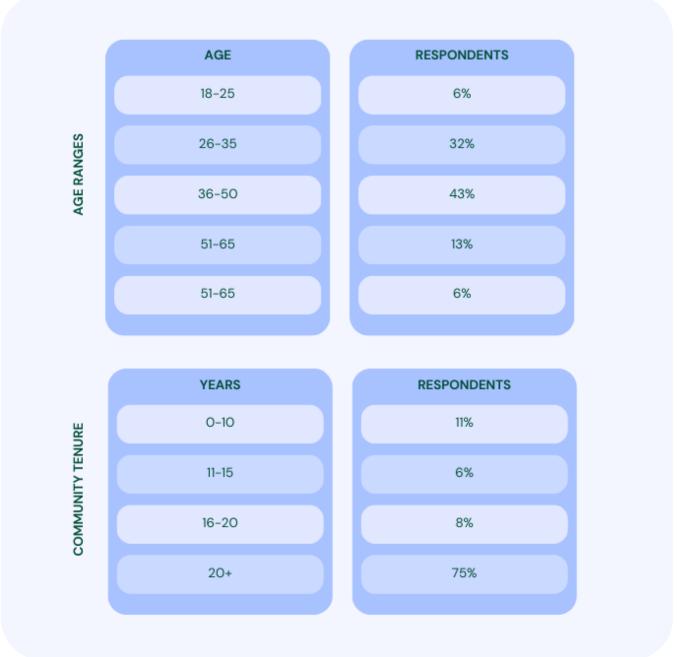
TOTAL: 935

Consolidated Community Visioning Survey Results



Consolidated Community Visioning Survey Results

COMMUNITY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Sample of Strategic Plan Outreach Comments

"Community relations and civic engagement."

Challenges

"Cross-border traffic tears up roads."

Changes Needed

"Healthcare - few doctors, patients wait too long."

Changes Needed

"We are a familyoriented community."

Quality of life

"The reason we are getting attention - we have something others want."

Advantages

CHALLENGES

- " Our technology is aging out."
- "County has technology silos, one system or program doesn't talk to other."
- "The world is passing us by without better systems."
- "Transportation."
- "Housing need affordable houses."
- "Job creation."
- "Environmental Hazards"
- "Need community spaces for recreation."

CHANGES NEEDED

Lack a unified voice in approaching state/ feds, but opportunity to unify advocacy on multiple issues."

"Small population - we lack representation."

"Public projects don't merge across jurisdiction lines."

- "We need more collaboration."
- "Too parochial."
- "Need to look at greater good."
- * "Attitudes."

* "Need direct aid services that are accessible for community with an expansion of hours and staff."

"Lack of local services."

* "Need post office, P.O. Boxes rebuilt in Niland - without having to go into Calipatria for mail."

ADVANTAGES

"Quiet towns, quaint".

Perfect location for small ag county, so close to everything - Mexico, AZ, metropolitan areas, etc."

"We have people from everywhere living here."

Communities have each other's back - like family."

"Everyone supports those in need in times of crisis."

- * "The culture there is a strong sense of community pride."
- "Friendly rivalry."
- * "There is so much potential here natural resources, location to border, metro areas."
- Potential, especially with climate change."
- "We are growing."
- "There is a community and unity here because we are often marginalized by others outside the county.""
- > "We are unique and very resourceful."
- "Low cost of water & power."
- "Labor is available."
- * "Metro areas around Valley are maxed out."

"Becoming a competitor to Phoenix, logistically."

- "Great potential for the future."
- * "Development opportunities."
- "Close to international commerce."
- * "Advantage over Otay Mesa maxed out."
- "Mexico labor at the border."
- "Unique size small compared to Mexicali."
- "Fluid border Mexicali residents work here, crossborder traffic brings shopping here."

"We know our neighbors and look out for one another."

"We're protective of our Valley; want to partner with other but to direct the change." Easy access to commerce on both sides of

the border."

- "'That will never happen here' attitude".
- "Delays ... farmworkers can't cross border."
- Planning/Building approval process is too slow."
- "Overdependent on autos"
- "We look at things the same old way it's a barrier to improvement and growth."

"Skilled workforce and those with higher education often leave rather than stay."

* "Workforce & Housing are the biggest challenges."

- "Hospitals are a big issue."
- "We need to get rid of low-income stigma/ mindset."

"Many communities are isolated without internet."

We need broadban, so all have access to internet."

"How to eliminate stigma and belief that we don't deserve or cannot have anything else."

"We need to start with small successes."

* "Need to build unity and set prioritiesto address issues."

"We look at scarcity, rather than see opportunity - change the lens."

QUALITY OF LIFE

- "Cost of living."
- Slow pace of life."
- "We have good schools."
- "People care about one another."
- "We feel like a family."
- * "Really good people, know neighbors we all talk".

Short commute to all communities for work".

- * "Lower crime rate."
- "Good pace of life."
- "Work-life balance."



Draft Mission & Vision Statements

Mission Statement

Work collaboratively to sustain fiscal integrity, instill community pride and support continuous improvements to provide high quality, efficient services to residents, businesses and visitors.

Vision Statement

To foster a flourishing economy and facilitate opportunities for residents, workers, and recreational enthusiasts, while honoring the diversity of the population, the distinctive characteristics of the region, and the County agricultural legacy.

OUTCOMES

Imperial County will be inclusive, unified and engaged.

Imperial County will connect with communities, offering collaboration and leadership to identify solutions to collective concerns and to raise the region's political clout with state and federal governments.

