Appendix B - Cuyama Valley Community Survey Results

This Appendix provides the questions and responses - as a whole - to all questions from the 2019 Cuyama Valley community-wide survey. The survey was released in both English and Spanish, both in print and online versions, from July to October 2019. A total of 143 surveys were completed, representing 42% of the estimated households in the Cuyama Valley. The Community Action Plan and all appendices are available at blueskycenter.org/action-plan.

SECTION 1: OUR COMMUNITY

1. Please check the TOP 3 reasons you live in the Cuyama Valley. (Page 3)
2. How important to you are your relationships with people in the community? (Page 3)
3. How would you rate the overall quality of life in the Cuyama Valley? (Page 4)
4. Would the entire community benefit from higher enrollment in Cuyama Valley schools? (Page 4)
5. How would you rate your current overall quality of life today, compared to a year ago? (Page 4)
6. What community meetings (and/or community events) have you attended in the past year? (Page 5)
7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley? (Page 5)
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley? (Page 7)
9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing? (Page 14)
10. Which are the TOP 2 most important issues facing the Cuyama Valley during the next five years (check your top 2 choices)? (Page 17)
11. Check the TOP 5 recreational facilities that should be developed, expanded, or improved in the Cuyama Valley. (Page 17)
12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed? (Page 18)
13. If the Cuyama Valley is to grow, to what population would you like to see it grow? (Page 21)
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Page 21)

SECTION 2: HEALTH AND FAMILY

15. What percentage of your meals are made at home? (Page 24)
16. What percentage of your monthly household budget goes towards groceries? (Page 23)
17. What percentage of your grocery shopping is done within the Cuyama Valley? (Page 24)
18. Where do you most often shop for groceries? (Page 25)
19. How old are you? (Page 25)
20. How long have you lived in the Cuyama Valley? (Page 26)
22. Which best describes where you live in the Valley? (Page 26)
23. How would you rate your community as a place to raise children? (Page 27)
24. What is the most urgent health issue in the Valley? (Page 27)
25. Is drug or alcohol addiction a problem in the Valley? (Page 27)
26. Are you prevented from accessing services in the community due to a disability? (Page 28)
27. Are you, yourself, currently covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? (Page 28)
28. During the LAST WEEK, which one of the following was your usual way to get to work? (Page 28)
29. What is the primary language spoken in your household? (Page 29)
30. Do you or any member of your household have difficulty accessing resources due to a language barrier? (Page 29)
31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services? (Page 29)
32. How many MILES do you travel on your daily commute (one way)? (Page 34)
33. How long is your daily commute, in MINUTES (one way)? (Page 34)
34. Are there sufficient opportunities for young adults (post higher education) in the Valley? (Page 34)
35. What is your average monthly household income, before taxes and from all sources? (Page 35)
36. What is the highest level of education you completed? (Page 35)
37. In what type of housing do you currently live? (Page 36)
38. Which bank would you like to see open a branch in the Valley? (Page 36)
39. Do you own or rent your place of residence? (Page 37)
40. How many bedrooms are in your home? (Page 37)
41. What percentage of your gross (pre-taxed) income is spent on your mortgage or rent? (Page 37)
42. Have you experienced homelessness within the last 3 years? (Page 38)
43. What is your gender? (Page 38)
44. Which most closely describes your ethnicity? (Page 38)
45. Which most closely describes your race? (Page 39)
46. Including yourself, how many people live in your household? (Page 39)
47. Indicate the number of people currently in your household within the following age groups. (Page 39)
48. Do you have Internet access in your home? (Page 40)
49. Are you currently a student at a post-secondary institution (vocational school, college, university, graduate school, etc.)? (Page 40)
50. In what industry do you work? (Page 40)
51. [If you are a renter] What is your monthly rent? (Page 41)
52. [If you're a renter] Which utilities are included in your rent? (Page 41)

