



The Impacts of California Forever and the East Solano Plan

After months of public controversy and having spent over \$9 million on campaign activities, on July 22, 2024 California Forever abruptly withdrew their East Solano Plan initiative, given a surefire loss in the November 2024 elections.

The sudden withdrawal happened one day before the Solano County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to discuss the results of a county-ordered report prepared by independent consultants on the impacts of California Forever on infrastructure, agriculture, traffic, county budgets, and more.

California Forever's East Solano Plan initiative asked for voter approval to rezone over 17,000 acres of agricultural land in unincorporated county to build a new sprawling community of up to 400,000 residents, that would double the County's population size.

The impact report indicated a suite of problems with the proposed initiative. Some of the key takeaways from the impact report highlight:

Fiscal Impact



\$103.1 MILLION

Annual fiscal deficit at project completion

Every year, the county's total expenditures would exceed total revenue, impacting services for all residents.

Infrastructure



\$49.1 BILLION

Projected infrastructure cost at project buildout

No sources of funding were identified for capital costs, and ongoing maintenance would burden all county residents.

Travis Air Force Base



\$2.7 BILLION

Annual economic impact from Travis AFB, the county's largest employer, at risk

The base requires open space for flying operations and security—the project would "significantly change this dynamic."

Agriculture



14,000 ACRES

of grazing lands destroyed, resulting in "significant impacts on local ecosystems, biodiversity and environmental quality" requiring further study in an Environmental Impact Report.

Traffic



2.5 BILLION

Increase in annual vehicle miles traveled, causing substantial traffic congestion due to road closures, detours, and construction activities that would negatively affect existing businesses in all seven Solano County cities.

Housing



ZERO

Affordable housing commitments, despite the County needing to add thousands of housing units by 2030 according to Regional Housing Needs Assessment allocations.

Water



Report notes that "there is substantial uncertainty regarding the source and quantity of water supplies that will be used to serve the new community and resulting impacts on other water users in the area."

(Source: Solano Department of Resource Management and the County Administrator's Office, July 2024)

The report also notes that due to the lack of details in the initiative, the "full assessment of impacts is limited."

Read a summary of the report:



While California Forever's initial plan for a ballot initiative in 2024 was temporarily averted—when they pulled the plug on their initiative in July 2024— they promised to come back in 2026 and continue to push for the development of their "new community" and threaten the voter-backed Orderly Growth Initiative. So far, there have been no substantial changes to their plans, so this Impact Report remains an invaluable resource for tangible evidence of the potential impacts.

Solano Together is a group of concerned residents, leaders, and organizations who came together in February, 2024, to form a coalition that envisions a better future for Solano County.

Our vision focuses development into existing cities and strengthens our agricultural industry. Our work is driven by an alternative vision for Solano County in the face of the threat posed by California Forever's East Solano Plan proposal.

Get involved with Solano Together to stop California Forever on its tracks and unite around an alternate vision for Solano County. Visit solanotogether.org to learn more and follow us on social media.