Imperial County will foster safe communities.

Imperial County will enhance prosperity for all by leading regional economic development, job creation and economic sustainability in coordination with existing local city and community efforts.

Imperial County will eliminate existing or perceived barriers to make the county more user friendly.







GOALS, STRATEGIES OR STEPS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

1. Leadership, Collaboration and Quality of Life

Lead collaborative efforts to improve quality of life by positioning Imperial County as a county that is friendly to development and job creation as well as improving fiscal vitality and the overall quality of life for all residents and businesses.



2. Improve Regional Mobility

Advance infrastructure throughout Imperial County by upgrading roads and bridges and expanding all facets of transit, including those arising from economic growth.

STRATEGIES



Promote the utilization of forward-thinking strategies to finance and proactively address road and bridge improvements.



Advocate at the Federal, State, and Local levels for a greater share of state funding for roads, bridges and transit in Imperial County.



Advocate for CalTrans to open an office within Imperial County with decision-making authority to work more closely with the county and cities.

3. Better Customer Service

Put people first by improving county services and technology.

STRATEGIES



Improve customer service by enhancing online services and payment options.



Provide ongoing customer service training for county employees.



Develop one-stop shop permitting and planning services, using online services as much as possible.



Address public safety coverage (Fire and Sheriff) to ensure adequate coverage throughout the Valley.

4. Fiscal Sustainability and Efficiencies

Ensure the County's fiscal sustainability through efficiencies, workforce improvements and development of new funding sources.

STRATEGIES



Review and ensure fees charged for services cover actual costs.



Examine staffing levels and address pay to ensure appropriate staffing.



Review all funding sources and explore new potential funding opportunities to determine how best to meet county service needs.



Identify and implement necessary efficiency improvements to reduce costs and improve services.



Review and revise county policies and processes to reduce and eliminate unnecessary bottlenecks.



training.

Create professional development

initiatives and other departmental



Facilitate the use of interns and other Workforce Development programs.



Streamline recruitment, hiring and employment processes.

5. Jobs & Economic Development

Create jobs and Economic Development to diversify the economy while preserving and enhancing the county's agricultural assets.

STRATEGIES



Lead a regional collaborative economic development and job creation effort.



Establish one-stop services, including enhanced online access, for planning and permitting, including industry expansion.



Implement the Lithium workforce and infrastructure plan.



Identify and reduce barriers that inhibit economic development.

Summary of Proposed Department Projects

Goal	Imperial County Department Projects
	Agricultural Commissioner
Communications	A project to enhance department outreach and educate the community about agriculture and services the Department provides.
	Imperial County Behavioral Health
Customer Service/Efficiency	1. Improve service by implementing comprehensive customer service training, use quarterly surveys of clients and staff to determine satisfaction. Goal is to improve service by 10 percent by end of 2023-24.
	2. Enhance county advisory committees to pay particular attention to gain input from rural communities. Advertise advisory meetings and provide Zoom for those interested in participating with goal of increasing participation and feedback by 10 percent.
Leadership and Collaboration	3. A) ICBH will assign a leadership representative to actively participate in discussions and activies to promote collaborative work and advocacy. B) ICBH also will work collaboratively with county leaders and community members to establish a platform where rural communiities can develop their own representative groups.
Fiscal Sustainability, infrastructure, and technology	Improve by 20 percent ICBH staff's knowledge and skill of software used for their assignment. Provide training and pre and post training surveys to determine progress to reach the goal by end of FY 23-24.
	Increase by 20 percent amount of provider time spent with patients by decreasing administrative burden on providers through the use of new Electronic Health Record and documentation requirements. ICBH will assign and train staff on the new EHR system with the goal of increasing time spent with patients by 20 percent by end of FY 23-24
	Increase by 10 percent ICBH's workforce by creating a campaign to attract individuals into the behavioral health field
	Department of Child Support Services
Leadership and Collaboration	Continuing participation in the Southern Inland Region Child Support Collaborative (SIRC) and work with Kern, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties to better serve our shared customers.
	Continue existing partnerships with child support stakeholders in Baja California, Mexico to assure services are accessible to children regardless of residency.
	Continue working with San Diego, Orange, Riverside, Los Angeles, Kern, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura to create a process to help connect Child Support customers who may have a case in a county where they do not live.
Economic Development and Job Creation	Enter an MOU with county Workforce and Economic Development to refer all unemployed child support clients for potential employment or specialized skill training to satisfy a court order.
Fiscal Sustainability, infrastructure, and technology	Continue promoting the Simplified Enrollment Process (SEP) to those needing to open a child support case instantaneously and online within minutes.
	Imperial County Fleet Services
Quality of Life	Transition fleet to zero emmision vehicles (ZEV) over next 20 years.
Leadership	Collaborate with state, local, federal and private stakeholders to plan design and develop ZEV infrastructure for county and public use.
Customer service/Efficiency	Use GPS software to best manage county fleet operation.
Infrastructure	Plan to develop electric and hydrogen charging for county and public vehicles.
	Human Resources & Risk Management
Customer Service/Efficiency	1. Transition from a paper performance evaluation system to an online process that provides transparency and engagement between employees and managers.
-	2. Reviewed the county's current recruitment timelines and determined if they are longer than needed. Streamline and reduce countywide recruitment time from 14 to 7 days as of 2024.
	3. Attract potential applicants for hard to recruit positions by developing classifications and competitive compensation to attract professional level interns by 2024.
	4. Expand employee recognition program.
	Probation Department
Public Safety	Develop Project Reach. With grant funds, the Department plans to purchase a truck and trailer that will function as a mobile Probation Office to meet with clients who are homeless and who live in remote locations in the County.