SECTION 3: LOCAL ECONOMY
53. What new business or service would you like to see in the Valley? (Page 41)
54. If there was money available for services, projects, or infrastructure, what would choose to direct those funds towards (check your TOP 3 choices)? (Page 42)
55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley? (Page 42)
56. Overall, how would you rate the economy in the Valley? (Page 46)
57. How would you rate your household's financial situation today, compared to a year ago? (Page 46)
58. Over the last 5 years, would you say the economy in the Valley has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same? (Page 47)
59. Select your employment status. (Page 47)
60. Do you work in the Cuyama Valley? (Page 47)
61. [If currently employed] In what county do you primarily work? (Page 48)
62. [If currently employed] How long have you been employed in your present position? (Page 48)
63. [If currently employed] Select what best describes your employer. (Page 48)
With options provided, the top responses as to why respondents chose to live in the Cuyama Valley include it being quiet, rural, having a small population, and affordability. This supports the common neighbor-to-neighbor feedback that residents are choosing to live here specifically due to the benefits of being a part of a small community away from urbanization.

Cuyamans value personal relationships, with 90% of respondents indicating neighbor-to-neighbor relationships as somewhat, very, or extremely important.
### Quality of Life in Cuyama

53% of respondents rated their quality of life as either “good” or “excellent,” with only 6% rating quality of life as “poor” or “very poor.”

The school system is seen as a backbone of the Cuyama community, with 84% of respondents agreeing that higher school enrollment would benefit the entire community.

With a perspective of overall quality of life today as compared to a year ago, 58% rated it the same and 35% indicated a better quality of life; only 7% rated their quality of life as worse today than it was a year ago.
Of the 12 organizations listed, 100 respondents (70%) attended a meeting for at least one of the organizations. Over 30% of respondents attended at least one CVCA, GSA, or CJUSD meeting in the last year.

7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Plan to manage groundwater resources)

Of the five topics in this question, developments regarding the Groundwater Sustainability Plan was the topic that the respondents felt most INFORMED about, with 44% indicating they were informed or very informed. Only 16% indicated they were uninformed (the lowest “uninformed” percentage of the five topics).
7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley?

**Cuyama Joint Unified School District developments as they happen**

- Uninformed: 30%
- Aware: 16%
- Informed: 32%
- Very informed: 2%
- Undecided: 11%

Two out of every five respondents (39%) felt UNINFORMED about developments at the local school district.

7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley?

**Cannabis development & regulations**

- Uninformed: 56%
- Aware: 27%
- Informed: 4%
- Very informed: 12%
- Undecided: 8%

Of the five topics in this question, cannabis development and regulations was the topic that the respondents felt most UNINFORMED about, with more than half (56%) indicating they were uninformed.

7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley?

**Cuyama Valley Community Association meetings & events**

- Uninformed: 33%
- Aware: 23%
- Informed: 7%
- Very informed: 5%
- Undecided: 38%

Two-thirds of respondents (66%) felt INFORMED about the ongoings of the CVCA.
7. How informed are you of the following key issues and developments in the Cuyama Valley?

**New agricultural developments & operations in the Valley**

- Uninformed: 2%
- Aware: 16%
- Informed: 44%
- Very informed: 36%
- Undecided: 2%

Agricultural developments and operations received a 44% UNINFORMED valuation from respondents.

8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Community leadership**

- Poor: 26%
- Fair: 35%
- Good: 27%
- Excellent: 8%
- Undecided: 4%

Respondents indicated that community leadership has room for improvement, with 26% rating its quality as “poor.”

8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**News & communication**

- Poor: 32%
- Fair: 26%
- Good: 35%
- Excellent: 6%
- Undecided: 3%

Cuyamans are split on the condition of news & communication within the Valley. The amount of respondents that rated communication as “poor” (32%), “fair” (35%), and “good” or “excellent” (32%) are all about one-third of the total respondents to the prompt.
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Resident opportunities to be involved**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities to be involved in the community was rated highly, with 82% responding with a rating of “excellent,” “good,” or “fair.”

**Opportunities to participate in community events**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Opportunities to participate in community events is strong in the Cuyama Valley, with 87% rating their opportunity positively.

