

The Next Generation of Smart Growth & Farmland Protection





Next Generation of Policies

Balance ...

Where Sustainable Agriculture Meets Sustainable Development

- **Uses urban land efficiently**
- **Recognizes community values of agriculture**
- **Elevates decisions affecting farming and farmland**



Planning For Agriculture ...

Not just around it!

- **Land use policies**
- **Economic development**
- **Natural resource conservation**
- **Next generation of farmers**



Protect Productive Ag Areas

Determine areas to keep in agriculture & adopt a plan to protect them, e.g.

- **Agricultural Security Areas**
- **Ag Zoning**
- **Purchase of Development Rights**
- **Transfer of Development Rights**
- **Urban growth boundaries**



Protect the Resources for Ag

- **High quality soils**
- **Adequate and affordable water**
- **Improve air quality**
- **Address labor shortages and needs**
- **Provide opportunities for the next generation of farmers**



Comprehensive Plans

- **Agriculture's role in the county**
- **Existing and planned water and sewer**
- **Locating public facilities: schools, industrial parks**
- **Setbacks and regulations for farm-based businesses**
- **Outreach to the farming community**



Agricultural Economic Development





Agricultural Economic Development

- **Ag infrastructure & support businesses**
- **Direct marketing**
- **Agri-tourism**
- **Value added & alternative enterprises**
- **Marketing & branding**



Major Themes from AFT Experience

- Enhance profitability
- Ensure an adequate land base of well-managed agricultural land

“It’s not farmland without farmers”



Process for Planning

The Key is ...

It takes public input and a holistic plan to find the balance to maintain the rural economy and sustain farms, farmers and farmland. Bringing together stakeholders of diverse interest.

- **Listening sessions**
- **Focus Groups**
- **Public support**
- **Government willingness**



Balance - Key Message

Achieve and sustain Lancasterians' vision of a balanced community where urban centers prosper, natural landscapes flourish, and farming is strengthened as an integral component of our diverse economy and cultural heritage



Balance – Growth Management Element

Lays out a comprehensive vision & tools for achieving the community’s desired “Balance” of managing growth while preserving natural and historic resources and unique sense of place.



Planning for Agriculture

AFT has a full range of services that join sustainable agriculture with sustainable development to help communities create a dynamic future for agriculture.

For more information, visit us on the Web at

www.farmland.org



Speakers

- **Mike Nelson**
 - **San Diego River Conservancy**

- **Steve Hammond**
 - **Wallace, Roberts and Todd LLC**

- **Q & A**