Collaboration and Leadership	Entered an agreement with SDSU Imperial Valley to provide hands-on experience to students majoring in criminal justice, criminology, psychology, sociology or related majors as interns through a program called Volunteers in Probation.
	Imperial County Public Health Department
Colaboration and Leadership	1. Establish ongoing communication with CEO's propsed equity staff. Support health equity-related efforts of the newly established CEO's equity office. Expand the Public Health Department's health equity program to further address health disparities and advance health equity efforts. Maintain health equity-related position(s) within the Public Health Department to ensure long term sustainability of the program.
	Develop and implement a health equity plan. Offer training to Department staff on health-equity related topics.
	Increase collaboration efforts.Coordinate with partners and support efforts centered around health equity-related topics. By June 30, 2028, the Public Health Department will have enhanced its existing health equity work through partnerships across County departments and partners.
	2. Partner with IID and Agricultural Industry to assist in managing drought issues by promote water conservation strategies.
	In collaboration with partners, assess the feasibility of banking surface and groundwater as a contingency plan for long-term sustainability for residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural needs.
	By June 30, 2028, as a result of partnerships and cooperative work, assessment will be completed, findings presented, and next steps identified for contingency planning.
Fiscal Sustainability, infrastructure, and technology	3. Adopt an integrated communications framework, enhance existing communications plan, and implement strategic marketing to enhance Public Health Department brand recognition and improve internal and external communication. Offer training for staff
	Prioritize and implement technology initiatives that enhance service delivery and increase efficiency. Secure a qualifie consultant to analyze processes and strategies. Implement strategies to enhance services and increase efficiencies.
	By June 30, 2028, the Public Health Department will incorporate communications framework and technological enhancements based on a completed comprehensive analysis of business processes report.
	4. Assess and update Public Health Department fee schedules and conduct regular assessment of department fees.
	5. Ensure staff are trained and informed on new fee schedules. And implement communication strategies to ensure new fee schedules information is available and accessible to the community. By June 30, 2028, the update, communication and training will be completed.
	6. Create and coordinate professional development programs and activities aimed at recruiting and retaining Public Health Department staff.
	By June 30, 2028, a comprehensive workforce development/onboarding program that aligns with Public Health Department accreditation standards and measures will be implemented at the Public Health Department.
	Coordinate training activities for Public Health Department employees.
	By June 30, 2028, a comprehensive web-based onboarding program that aligns with Public Health Department accreditation standards and measures will be set-up and implemented at the Public Health Department.
	Collaborate with academic institutions and others to make internship, fellowship and/or volunteer opportunities available to individuals interested in public health careers.
	By June 30, 2028, a formalized Public Health Department-level internship program that promotes Public Health Department – academic institution partnership will be integrated into the Department's processes and policies.
Leadership and collaboration	Registrar of Voters
	1. Proposed transition to Voter Center Model in the County to comply with the California Voters' Choice Act.
	2. Recently held a candidate training workshop in conjunction with the Coalition of Labor, Ag, and Business to encourage civic engagement by providing information for anyone considering running for office.





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Appendix

COMMUNITY MEETINGS & SURVEY COMMENTS (abbrev.)

Develop resources despite being resource-isolated; figure things out, make them work	Collaboration/leadership
Regional collaboration gives region exposure to higher individuals at state, federal levels	Collaboration/leadership
Protective; want to partner but to direct the change	Collaboration/leadership
Good networking	Collaboration/leadership
Being in California/red tape	Collaboration/leadership
State regulations -i of 3 most regulated states in the nation	Collaboration/leadership
State, federal governments don't pay attention to the needs of the county	Collaboration/leadership
Post-pandemic level of regional communication is inadequate	Collaboration/leadership
Inequity in funding, with I.C. getting the short stick	Collaboration/leadership
Inadequate communication to the community	Collaboration/leadership
26 departments (13 programs) doing things differently	Collaboration/leadership
Manuals of procedure, SOPs, are hit and miss.	Collaboration/leadership
Get message across to state/feds that the county needs help to fix social equity issues	Collaboration/leadership
Local messages need to be changed/improved to get state/feds to pay attention to the community's needs	Collaboration/leadership
Need appropriate zoning to protect ag/NAF El Centro	Collaboration/leadership
Go after Grants	Collaboration/leadership
Get more people to vote	Collaboration/leadership
Educate voters	Collaboration/leadership
Need a more personal approach hold town hall meetings	Collaboration/leadership
Show what county accomplished from its previous strategic plan	Collaboration/leadership
Roads/infrastructure needs and lack of funding opportunity for advocacy	Collaboration/leadership
train derailment tanker on curve of Union Pacific Opportunities for advocacy	Collaboration/leadership
Lack a unified voice in approaching state/feds but opportunity to unify advocacy on multiple issues	Collaboration/leadership
Small population means we lack representation	Collaboration/leadership
Public project don't merge across jurisdiction lines	Collaboration/leadership
We need more collaboration	Collaboration/leadership
Too parochial	Collaboration/leadership
Need to look at greater good	Collaboration/leadership
Need leadership with the right perspective	Collaboration/leadership
But need to do better vetting for elected leaders -check on criminal backgrounds	Collaboration/leadership
Lack engagement with public	Collaboration/leadership
Have each supervisor embrace one of the strategic plan goals	Collaboration/leadership
We need vision	Collaboration/leadership
We need better vetting for elected leaders - check on criminal backgrounds	Collaboration/leadership
There is a lack of engagement with the public and elected leaders	Collaboration/leadership
Need partnerships	Collaboration/leadership
IID working to expand Public Affairs department, outreach	Collaboration/leadership
Mental health help	Collaboration/leadership
Have supervisors be champions for roads, hospitals housing	Collaboration/leadership
Have county run as a business	Collaboration/leadership
Close-knit community/ cohesive community	Collaboration/leadership
Minimal representation at state/federal levels	Collaboration/leadership
California regulations making it hard to do business here	Collaboration/leadership
Zoning issues	Collaboration/leadership
Ag/IID often clash	Collaboration/leadership
County, Board of Supervisors ignorant of agricultural industry	Collaboration/leadership
Not having the Williamson Act a deterrent to preserving agriculture here	Collaboration/leadership
Lack of knowledge about ag and the GDP of the county	Collaboration/leadership
Leadership in ag needs to take a bigger role with county, but little time	Collaboration/leadership
So many safety regulations and measures hurt ag and no one cares	Collaboration/leadership
CUPA continues to be an issue got rid of use of ammonia for cooling, though better for the environment	
than freon because of CUPA demands	Collaboration/leadership