**Facilities and activities available for youth**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities and facilities for the Cuyama youth were pointed to as needing improvement, with one-in-four respondents (25%) providing a “poor” rating.
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Economic / job / skill-building opportunities**

- Poor: 12%
- Fair: 2%
- Good: 50%
- Excellent: 31%
- Undecided: 2%

Economic opportunities received the worst rating of all the prompts, with 81% rating job and skill-building opportunities as “poor” or “fair.” One-in-two respondents (50%) indicated a “poor” rating, the highest “poor” rating of any prompt.

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8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Affordable housing**

- Poor: 21%
- Fair: 4%
- Good: 33%
- Excellent: 30%
- Undecided: 2%

Cuyamans consider housing in the Valley as somewhat affordable, with 45% rating affordable housing as “good” or “excellent.”

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8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Available housing**

- Poor: 14%
- Fair: 3%
- Good: 42%
- Excellent: 37%
- Undecided: 2%

When considering availability of housing, 79% rated availability as just “fair” or “poor.”
In terms of respondents rating their quality of life, 62% rated a “good” or “excellent” quality of life.

Street and sidewalk maintenance received a 68% disapproval rating.

Water and sewer services received a 69% disapproval rating.
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

Transfer station (bulk garbage station on CA 166 west of New Cuyama)

- Poor: 6%
- Fair: 5%
- Good: 20%
- Excellent: 23%
- Undecided: 46%

The bulk garbage transfer station received a 69% approval rating.

8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

Law enforcement

- Poor: 3%
- Fair: 14%
- Good: 20%
- Excellent: 22%
- Undecided: 41%

Law enforcement received a 61% approval rating.

8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

Fire protection

- Poor: 1%
- Fair: 3%
- Good: 10%
- Excellent: 37%
- Undecided: 40%

Fire protection services received a 86% approval rating. Only 1% responded with a “poor” rating, the lowest of any prompt.
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

**Emergency ambulance services**

- Poor: 8%
- Fair: 4%
- Good: 34%
- Excellent: 43%
- Undecided: 11%

Emergency ambulance services received a **77% approval rating**.

**Animal control**

- Poor: 11%
- Fair: 7%
- Good: 26%
- Excellent: 31%
- Undecided: 25%

Animal control received a **57% disapproval rating**. Out of all the prompts, animal control had the largest percentage (11%) of those responding as “undecided” and a significant rating (26%) of “poor” quality.

**Community parks**

- Poor: 32%
- Fair: 32%
- Good: 25%
- Excellent: 11%
- Undecided: 8%

Community parks received positive rating, with **59% rating the conditions as “good” or “excellent.”**
8. How would you rate the following conditions, activities, and services in the Cuyama Valley?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation programs</th>
<th>Recreation programs received neutral rating, with 45% rating the conditions as “good” or “excellent” and 50% rating “poor” or “fair.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to healthcare</th>
<th>Access to healthcare in the Cuyama Valley is limited. Just 32% (one in three) rated their access as “good” or “excellent.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to emergency healthcare services</th>
<th>Access to emergency healthcare mimics the response to general access to healthcare, with only 33% (one in three) rating their access as “good” or “excellent.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing?

Vacant or ready to move in (any housing type)

- Not available: 8%
- Hard to find: 32%
- Somewhat available: 40%
- Available: 22%

When considering the availability of any housing, 62% of respondents answered that ready-to-move-in housing was either hard to find or simply unavailable at all.

9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing?

House to buy

- Not available: 18%
- Hard to find: 28%
- Somewhat available: 45%
- Available: 9%

A house to buy had the highest response of being “available” or “somewhat available” with 73% responding favorably.

9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing?

House to rent

- Not available: 32%
- Hard to find: 13%
- Somewhat available: 9%
- Available: 46%

Compared to a house to buy, a house to rent dropped significantly with just 41% responding favorably to its availability.
9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing?

A trailer - to buy or rent - was seen as very unavailable. Of those responding, just 19% indicated a trailer to buy was available and 15% indicated a trailer to rent was available.

An apartment to rent was rated the highest of the options as “not available” (46%) and “hard to find” (42%).
9. If a friend or relative was looking to move to the Cuyama Valley today, how would you rate the availability of affordable, adequate housing?

