



TULARE STUDIES INLAND PORT AND BUSINESS PARK EXPANSION



TULARE — City leaders are evaluating the potential development of a large-scale business park and inland port that could span approximately 3,000 acres, a long-term project intended to transform Tulare into a regional logistics and industrial hub.

The concept was presented during the Tulare City Council's strategic planning session on March 21. Staff outlined a vision that ties the project to a future bridge and interchange, which would connect the area to key transportation corridors throughout the Central Valley and beyond.

Officials described the effort as a multi-decade buildout with the potential to support goods movement, warehousing, clean <u>technology</u> industries, and sustained job creation.

The inland port, if developed, would serve as a centralized facility for receiving, storing, and transferring goods, particularly those moving inland from California seaports. By diverting freight activity away from the coast, the facility could alleviate regional congestion and provide faster turnaround for inland distributors.

Planners said the <u>development could attract distribution centers</u> and manufacturing operations, positioning Tulare as a key player in the state's logistics and trade infrastructure.

While still in the preliminary stage, city staff indicated that next steps will include land use





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and environmental studies, engagement with regional transportation agencies, and exploration of public-private funding models.

Officials noted that as <u>infrastructure projects such as the planned interchange advance</u>, the inland port vision becomes increasingly feasible. The city is also considering how to align the project with long-term economic development strategies aimed at diversifying Tulare's employment base and expanding its tax revenue.

No decisions were made during the session, but the council expressed general support for continued planning and analysis.