Need to add mandatory fee onto tires (now voluntary) for an easy fix	Collaboration/leadership
Need to add mandatory fee onto tires (now voluntary) for an easy fix	Collaboration/leadership
IID, county need to make sure we don't become the dump for all California John Gay is moving in the right direction, but need more done	Collaboration/leadership Collaboration/leadership
County should try working with IID to better market and lobby to protect our water with the \$200 million	
District has in ag reserves	Collaboration/leadership
Ag would welcome industry and business diversification	Collaboration/leadership
Ag needs 3-phase power lines, but difficult, expensive to get zoning approval from county	Collaboration/leadership
Beware of other countries working to take advantage of us, our water, resources	Collaboration/leadership
Ag community needs to support people, elected who support ag	Collaboration/leadership
Too few in ag understand or care about advocacy now here	Collaboration/leadership
Need accountability - too many in county government marking time till they retire	Collaboration/leadership
There needs to be accountability	Collaboration/leadership
EJ groups in Riverside taking over, impossible to farm now in Orange County	Collaboration/leadership
We should annex to Yuma	Collaboration/leadership
We need the crop report plus done more often and in greater depth so locals and others understand the value of ag here	Collaboration/leadership
Competing interests	Collaboration/leadership
Limited funding opportunities that all have to compete for	Collaboration/leadership
But when there is a fire/crisis we all work together	Collaboration/leadership
Starting to think regionally more	Collaboration/leadership
A lot of competing interests	Collaboration/leadership
We are often fighting for crumbs	Collaboration/leadership
Starting to work together IID-IC have 2on2 mtgs; IID starting to have 2on2 mtgs with cities	Collaboration/leadership
IC has 2on2 mtgs with S.D., Yuma	Collaboration/leadership
There is more relationship building happening, making it easier to share	Collaboration/leadership
We are starting conversations	Collaboration/leadership
2-on-2s more informal, collaborative	Collaboration/leadership
Northend is more underserved; that makes it difficult to compete	Collaboration/leadership
CalTrans is showing up more	Collaboration/leadership
Outside, IC gets treated differently/is often forgotten	Collaboration/leadership
Reason we are getting attention now is we have something others want	Collaboration/leadership
At lithium mtg in Calipat with the Secretary of Energy, local cities, agencies were not united. Everyone was there with their hands out	Collaboration/leadership
We can unite against SD, SCAG	Collaboration/leadership
New initiative, if passed, would eliminate all taxes, could kill the lithium tax. Need to campaign against it	Collaboration/leadership
Cities need good policy	Collaboration/leadership
Look at Yuma as an example - there all agencies, everyone one came together to join ag in fighting an effort to buy land for water rights and transfer	Collaboration/leadership
We could learn to be more like Yuma	Collaboration/leadership
Good policy lifts everybody	Collaboration/leadership
We need to quit worrying about who gets credit	Collaboration/leadership
CalTrans officials working here 33 years see a chance to re-invent things post-pandemic	Collaboration/leadership
Reach out to CalTrans - many opportunities	Collaboration/leadership
Interpersonal relationships very important with CalTrans, used to know staffs at all cities, county, now not so much	Collaboration/leadership
We need to drive around, look at everything , see where we can collaborate	Collaboration/leadership
CalTrans is a great partner w. ICTC	Collaboration/leadership
Make sure ICTC has what it needs to support region	Collaboration/leadership
ICT has multiple platforms that can be used to reach everyone.	Collaboration/leadership
Should have a mtg with all ICTC agencies at supervisors chambers to focus on issues where we can work together	Collaboration/leadership
Still don't have votes here to have a voice in state, fed legislatures	Collaboration/leadership
Too many roadblocks, need more open conversations	Collaboration/leadership
With limited resources, need to partner with local agencies for solutions. It's the only way to go	Collaboration/leadership
We are working with IID to put in culverts to reduce complexity and cost of replacing some bridges	Collaboration/leadership
Have to understand no one else is going to save the county so come up with local solutions	Collaboration/leadership
Must rely on out-of-the-box thinking, be creative	Collaboration/leadership
We need to demand more outside the Valley	Collaboration/leadership
We should define our priorities and work together to get them	Collaboration/leadership
Start by establishing baseline of what is acceptable for local agencies	Collaboration/leadership
We need to demand more to upset the current metrics	Collaboration/leadership
We need to go after grants, but there must be sustainability	Collaboration/leadership
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Must attract industry Economic development Use incentives to attract industry Economic development And do a better job of vetting industry Economic development State tax on lithium could kill the industry Economic development Must attract industry Economic development Use incentives can help attract industry Economic development Tax incentives can help attract industry Economic development But must do a better job of vetting industry Economic development The state tax on lithium could kill the industry Economic development Incentives exist with the state ie. CIIP, CTR - 75 percent property tax rebate to company for 1st 15 years Economic development Also Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District - which keeps tax in the district for infrastructure Economic development Also Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District - which keeps tax in the district for infrastructure Economic development VBA will pay up to \$75.000 ocloge for vets who will work, have biz here Economic development VBA will pay up to \$75.000 ocloge for vets who will work, have biz here Economic development The courty sees lithium as the next big thing, but ignores existing ag Economic development Put a cap on ag-to-solar conversions <td< th=""></td<>
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Lack of educated workforce to encourage industry relocation Economic Development
New lithium plant; environmental, economic impact Economic Development
Lithium Valley Economic Development
Tourism Economic Development
Proximity to another country and state Economic Development
Agriculture Economic Development
Renewable Energy Economic Development
Economy Economic Development
Lithium Economic Development
Mineral Resources Economic Development
Job opportunities/diversity Economic Development
Agriculture Economic Development
Lithium/potential for economic development Economic Development
Potential for growth Economic Development
Natural resources Economic Development
Lithium, land, water Economic Development
4 borders; Mexicali, universities across the border Economic Development
Border Economic Development
Lithium/water Economic Development
Natural resources, opportunities for economic growth Economic Development
Location; water access and availability Economic Development
Rich in natural resources Economic Development
1 of 6 jobs is agriculture; \$2.2 billion industry; sole producer of some crops; #6 statewie of others Economic Development
Solar taking out farm ground and jobs Economic Development