**Bedroom to rent**

- Not available: 22%
- Hard to find: 27%
- Somewhat available: 3%
- Available: 48%

**Fifth-wheel/pull-behind space**

- Not available: 21%
- Hard to find: 2%
- Somewhat available: 33%
- Available: 44%

Behind a house to rent or buy, a bedroom to rent or a fifth-wheel (RV) space to rent was the next most available rated option.
When provided a list of options, three-in-four respondents (75%) rated water quality and availability as the most important issue facing the Cuyama Valley in the next five years. School enrollment and the need for economic development received a high importance rating from one-in-four respondents (26% and 25%, respectively). Opportunities for youth also rose to the top four issues, with 19% indicating its importance.

Broadly, youth activities are desired by the most respondents (42%). Bicycle/walking paths, recreation center improvements, soccer field development, and playground expansion round out the top five desires for what recreational facilities should be developed, expanded, or improved.
12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Single-family residential homes**

- Not Needed: 10%
- Somewhat Needed: 34%
- Very Needed: 56%

Behind only water and sewer services and close to the expressed need for affordable rental homes, construction of new single-family homes was rated the most “very needed” option if Cuyama grows.

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Multi-family residential homes/apartments**

- Not Needed: 40%
- Somewhat Needed: 38%
- Very Needed: 21%

The respondents seem conflicted regarding the need for multi-family housing, with 40% stating it is “very needed,” 39% “somewhat needed,” and 21% responding it is “not needed.”

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Secondary dwellings (accessory dwelling units, or “ADUs”)**

- Not Needed: 31%
- Somewhat Needed: 19%
- Very Needed: 50%

Respondents rated secondary dwellings (ADUs) with a significant “not needed” rating (31%), while 69% rated it as “somewhat” or “very” needed.
12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Affordable rental houses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Needed</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat Needed</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Affordable rental houses were clearly identified as a need, with 91% rating them as “somewhat” or “very” needed.

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Retail & commercial buildings**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Needed</td>
<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat Needed</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>43%</td>
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</table>

With limited existing commercial spaces and zoned properties, it’s no surprise that 84% of respondents rated retail space as “somewhat” or “very” needed.

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Industrial space**

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<th>Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Needed</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Needed</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>53%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Similar to commercial spaces, industrial spaces were rated by 80% of respondents as “very” or “somewhat” needed if Cuyama grows.
12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Recreational space**

- Not Needed: 8%
- Somewhat Needed: 33%
- Very Needed: 69%

Expanding recreational space received the largest percentage of respondents (59%) rating the need as “somewhat needed,” in between “very” and “not needed.”

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Agricultural land**

- Not Needed: 24%
- Somewhat Needed: 41%
- Very Needed: 35%

Agricultural land was the highest rated as “not needed” with 41% responding as such.

12. If the Cuyama Valley grows, what will be needed?

**Water/sewer services**

- Not Needed: 6%
- Somewhat Needed: 27%
- Very Needed: 68%

Unsurprisingly based on answers to other questions where respondents indicated concerns regarding water and sewer quality and availability, water and sewer services was the highest rated of all the prompts regarding its “very needed” status, with 68% responding as such. It was also the prompt that received the least (5%) “not needed” ratings.
13. If the Cuyama Valley is to grow, to what population would you like to see it grow?

One-third (34%) of respondents would like the Cuyama Valley to maintain its current population, another third (33%) would like to see it double in population, and the last third (34%) would like to see it grow even more.

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Roads and streets in the Valley need repair

With 83% of respondents agreeing, a strong consensus exists that roads and streets in the Valley are in need of repair.

There is a wide array of opportunities for youth to build life skills

Support from the county is highly desired, with only 32% of respondents feeling the current support is sufficient.
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**County governmental support is sufficient**

- Strongly Disagree: 4%
- Disagree: 28%
- Agree: 34%
- Strongly Agree: 34%

Two-in-three Cuyamans (68%) believe that the current county governmental support is insufficient.

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**The provision and service of utilities is sufficient**

- Strongly Disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 37%
- Agree: 38%
- Strongly Agree: 20%

Utilities (power, water/sewer, gas) received a 58% negative rating.

