



How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

—Romans 10:14-15--

Church Planting Report January 2025

Dear Friends—

Our Church Planting Team has now been working for a little over a year now, seeking just the right opportunity to launch our efforts to see more people come to know Jesus! We have looked at several options and now believe, after much prayer and discussion, that we have the right location and the right Evangelist to begin this important work!

At the foot of the Grapevine, Tejon Ranch is on the cusp of amazing growth. With a Casino and a community of 7,500 being built, plus a large apartment complex and tiny homes that are just beginning to receive tenants, (and NO plans for any church), we believe that God has positioned our Presbytery to be on the ground floor for this venture for “*such a time as this*”.

We also believe that Pastor Joe Mazzela and his wife Jasmine are the people God is calling to begin this important work in 2025. Though we have a strong EPC church presence in the area which has pledged involvement, we believe this is a church plant for every church in our entire Presbytery to get behind and support in some way. Won’t you join us in this exciting adventure of God? Now is our time!

With great joy and prayer—

Your Church Planting Advisory Team

Shawn Robinson Nancy Duff Greg Flagg Jeremy Vaccaro Patrick King

Report from Joe Mazzela

Calling...

I believe that God has called my wife Jasmine and myself to be Church planters in Tejon Ranch. We have a heart for the lost and we are always looking for opportunities to share Christ with others. We both have the gift of evangelism. *Matthew 28:18-20 says: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

It is not only our plan, but God's plan:

- First of all, God is leading this Church Plant.
- Second, we want to do His will for this Church Plant.

We can only do this work through the power and wisdom of God. We need the Lord and our Presbytery to encourage and support us. We will be starting from scratch with a brand-new city. Pretty exciting!

This area is currently building a casino, 40 apartments, some mini homes, and soon 7500 homes, which will bring in thousands of people. Not to mention those who are refugees from the fires in Los Angeles. And there are no plans as far as we know to build a Church in this area.

Tejon Ranch is truly the gateway to Los Angeles and to Central California. Which is why I would like to call the Church "Gateway Church".

My wife and I are more than excited to begin an EPC Church in the brand new "City of Grapevine". The more I am around my wife the more I see her gift to share the good news of the Gospel and pray with people. I find myself more and more excited to take the risk of sharing the good news of the Gospel. I have the heart of a shepherd and God has given me the gift of hospitality which will be helpful as we share the good news with the people in our home, at the park, and wherever God leads us.

We will go with the blessings of the Presbytery and the authority of Jesus Christ our Lord to reach the people at the gateway! Thousands of people drive through the Tejon Ranch area daily. (Gateway) Thus, there is a great need for people to work and serve them. As we plant an EPC Church, we can share Christ with those who are traveling through Tejon Ranch, and we can love and share Christ with those who are working in the area. We are hopeful of working with as many churches as possible—this is to be a church plant of the entire Presbytery. 1st Pres

Bakersfield is interested in being a part of this great opportunity, especially as the closest EPC church nearby. As we all work and pray together, we believe God will bring great fruit.

Jasmine and I have started special prayers for Tejon Church Plant since September 2024 and would ask you to join us!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Jesus Christ throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21 -

Vision/Launch

Our vision for Tejon Ranch is to move into the area within the next 6-8 months once we raise enough to cover the proposed budget for the first year. We will, however, begin to build relationships with the people immediately. Jasmine and I want to meet people where they live, where they work, and where they play. My hope is to find ways to build portals into the Church. Not a building, but a *living* Church. I will be spending time with people at sporting events for children and youth, and for adults such as pickleball. We plan to meet people at the Tejon Outlets, in our apartments, and build relationships with as many people as possible. As we prepare to move to Tejon Ranch we will be driving down to Tejon Ranch Twice monthly as we work on building relationships with others so that they can get to know us and more importantly get to know Jesus Christ. Because they are building brand new apartments in Tejon Ranch we would like to move into the area so that we can be on the ground floor of this brand-new city without a church. We will be the Church and plant the Church.

If you are interested in helping us financially and in prayer, please contact Jasmine and Joe Mazzela at 951 746 5854 or j100percentnew@outlook.com. Gifts can also be sent to: epcpops.org (attn: Church Planting Fund)

Proposed Budget for Tejon Church Plant

Teaching Elder Joe Mazzela

Salary: \$48,000.00

Housing: \$30,000.00

Insurance for Jasmine Mazzela (\$8400.00)

Insurance for Joe Mazzela (\$2100.00) (Medicare)

Dental insurance: (\$75 x 12= \$900.00)

Pension: (Annually) \$7800.00

Study Leave: Two weeks, \$1300.00

Books allowance: \$500.00

Paid vacation: 4 weeks

General Assembly, and Presbytery meeting costs: \$2500.00 (part of the \$20,000.00 budget)

Travel/Expense money for preparation \$1,000.00 (Trips back and forth as we prepare for launch)

Program Monies for first years (recommended by Tom Ricks, EPC National Church Planting Director)

\$ 20,000.00 This includes dinners, special events, Church growth, and office space.

TOTAL PROPOSED YEARLY BUDGET: \$120,000

Our Mission Field...