Geographical location	Economic Development
Competitive salaries	Economic Development
Lack of workforce	Economic Development
Flexibility in certain professions	Economic Development
Attraction of business	Economic Development
Economic development	Economic Development
Beautification	Economic Development
Ag industry - 1 of 6 jobs	Economic Development
#1 in CA producer of sugarbeets, sudan hay, sweet corn, carrots, vegetable seed and alfalfa hay	Economic Development
Rich in natural resources - geothermal, solar, wind, lithium	Economic Development
Proximity to Mexico - access to major markets with over 22k phytosanitary export certificates issued	
	Economic Development
Water availability	Economic Development
Future of water is a serious concern. Local agriculture cannot thrive without water; our community and economy depend upon agriculture	Economic Development
Invasive agricultural pests constantly threaten crop production. With global travel and transport being	
commonplace, invasive pests have increased	Economic Development
Drought and claims to Colorado River rights we hold through IID	Economic Development
Increase of solar famrs and the taking out of ag lands	Economic Development
Additional resources into Pesticide Use Enforcement division. To curb concerns and promote safe, effective use of pesticides, more inspections are performed annually	Economic Development
	Economic Development
Open land	Economic Development
Great weather	Economic Development
Centrally located between San Diega, Los Angeles, Arizona, Mexico	Economic Development
Geothermal and mineral resources	Economic Development
Skilled labor	Economic Development
Diverse economy	Economic Development
Develop potential with lithium and gateway	Economic Development
Water resource	Economic Development
Ag - lithium development	Economic Development
Water issues in general (countywide)	Economic Development
Space for growth	Economic Development
Good location, centrally located in middle of 25 million people in surrounding metro areas, Mexicali	Economic development & jobs
Really good people, know neighbors "we all talk"	Economic development & jobs
Low cost of water/power	Economic development & jobs
Lower crime rate	Image and Attitude
Good pace of life	Image and Attitude
Work-life balance	Image and Attitude
Adaptable/ flexible	Image and Attitude
Close-knit community	Image and Attitude
Resilient, adaptable	Image and Attitude
Being bicultural is double-edged sword	Image and Attitude
Social Equity	Image and Attitude
Small population	Image and Attitude
Low voter turnout	Image and Attitude
Attitudes	Image and Attitude
"That will never happen here" mentality	Image and Attitude
We look at things the same old way -that's a barrier to improvement and growth	Image and Attitude
We look at scarcity, rather than see opportunity -CHANGE THE LENS	Image and Attitude
Issues of Equity and Justice	Image and Attitude
We need vision	Image and Attitude
How to communicate with the public?	Image and Attitude
People only show up to complain	Image and Attitude
Read "Rants & Raves	Image and Attitude
Easier to "rent" than to change	Image and Attitude
In Mexico people do not trust government -85 percent Hispanic here	Image and Attitude
Decrease apathy	Image and Attitude
Hire a consultant to help us see what we are good at	Image and Attitude
People don't know that benefits are available	Image and Attitude
Make sure information reaches all audiences	Image and Attitude

