

## **Supervisors spending \$300,000 on GP update**

*By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, November 16, 2012*

It will take nearly another \$300,000 to complete Calaveras County's long-overdue General Plan update.

The General Plan update has been in the works for nearly six years. Back then the board set a two-year timeframe to complete the task.

The county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday by a 3-2 vote decided to hire Raney Planning & Management of Sacramento for an amount not to exceed \$299,919 to complete portions of the General Plan update document and prepare a General Plan Environmental Impact Report.

The county has spent more than \$900,000 since Dec.4, 2006, on the update.

The General Plan update is now scheduled to be in its final form and ready for board approval in November of next year.

Supervisor Tofanelli and Tom Tryon were in favor of continuing the matter until the beginning of next year when three new supervisors join the board. Supervisors Merita Callaway, Darren Spellman and Steve Wilensky voted in favor of moving forward with the agreement to hire the planning firm.

"In my opinion, this should have been continued until January when the new supervisors come on the board," Tofanelli said after the vote. "This may not be the vision of the new board and they might want to change things. It could be costly down the road with potential to cost a lot more dollars."

There will be a new quorum on the board as newly elected supervisors Cliff Edson, Debbie Ponte and Chris Wright will fill three of the five seats. Callaway and Spellman will be the lone holdovers beginning in January.

"If the new board comes in and decides to change the land use design like whether or not to have smaller lots in this part of the county, that will change the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) and that will cost more money," Tofanelli said.

The current board earlier decided to trim the General Plan update process by concentrating on completing the seven basic General Plan elements, and if the new board doesn't want to go that route and incorporate elements such as agriculture or water elements into the update or community plans, that will substantially change the process and the contract with Raney Planning & Management, Tofanelli said.

"The bigger the scope, the more it will cost," he said.