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**There are sufficient cultural and civic opportunities**

- Strongly Disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 29%
- Agree: 18%
- Strongly Agree: 48%

Cuyamans desire more cultural and civic opportunities, with 66% responding that the amount of opportunities is insufficient.
14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**More streetside and town beautification is needed**

- Strongly Disagree: 15%
- Disagree: 37%
- Agree: 45%
- Strongly Agree: 3%

Out of the six prompts for this question, the desire for more streetside and town beautification was a top 2 desire, with 82% of respondents agreeing that more beautification is needed.

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**Housing availability is sufficient**

- Strongly Disagree: 26%
- Disagree: 33%
- Agree: 33%
- Strongly Agree: 8%

A majority of Cuyamans (59%) believe that housing availability is insufficient.
A substantial amount of meals are made at home, with virtually all respondents indicating more than half of their daily meals are made at home. For a community with only three restaurants, this is logical.

Cuyamans spend significantly more on groceries than average Americans. Of total respondents, 83% indicated they spent 20% of more of their household income on groceries, significantly higher than the American average of 5% of income spent on groceries.\footnote{USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Expenditure Series, 2018 data. \url{https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/ag-and-food-statistics-charting-the-essentials/food-prices-and-spending/}}

Unsurprisingly, virtually all grocery shopping is done outside the Valley, with 85% of respondents indicating that they do less than 10% of grocery shopping in the Cuyama Valley.
Cuyamans most often shop for groceries in Santa Maria (29%), Bakersfield (21%), Taft (19%), or a combination of the three (21%). This means that at least 90% of Cuyamans are driving anywhere from 30 minutes to 90 minutes away to do most of their grocery shopping.

Responses to “Other (please specify)”
Ventura
Arroyo Grande
Old Cuyama
Food bank
Cuyama Homegrown
Nipomo
Santa Barbara
Ventura County
Pismo Beach
San Luis Obispo

The survey respondents represented all ages. Compared to the population’s estimated age groupings from the US Census, the responses tracked closely, with the exception of the “under 19” population which was not a target audience for this comprehensive survey.2

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2 US Census, factfinder.census.gov, American Community Survey, Santa Barbara Census District 18, 2017 (most recent available data)
The tenure of those living in the Valley was high, with 54% of respondents indicating they have lived in the Cuyama Valley for 16 or more years.

Responses were received from all four counties that have jurisdiction within the Cuyama Valley. Most of the respondents (88%) live in Santa Barbara County, which correlates with Santa Barbara’s county lines encompassing most of the Cuyama Valley’s 300-square-mile area.

It is safe to say about half of Cuyama residents live in the townsite of New Cuyama; responses to the survey were collected from all corners of the Valley, with 62% indicating their residence as in New Cuyama, 5% in Old Cuyama, 4% in Ventucopa, and 26% in the Cuyama Valley but in areas outside existing townsites. Just 3% of respondents live outside the Valley.
Of total respondents, 75% indicated the Cuyama Valley as a good, very good, or excellent place to raise children.

Over one-third of respondents (36%) indicated that access to medical services is the Valley’s most urgent health issue. Due to Cuyama’s remoteness, respondents cited the need for access to primary care five days a week, 24-hour urgent care or emergency facility, a pharmacy, and access to specialists, including dental and eye care.

A community health concern of drug/alcohol addiction is clearly cited by respondents, with only 17% believing drugs and alcohol are not a problem.
One-in-twenty respondents (5%) indicated that a disability prevented them from accessing services in the community.

Between 91-93% of respondents are covered by some form of health insurance. Even so, 1-in-14 residents are not covered by a health insurance plan.

With no public transit options available in the Cuyama Valley, of those that were employed, 75% used their personal vehicle to commute to work.
29. **What is the primary language spoken in your household?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both equally</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English represented the primary language spoken in Cuyama households (79%), with 14% primarily speaking Spanish at home, and another 7% using both English and Spanish at home.

30. **Do you or any member of your household have difficulty accessing resources due to a language barrier?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty Accessing Resources</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With limited translation or interpretation services and a cultural primacy of English, **15% of respondents indicated they have had difficulty accessing resources due to a language barrier.**

31. **What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?**

**Mortgage/rental assistance (housing):**

- Not needed: 5%
- Somewhat needed: 15%
- Very Needed: 80%

Assistance to help pay a house mortgage or rent is desired by 20% of the respondents.
31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

**Affordable childcare**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very needed</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One-in-four households (25%) are in need of affordable childcare options.