Students do not apply for ag internships - they are misguided about ag	Infrastructure and Technology
Lack of educational programs related to ag	Infrastructure and Technology
Kids staying local for college don't get information/programs that guide them to ag	Infrastructure and Technology
Tried to start a seed breeding program for college students but didn't get school support - like speaking a	
different	Infrastructure and Technology
Need buy-in from SDSU IV and IVC for ag	Infrastructure and Technology
Since county closeted the dumps people are dumping stuff onto farm fields creating a big problem	Infrastructure and Technology
If the waste is not picked up right away more people dump there	Infrastructure and Technology
There is water for and and industry here - if it is kept here	Infrastructure and Technology
We prefer to transfer water within the county so the region can thrive rather than have it go outside	Infrastructure and Technology
Water from fields converted to solar farms should stay in the ag pool, not used for transfer	Infrastructure and Technology
Workload/staff time	Infrastructure and Technology
Schedules	Infrastructure and Technology
Need water to grow	Infrastructure and Technology
County GIS not fully implemented, we need to expand its uses	Infrastructure and Technology
Implement more robust technology, offer technology training	Infrastructure and Technology
Our technology is aging out	Infrastructure and Technology
County has technology silos, one system, or program, doesn't talk to another	Infrastructure and Technology
The world is passing us by without better systems	Infrastructure and Technology
Need better information systems, technology, and training department by department on information systems	Infrastructure and Technology
The new workforce and olders workers view technology differently, and it's creating challenges	Infrastructure and Technology
We need an electronic payment system and portal for payments to the county, not isolated used by one	
dept or another	Infrastructure and Technology
We need translation services at all public meetings	Infrastructure and Technology
Returning employees after COVID has been challenging	Infrastructure and Technology
COVID had a negative effect on people's emotions, it changed relationships	Infrastructure and Technology
Other tangible assets (IID and water rights), lith and critical minerals will be pivotable.	Infrastructure and Technology
Cost of housing is lower here than surrounding areas. There are a lot of people who live here and	
commute to san diego and riverside counties.	
	Infrastructure and Technology
Most (behavioral health) doctors we assist with their visas have done schooling elsewhere, do residency	
in U.S.; afterward we recruit them and they apply for calif license.	Infrastructure and Technology
Good schools	Infrastructure and Technology
Want to make sure Heber gets services it needs	Infrastructure and Technology
Security and safety needs to be addressed	Infrastructure and Technology
1 sheriff's deputy is not adequate	Infrastructure and Technology
Heber is in the county, but needs certain services like a city	Infrastructure and Technology
We need more activities for kids, especially in the summer	Infrastructure and Technology
Want the gym open in the summer for programs for kids	Infrastructure and Technology
Community is safer now, but needs more	Infrastructure and Technology
Want to have sheriff work with us to start a Neighborhood Watch program	Infrastructure and Technology
How does the county assess what the needs of the town are?	Infrastructure and Technology
Since county closed the dumps people are dumping stuff onto farm fields creating a big problem	Infrastructure and Technology
The affordable housing project proposed may provide housing, but creates its own problems, like crime	Infrastructure and Technology
What is the county going to do to provide better law enforcement in Heber	Infrastructure and Technology
What is happening with the Mira Luz Affordable Housing project? And McCabe Road II, we want an update	Infrastructure and Technology
Potential, especially in time of climate change	Infrastructure and Technology
Community is welcoming lithium as has not happened before	Infrastructure and Technology
We have a lot of advantages, off road activities, Glamis, the desert, fresh air.	Infrastructure and Technology
We need to focus on developing our natural resources to create sustainability	Infrastructure and Technology
Even with a college education, it is difficult to get a job here	Infrastructure and Technology
Hard for county to get a pool of qualified candidates because of salaries	Infrastructure and Technology
We used to lose good employees to the prisons, now we lose them to private practices	Infrastructure and Technology
Now hiring an election coordinator and hiring two new election technicians to keep the rolls up to date we	
were able to propose and supervisors agreed to fund them with Solar Public Benefits funding	Infrastructure and Technology
Education needs to push civic engagement	Infrastructure and Technology
It is hard for Social Services to recruit and retain good employees because salaries are too low	Infrastructure and Technology
Work Ethic	Infrastructure and Technology
Agriculture	Infrastructure and Technology
Housing- need affordable houses	Infrastructure and Technology
Environmental hazards	Infrastructure and Technology
	al County Draft Stratogic Plan

Small population Low voter turnout Attitudes That will never happen here" mentality We look at things the same old way -that's a barrier to improvement and growth We look at scarcity, rather than see opportunity -CHANGE THE LENS ssues of Equity and Justice We need vision How to communicate with the public? People only show up to complain Read "Rants & Raves Easier to "rent" than to change In Mexico people do not trust government -85 percent Hispanic here Decrease apathy Hire a consultant to help us see what we are good at People don't know that benefits are available Make sure information reaches all audiences Need translation services for non-English speakers	Image and AttitudeImage and Atti
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	Economic Development
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	Economic Development
Additional resources into Pesticide Use Enforcement division. To curb concerns and promote safe, effective use of pesticides, more inspections are performed annually	Economic Development
	Economic Development
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	Economic Development

