BOOK AND PANEL DISCUSSION
THE NEXT AMERICA, PAUL TAYLOR

Tables will have 30 minutes for small group discussions, followed by a 45 minute Q & A with the morning panelists.

Tables should confirm facilitator and time keeper.

Having heard from Paul Saffo (Future of Communities), John Haveman (National, State, and Regional trends) and Bryan Godbe (results of County resident survey about their priorities) and pivoting to The Next America book discussion...

1)  Identify two follow-up questions to ask the morning panelists and write them down (5 minutes)

2)  Reflecting on what we heard this morning from Paul, John and Bryan and what we read in The Next America, discuss any of the following questions at your tables (25 minutes)

   A. How will our changing demographics (pgs. 16-26) including the increasing dominance of Millennials in the electorate and the workforce, the increasing diversity and aging of the population, and changing social norms impact the role of local government (pgs. 31-44 and 56-57, 164)?

   B. What are the enduring and adaptive strengths of San Mateo County (28)?

   C. How do you see these important trends affecting the ways you engage with key external constituencies as a leader – e.g., how you communicate, how you get feedback from residents/clients, how you plan for the future? What are the implications for local government of The Big Sort, the idea that more Americans are clustering into think-alike communities (p. 9) and listening and reading media that echoes their own views (p. 14-16 and 45)?

   D. How do you see these important trends affecting the way you lead in the key internal aspects of your role as a leader – e.g. how you hire, retain and inspire staff, how you employ technology, how you prioritize and adapt to the policy landscape?

   E. How do changing demographics impact how we in SMC local government are perceived and what is expected of us (pgs. 61-65, 84, 94-95, 217-218)? How do you think we can best keep local residents’ trust in us as their County government?

3) Return to questions for panelists, round-robin by table, skip questions that have already been asked.