31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

**General education (GED)/English (ESL)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very needed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult education (in the form of GED or English language learning) is desired by 20% of the Cuyama Valley population.

31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

**Legal aid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very needed</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal aid is a current need for 22% of households.
31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Somewhat needed</th>
<th>Very Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet access</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Internet access was the highest ranked need among households. Currently, 44% of households identify internet access as a VERY NEEDED service. In total, 61% of households identified internet access as a need.

31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Somewhat needed</th>
<th>Very Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food bank donations</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One-in-three respondents (32%) appreciate donations from the food bank to supplement their home pantries.

31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Not needed</th>
<th>Somewhat needed</th>
<th>Very Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affordable medical care</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More than one-in-two Cuyamans (55%) have a current need for affordable medical care.
31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

**Affordable dental care**

- Not needed: 37%
- Somewhat needed: 24%
- Very Needed: 39%

Affordable dental care is one of the biggest needs among households, with 61% identifying it as a current need.

**Utility bill assistance (water, electrical, gas, propane, heat)**

- Not needed: 55%
- Somewhat needed: 23%
- Very Needed: 22%

Just under half of the households (45%) currently have a need for utility bill assistance, with just under a quarter of households (22%) indicating this assistance is “very needed.”

**Mental health services / family counseling**

- Not needed: 11%
- Somewhat needed: 22%
- Very Needed: 67%

One-third of households (33%) currently have a need for mental health services / family counseling.
### 31. What is your household’s current level of need for the following services?

#### Counseling services (mental health, domestic violence, addiction recovery)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A quarter of Cuyamans (26%) desire services for mental health, domestic violence, or addiction recovery counseling, with 9% rating their need as “very needed.”

#### Employment placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assistance with finding a job is a current need for 27% of Cuyamans.

#### Preschool education (Head Start)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not needed</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat needed</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Needed</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One-in-five Cuyama households (21%) rely on preschool education offered at the local school district.
Most employed respondents (58%) commuted less than 15 miles to work each way. **Workers drive 27 miles on average**, ranging from 0 to 200 miles each way, with a median reported distance of 10 miles.

Workers drive 31 minutes on average, with a median reported duration of 15 minutes.

Of those responding definitively, **96% indicated there were NOT sufficient opportunities for young adults in the Valley.**
One-third of respondents (33%) indicated a gross annual income of $30,100 or less. Nearly another third (30%) reported an annual income of between $30,101 and $50,150. And another 17% indicated an income of up to $80,300. Based on a family size of four and relative to the county as a whole, this relates that an estimated 80% of households are considered low, very-low, or extremely-low income.3

Of respondents of all ages, 90% responded they had received a high school diploma. For those that have attended college, 45% indicated they graduated with a higher education degree.

3 US Department of Urban Development, county income thresholds, for a family of four in Santa Barbara County, 2018 (most recent available data)
Not unsurprisingly based on the existing housing stock in the Cuyama Valley, 87% of respondents were living in a traditional house. Another 7% were residing in a mobile home (trailer).

Currently there are no banks anywhere in the Cuyama Valley. This question sought to understand where people are banking, with Chase Bank, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and a credit union as the top four desired banking institutions.
Regarding ownership, 63% of respondents owned their place of residence, 23% rented, and 14% neither owned nor rented. This is correlated to the Census data, which nearly matches with 66% owning and 34% renting.

More than half of the homes in Cuyama (54%) are three-bedroom homes. This tracts with the fact that approximately half of the homes in the Cuyama Valley are in New Cuyama, a townsite built by Richfield Oil Company in 1951-1953, using plan sets of modular home construction trucked in from Bakersfield.

One-quarter of respondents (26%) indicated their housing costs exceed 30% of their income, which is considered “unaffordable.”
42. Have you experienced homelessness within the last 3 years?

A relatively significant portion of the population (6%) indicated they had recently experienced homelessness.