Lack of local services	Infrastructure and Technology
Need post office, P.O. boxes rebuilt in Niland, not have to go into Calipatria for mail	Infrastructure and Technology
Need a place to hold concerts, for people to get together	Infrastructure and Technology
Need power grid expansion	Infrastructure and Technology
Need educational/occupational training investments	Infrastructure and Technology
Want more green space, community gardens, bike paths, bike routes to IVC	Infrastructure and Technology
More community events	Infrastructure and Technology
Salton Sea restoration investment in a way that is responsible	Infrastructure and Technology
Natural beauty	Infrastructure and Technology
Homelessness	Infrastructure and Technology
Improvements needed - healthcare focus on recreation, ie community pools, fields,	Infrastructure and Technology
Increase internet connectivity and communications	Infrastructure and Technology
Focus on aging population, ability to age in place	Infrastructure and Technology
Immigration and settlement resources	Infrastructure and Technology
Churches	Infrastructure and Technology
Water	Infrastructure and Technology
Close to the border	Infrastructure and Technology
Need a new post office so community doesn't have to go to Calipat for mail	Infrastructure and Technology
Healthcare/hospital	Infrastructure and Technology
Regional residential water service	Infrastructure and Technology
Internet connectivity	Infrastructure and Technology
Open the library	Infrastructure and Technology
Want to see a town square, gathering space, park	Infrastructure and Technology
Want a food pantry with fresh food	Infrastructure and Technology
Tourism	Infrastructure and Technology
Rest stops	Infrastructure and Technology
Better community lighting Improved county permitting process	Infrastructure and Technology
	Infrastructure and Technology
More homes built in Northend	Infrastructure and Technology
Beautification	Infrastructure and Technology
New water company for Niland, Calipatria	Infrastructure and Technology
Clean up the Salton Sea	Infrastructure and Technology
Need new educational opportunities here	Infrastructure and Technology
SDSU is not coming through - very disheartening	Infrastructure and Technology
SDSU offers homeland security, but not public health - militarizing opportuny and causing divisions in the community	Infrastructure and Technology
SDSU's bus service between here and the coast good idea, not really working	Infrastructure and Technology
Want the community center in the heart of Ocotillo maintain and expanded. It was left to the town, but not sure who owns it or maintains it.Different from the center at the county park	Infrastructure and Technology
Really important to maintain and protect the aquifer that supplies Ocotillo . The Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Acquifer was designated by EPA in 1996 and is supposed to be protected.	Infrastructure and Technology
The county plans set limit on the amount of water permitted developments can draw	Infrastructure and Technology
Many of the individual wells are in decline not sure why- from draught? Or because Plaster City is taking more water	Infrastructure and Technology
But there is a community cleanup day, it will be April 15	Infrastructure and Technology
There is an Optimists Club with 33 members	Infrastructure and Technology
And the community center has a kids space and space for seniors	Infrastructure and Technology
Community needs better internet. There is no Spectrum, have to use a T-Moble hotspot or a satellite uplink	
We would like space for a computer lab and a wellness center	Infrastructure and Technology
It would be nice to have IVC classes taught here	Infrastructure and Technology
If we want a big hairy audacious goal for community it would be to have a sheriff's substation here with	
extra rooms for a kids' activity space and space for a community pantry with local produce available at reasonable prices	Infrastructure and Technology
There is concern about safety. The Sheriff is at least 1/2 hour away. If there is an issue we call the BLM	Infrastructure and Technology
Need stop signs in NoMirage	Infrastructure and Technology
Good cooperation from from county Public Works	Infrastructure and Technology
Thre is community clean-up day 2ce a year, but want transfer station available more often in Ocotillo	Infrastructure and Technology
Want the transfer station available every weekend	Infrastructure and Technology

Housing needs of those we serve; homeless and affordable housing	Infrastructure and Technology
Workforce and retaining staff	Infrastructure and Technology
Outgrown our existing infrastructure	Infrastructure and Technology
Affordable housing	
Migrated to new database/case management system across and in collaboration with 58 counties	Infrastructure and Technology
	Infrastructure and Technology
Implemented an electronic system - time study to leverage funding mechanisms	Infrastructure and Technology
Oversight of homeless program; growth from \$100K to \$20M+ dollars	Infrastructure and Technology
Staff; bilingual staff	Infrastructure and Technology
Maintain and recruit staff	Infrastructure and Technology
Grant writers	Infrastructure and Technology
Port of Mexicali - restricted hours/lanes	Infrastructure and Technology
IT and training	Infrastructure and Technology
Electronic forms and inspection capabilities, tools	Infrastructure and Technology
Revenue	Infrastructure and Technology
Maintaining staff	Infrastructure and Technology
Homelessness, lack of housing and resources for immigrants	Infrastructure and Technology
Transportation availability (yet can be improved)	Infrastructure and Technology
Free resource centers	Infrastructure and Technology
Funding for staffing	Infrastructure and Technology
Funding for department operations	Infrastructure and Technology
Vehicles to provide programming	Infrastructure and Technology
Stable staffing	Infrastructure and Technology
Online permitting	Infrastructure and Technology
Staffing, training, retention	Infrastructure and Technology
Water, power	Infrastructure and Technology
Roads	Infrastructure and Technology
Developed code compliance strategies	
Infrastructure age and condition	Infrastructure and Technology
	Infrastructure and Technology
Air quality issues, binational; traffic in Calexico, north/southbound	Infrastructure and Technology
Behind on technology	Infrastructure and Technology
Want better health care	Infrastructure and Technology/Collaboration/ leadership
Health care a major issue. Its a mess and needs a regional approach	Infrastructure and Technology/Collaboration/ leadership
ICOE has authority over the schools; county should have stepped in with health care	Infrastructure and Technology/Collaboration/ leadership
Comments	Theme
Short commute to all communities, to work	Transportation
Fed government expanding border crossing	Transportation
Roads/infrastructure	Transportation
Need better street/road paving, repair	Transportation
Paving streets improves air quality	Transportation
Crossborder traffic tears up roads	Transportation
Delays mean farmworkers can't cross border	Transportation
Over Dependent on autos	Transportation
Reactivate rail to San Diego	Transportation
Develop light rail to connect the cities in the Valley	Transportation
Bridges out - every single bridge over the New River in the southwest quadrant of IC is out.	Transportation
Driving around those bridges that are out is costing farming time and expense	Transportation
Pot holes on many roads a huge problem	Transportation
Brawley in the middle of the Valley for agriculture but many of county maintained roads north of there are rarely used. Those roads should be abandoned and turned over to landowners	Transportation
There should be more bike lanes created fro recreational facilities	Transportation
County should allow a stormwater basin at Sunbeam lake for parking instead of ticketing people parking on the dirt access road	-

