

NEFARIOUS ONE-WORLD PLOT AFOOT IN LODGE?

By **Dana M. Nichols**

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Record Staff Writer

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SAN ANDREAS - The Mountain Ranch Community Club, Citizens for San Andreas, the Foothill Conservancy, the Calaveras Child Care Council, MyValleySprings.com and a number of other community groups are part of a covert, international effort to re-engineer society and impose a one-world government.

At least, the Calaveras County Taxpayers Association sees it that way.

The Taxpayers Association last month issued a booklet explaining its viewpoint. "Agenda 21 in Calaveras County" explains why it believes so many seemingly innocent grass-roots organizations are really acting to subvert freedom, self-rule and property rights.

The Taxpayers Association's membership overlaps to some extent with tea party activists.

The booklet lists 19 groups in Calaveras County and the surrounding region on a page labeled "Foundation and Government Grants Drive the Process."

Citizens for San Andreas, for example, is on the list because it used a California Department of Transportation grant to draft a community mobility plan intended to make it easier for residents to get around town, whether on foot or a bicycle.

Citizens for San Andreas member Zerrall McDaniel, like the community group members contacted, rejected the idea that she was part of some international conspiracy.

"I think it's nonsense. I've never been interested in that. I am completely interested in safety and mobility in San Andreas and creating a community that we can be proud of," McDaniel said.

Of the idea she was promoting a United Nations plan, she said, "I think it is laughable."

Katherine Evatt, president of the Foothill Conservancy, had a similar reaction. "When I first heard this claim, I had to go look up Agenda 21," she said.

What she learned, which also is explained in the Taxpayers Association booklet, is that Agenda 21 is a United Nations document adopted in 1992 that seeks to promote planning for sustainability.

Evatt said her organization's desire to preserve ranching and open space predates Agenda 21. "Foothill Conservancy was founded by local people in 1989," she said.

Although Agenda 21 is technically a nonbinding resolution, its critics say it is a threat because many nations, state governments and powerful organizations have adopted its principles of preparing for a future in which humans consume less, produce more of their food locally and build more compact, pedestrian-friendly communities.

The 19-page booklet also claims that the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has been "influenced" by Agenda 21.

The booklet cites a board vote to adopt a "sustainable development land-use pattern."

Poet Muriel Zeller of Valley Springs is a former member of MyValleySprings.com and a current member of the Calaveras Planning Coalition, which seeks to involve the county's residents in land-use decisions. Both groups are on the suspect list.

She says the Planning Coalition does advocate for sustainability, but also seeks to promote citizen involvement, adequate roads, police protection and other infrastructure - as well as transparency in government.

"Thanks to the efforts of local groups like the Taxpayers Association, the terms 'smart growth' and 'sustainability' have been irretrievably linked to a theory that a United Nations conspiracy exists to undermine the rights and personal liberties of the good people of Calaveras County," Zeller wrote. "Frankly, I don't buy it. For me, sustainable means, and always has meant, capable of being supported over time. Given that definition, who wouldn't want a sustainable world?"

Al Segalla, president of the Taxpayers Association, said Zeller and many others are simply unaware that they are tools of Agenda 21. "Most of the people that are part of it may not have even read Agenda 21, and yet they are wholly involved in the programs put out by Agenda 21," he said.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 607-1361 or dnichols@recordnet.com. Visit his blog at recordnet.com/calaverasblog.

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