43. What is your gender?

A majority of the surveys (54%) were completed by those identifying as women. Transgender or gender-nonconforming individuals represent 3% of the respondents.

44. Which most closely describes your ethnicity?

A majority of the respondents self-identified as non-Hispanic/Latinx. The US Census estimates the Hispanic/Latinx population to be higher than the survey results (46% rather than 36%) for all ages.

4 The school age population - not a target audience for completing this comprehensive household-based survey - is 27% of the Cuyama population and 79% Hispanic/Latinx.

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4 US Census, factfinder.census.gov, American Community Survey, Santa Barbara Census District 18, 2017 (most recent available data)
The categories provided for “race” in this question are the races as determined by the US government. Respondents overwhelmingly self-identified as “White” (86%), which includes (according to the government’s definitions) Hispanic/Latinx ethnicities.

Two-person households made up 43% of the respondents. One-person, three-person, four-person, and five-person households all fell between 12% and 13% of the respondents.

A total of 393 people were reported in the survey. That accounts for 42% of the estimated population of the Cuyama Valley (the US Census estimates the population to be 941). Over one-in-four people (28%) reported were between 45-64 years old.

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5 US Census, factfinder.census.gov, American Community Survey, Santa Barbara Census District 18, 2017 (most recent available data)
Cuyama Valley Community Action Plan - Appendix B
Internet access is limited in Cuyama, with no hard-line internet available. Most that have access are using cell phone data plans (35%) or satellite (30%). Of respondents, 23% indicated no internet access in their home.

Of total respondents, 16% are currently students at a post-secondary institution.

One-in-six respondents (18%) indicated they were retired from the workforce. The US Census estimates agricultural employment as the sector employing the most workers (at 40% of the working 16 years and over). The community survey, however, resulted in a percentage of just 19% year-round agriculture, 3% seasonal agricultural employment, and 3% mining, for a combined total of 25%. The next top industries were educational services at 12% and accommodation and food services at 7%.

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6 The graph presented here excludes respondents that selected “Other” but then left the prompt blank.
Rental rates fluctuate based on home condition, size, and location. In Cuyama, 76% of rent costs are somewhere between $250 and $799 per month.

It is typical in Cuyama that no utilities are included in the base rent, with 73% responding as such. One-in-eight (13%) have all utilities included, and another 13% have at least one utility included.

By far, when provided with a fill-in-the-blank prompt, Cuyamans were most desiring of a grocery or local produce store to be opened in the Valley. Cuyamans were also in favor of increasing the amount of retail businesses or restaurants in the Valley.
More than half of respondents (52%) chose “WiFi / high-speed internet / broadband” as a top three choice for directing funds toward. Funding for after-school programs came in at 32% and housing repairs/rehab were both rated highly at 27% and 24%, respectively.

Though 80% of respondents think that improving access to public transportation is a helpful approach to improving the economy of the Valley, this was one of the lowest rated approaches, with 20% of respondents thinking it would not be helpful.
55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

### Improving access to affordable housing

- **Not helpful at all**: 12%
- **Not too helpful**: 6%
- **Somewhat helpful**: 43%
- **Very helpful**: 40%

Improving access to affordable housing was viewed as a helpful approach to improving the Valley's economy by 83% of respondents.

### Improving existing housing

- **Not helpful at all**: 1%
- **Not too helpful**: 3%
- **Somewhat helpful**: 37%
- **Very helpful**: 68%

Over half of the respondents (58%) think that improving the existing housing stock would be “very helpful” in improving the economy of the Valley. In total, **95% of respondents feel improving existing housing would be helpful**.

### Creating better long-term job opportunities

- **Not helpful at all**: 2%
- **Not too helpful**: 2%
- **Somewhat helpful**: 20%
- **Very helpful**: 77%

Creating better long-term job opportunities was the highest rated approach for improving the economy of the Valley. In total, **97% of respondents felt the approach would be helpful, with 77% of those respondents believing the approach would be “very helpful.”**
55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

**Improving the quality of local public schools**

- Not helpful at all: 2%
- Not too helpful: 5%
- Somewhat helpful: 9%
- Very helpful: 86%

The vast majority of respondents (96%) felt improving the quality of local public schools would be a helpful approach to improving the Valley’s economy, with over two-thirds of respondents (68%) believing the approach would be “very helpful.”