Public Works has budget for payroll but not material for road repairs, why not total over both to get the work done	Transportation
Bus service between Calipatria and Calexico limited, but not used much. County could save money by using ubers or vans	Transportation
Need to open the eastport border crossing earlier to get farm labor to fields	Transportation
New checkpoint on I-8 east to Yuma is an issue, causing delays for ag trucks	Transportation
Air service out of the Valley needs to improve, tickets aren't available. Flights should be added	Transportation
State/fed funding for bridges is highly political	Transportation
We are buying a bridge off the shelf speed up replacing bridges	Transportation
We need a CalTrans engineer based in the county because there is so much work going on	Transportation
Main roads are not properly maintained	Transportation
There are places the sidewalk is missing or damaged; it sinks over storm drains and is difficult for seniors to use safely	Transportation
Traffic is too fast on Dogwood, main routes dangerous for children walking to school	Transportation
Wind knocked down a street sign at Fister & McCabe Roads a month ago, still hanging from one side, when is the county going to fix it?	Transportation
Wondering about future funding for a suggested greenbelt that could include a bike path and a pedestrian walkway	Transportation
Signal light on Dogwood north of Heber is always flashing, when will it be fixes?	Transportation
Need an ordinance requiring tree trimming to keep branches from growing over the roadways. It is becoming a hazard the county needs to trim them or take trees down	Transportation
Transportation	Transportation
No Greyhound bus services anymore	Transportation
Limited public transit - Bombay Beach has bus service 1 day a week	Transportation
Want cleaner transportation, beautification of public transit	Transportation
Easy to get around (The Slabs, Niland)	Transportation
Regular bus service to Bombay beach	Transportation
Need road lights at Interstate 8 exit and entrance. There are lights on Highway 98, but not on surface street at 8	Transportation
Evan Hewes Highway Bridge closure hurting Ocotillo, want it fixed	Transportation
Willing to have road around the bridge, but county says its not safe	Transportation
It is expensive to build a bridge or pave a road.	Transportation
Imperial County has 2,500 miles of roads, same as Riverside, San Diego and San Bernadino counties. But because the state funding formula benefits the more urban counties. They get \$100 million a year for roads, we get only \$20 million -IC Public Works	Transportation
The only way to do more road work here is to change the state formula	Transportation
Salton Sea communities make up 20 percent of road miles in Imperial County - IC Public Works	Transportation
10 percent of the county roads budget is planned for the West Shores Communities in 2024, based on the needs the community stated at Advisory Committee meetings. The county paid particular attention to improvements to make sure residents can get access to Highay 86 in the plan	Transportation
• Need for electrical school buses	Transportation
	· ·

Imperial County Community Vision Survey Encuesta De La Visión De La Comunidad Del Condado Imperial

Reliance Public Relations has been retained to assist Imperial County in drafting a 5-year strategic plan that includes community input. How important do you think the following factors are to the future of Imperial County.

Reliance Public Relations se ha contratado para ayudar al condado de Imperial a redactar un plan estratégico de 5 años que incluye aportes de la comunidad. ¿Qué tan importantes cree que son los siguientes factores para el futuro del Condado de Imperial?

Please rate all below on a scale 1 (least important) to 5 (most important). Add comments below. Por favor califique todo a continuación en una escala de 1 (menos importante) a 5 (más importante). Agregue comentarios a continuación.

IMPORTANCE • IMPORTANCIA		Least <i>Menos</i>			Most <i>Más</i>
Health Issues/ Healthcare/Hospitals • Problemas de salud/ Atención médica/ Hospitales	1	2	3	4	5
Lithium Valley, Lithium Development • Valle de Litio, Desarrollo de Litio	1	2	3	4	5
Jobs/Economic Development • Empleos/Desarrollo Económico	1	2	3	4	5
Transportation/Roads/Traffic / Transporte/Carreteras/Tráfico	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable Housing/Homelessness • Vivienda accesible/personas sin hogar	1	2	3	4	5
Law Enforcement/Public Safety • Cumplimiento de la ley/Seguridad pública	1	2	3	4	5
Internet Access / Acceso a Internet	1	2	3	4	5
Civil Public Discourse/Voting • Discurso Público Civil/Votación	1	2	3	4	5
Job Training • Formación profesional	1	2	3	4	5
Cooperation With Other Agencies • Cooperación con otras agencias	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational Opportunities/Quality of Life • Oportunidades Recreativas/Calidad de Vida	1	2	3	4	5
Tourism • <i>Turismo</i>	1	2	3	4	5
County Image • Imagen del condado	1	2	3	4	5
Customer Service at County Offices • Atención al cliente en las oficinas del condado	1	2	3	4	5
Public Transportation • Transporte público	1	2	3	4	5
Immigration Issues • Problemas de inmigración	1	2	3	4	5
Colorado River/Drought • <i>Río Colorado/Sequía</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Equity/Fairness • Equidad/Justicia	1	2	3	4	5
Water Conservation • Conservación del agua	1	2	3	4	5
Salton Sea Restoration • Restauración del mar de Salton	1	2	3	4	5

Comments • Comentarios