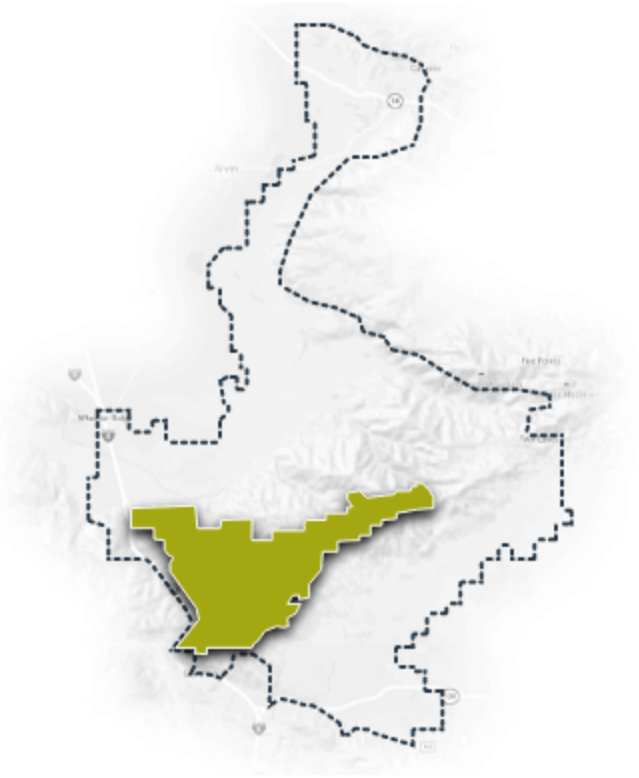


Terra Vista at Tejon

Terra Vista at Tejon is a blossoming multi-family community developed by Tejon Ranch Company. Located at the crossroads of Interstate-5 and Laval Road, these apartments serve employees working within the Tejon Ranch Commerce Center, Bakersfield, and the

surrounding mountain communities. Terra Vista at Tejon is the gateway to a good life.

Construction is currently underway, with its first units available in spring 2025.



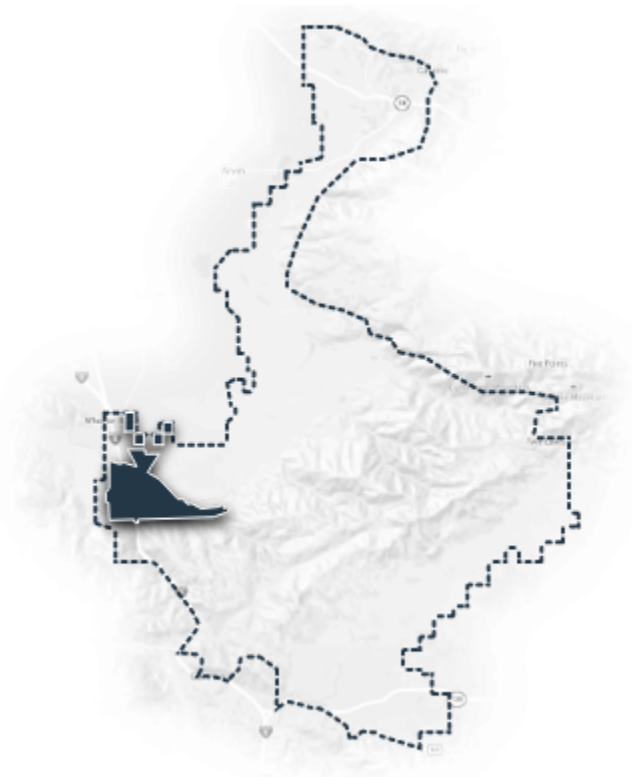
Mountain Village

Mountain Village is envisioned as a rare retreat from the city, situated in one of the most awe-inspiring areas within the Ranch. This conservation-based community is designed to live in harmony with nature. Homes will feel organic to the landscape, surrounded by spacious open lands. It's a place designed for healthy, active living with gathering places inspired by shared passions — equestrian, fitness, culinary, outdoor adventure and the arts.

Land Use Plan design includes 3450 Dwelling Units; 160,000 Square Footage - Commercial; 750 Hotel Keys

Grapevine

Located at the base of the foothills in the San Joaquin Valley portion of the Ranch, Grapevine is envisioned as a community of close-knit neighborhoods inspired by the region's rich agricultural heritage. We're planning Grapevine to be a complete community with homes, commercial and civic uses, educational and medical services. And even its own employment opportunities, in addition to those at the adjacent Tejon Ranch Commerce Center.



New Neighborhoods That Honor our Heritage

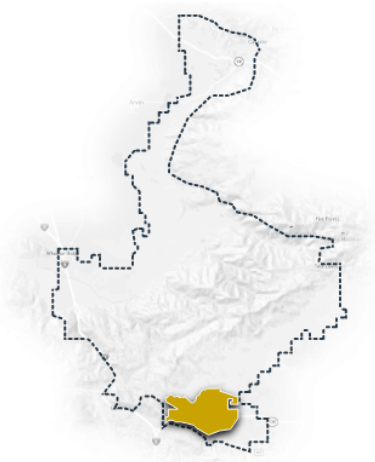
Grapevine provides a balance of homes for the almost 4,000 jobs existing at Tejon Ranch Commerce Center and the 20,000 total planned jobs at Kern County's Tejon Ranch.

Balancing Jobs with Homes

20,000 jobs are planned for Grapevine and the Tejon Ranch Commerce Center. Sustainable planning means balancing these jobs with enough homes to keep commuter miles to a minimum.

Grapevine's plan is on 8,010-acres of the 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch.

4,200-acres within the plan will be developed and zoned for residential, commercial and civic uses including public services, education, and medical opportunities. 3,800-acres within the plan will be open space, with agriculture, recreation, and grazing as the primary uses, and will connect to 240,000-acres of open space and recreation on Tejon Ranch.



Centennial

Wrapping around neighborhood “village centers,” Centennial is planned to offer a wide variety of housing options. It’s designed to be a sustainable community that conserves water and energy, maximizes open space, de-emphasizes the automobile, and encourages walking and biking with extensive parks, greenbelts and hiking trails. Significant commercial development is planned to provide jobs and allow people to work in their own community.