**Improving access to healthcare**

- Not helpful at all: 1%
- Not too helpful: 5%
- Somewhat helpful: 61%
- Very helpful: 33%

Improving access to healthcare was thought to be helpful to improving the Valley’s economy by 94% of respondents.

**Improving access to advanced job training or skills development**

- Not helpful at all: 4%
- Not too helpful: 5%
- Somewhat helpful: 62%
- Very helpful: 32%

In total, 94% of respondents believe that improving access to advanced job training or skills development would be helpful for improving the economy of the Valley.
55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

**Improving local infrastructure like roads, bridges, and public buildings**

- Not helpful at all: 37%
- Not too helpful: 18%
- Somewhat helpful: 41%
- Very helpful: 4%

Improving local infrastructure like roads, bridges, and public buildings was the lowest rated approach for improving the Valley’s economy, with 22% of respondents thinking infrastructure improvements are not helpful.

55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

**Improving the use of advanced technology in local industry and farming**

- Not helpful at all: 39%
- Not too helpful: 15%
- Somewhat helpful: 41%
- Very helpful: 5%

Even though 80% of respondents think that improving the use of advanced technology in local industry and farming is a helpful approach to improving the economy of the Valley, this was one of the lowest rated approaches, with 20% of respondents thinking it would not be helpful.

55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

**Improving access to small business loans and investments**

- Not helpful at all: 46%
- Not too helpful: 9%
- Somewhat helpful: 5%
- Very helpful: 40%

Improving access to small business loans and investments was seen as a helpful approach to improving the Valley’s economy by 86% of respondents.
55. For each of the following, how helpful do you think each approach would be for improving the economy of the Valley?

**Improving access to high-speed internet**

- Not helpful at all: 2%
- Not too helpful: 5%
- Somewhat helpful: 26%
- Very helpful: 67%

Two-thirds of respondents (67%) believe that improving access to high-speed internet would be “very helpful” to improving the economy of the Valley. In total, 93% of respondents feel improving rural broadband would be helpful.

56. Overall, how would you rate the economy in the Valley?

- Poor: 22%
- Fair: 42%
- Good: 24%
- Excellent: 2%
- Don’t know: 10%

Regarding the economy in the Valley, just 26% of respondents rated the Cuyama economy as “good” or “excellent.”

57. How would you rate your household’s financial situation today, compared to a year ago?

- Much worse: 3%
- Somewhat worse: 11%
- The same: 52%
- Somewhat better: 25%
- Much better: 10%

On an individual household level, 52% rated their financial situation today - as compared to a year ago - as the same, 35% rated it as better, and 14% rated it as worse. This indicates a sense of inward optimism in that Cuyamans feel as though they are better off financially than the broader community.
With a perspective of the last five years, nearly half of respondents (47%) indicated the Valley’s economy has mostly stayed the same, with 21% saying it has gotten better and 32% saying it has gotten worse.

Of all respondents, 80% are currently employed. Seasonal employment is rare in Cuyama at just 3% of respondents. Whereas Q50 indicated 17% of respondents were retired, this leaves 3% of respondents as currently unemployed.

Just under half of total respondents (48%) work solely in the Cuyama Valley. Another 17% work both in the Cuyama Valley and elsewhere, while one-in-six (16%) work exclusively outside the Valley. Excluding non-employed respondents, 60% of respondents work solely in the Cuyama Valley, 21% work both in and outside the Cuyama Valley, and 19% work outside the Valley.
Santa Barbara County is the location of primary work for 72% of employed respondents, followed by 11% working in Kern County, 7% in Ventura, and 3% in San Luis Obispo, with 7% working somewhere other than these four immediate counties.

For employment tenure, 32% indicated they had worked in their present position for more than 10 years, 7% for 8-10 years, 17% for 4-7 years, 23% for 1-3 years, and 20% for less than a year.

One-in-three (33%) of employed respondents work for a for-profit company, 19% for a government entity, 22% are self-employed (including farm owners), and 16% work for a not-for-profit organization (10% indicated an “other” type of employer).