

Press Release

from the Calaveras Planning Coalition

For Immediate Release

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County threw away the near-million-dollar plan.

In a shocking disclosure last week, the County now claims that the Mintier General Plan, that consultants were paid over \$900,000 to prepare over a three year public process, “is no longer in existence.” In a December 4 letter denying a request for the plan, Assistant County Counsel David Sirias wrote that, “The Planning Department did not retain the original draft from Mintier-Harnish.” Equally shocking was the County’s admission that the Mintier General Plan “bore almost no resemblance” to the 2014 Draft General Plan released for public comment last December, and currently being edited by the Planning Commission.

Tom Infusino, who requested a copy of the Mintier General Plan on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition, replied, “This is not a problem.” In testimony to the Board of Supervisors on December 8, he indicated that Mintier-Harnish retains a copy of the plan, and is willing to

provide him with a copy if the county permits. Infusino told the Board, "Releasing the Mintier Plan now would show your respect for the public's right to know. I pray that you will choose to walk this path of transparency, and that the honor of your choice will follow you for years to come."

William Moore, of the Calaveras County Democratic Central Committee, also spoke in support of releasing the Mintier Plan. After noting that the publicly financed plan is now being kept secret from the public, Moore stated, "That secrecy is troubling."

Local resident Bonnie Newman also asked the County to reconsider its decision not to make the Mintier Plan public. She said that, when the government tries to keep a secret from people, it makes her wonder, "What is somebody trying to hide?"

In other planning matters, the Calaveras Planning Coalition encouraged the Board of Supervisors to include a more balanced statement of guiding principles in the draft general plan. In an email to the Board, they concluded that, "By maintaining a fair balance of competing interests, the County will complete a general plan that can be effectively implemented to benefit its people."

The Calaveras Planning Coalition is a group of community organizations and individuals who want a healthy and sustainable future for Calaveras County. They believe that public participation is critical to a successful planning process. United behind eleven land use and development principles, they seek to balance the conservation of local agricultural, natural and historic resources, with the need to provide jobs, housing, safety, and services.

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