

THE Valley Springs NEWS



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Book closed on decade-plus process to approve VS plan

By Nick Baptista

The Valley Springs Community Plan was approved unanimously Tuesday by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors.

Plagued in controversy over the past decade, the compromise plan sailed through the board action with no public comment.

“Peter (Planning Director Maurer) and your staff, thank you so much for all the hard work over the many, many years,” District 1 Supervisor Gary Tofanelli said in making the motion to adopt the plan.

The majority of the plan covers his district. The second to Tofanelli’s motion was made by District 5 Supervisor

Benjamin Stopper. A small portion of his district is within the plan.

“I’m completely happy to see this before us,” Stopper said, thanking Maurer, the County Planning Commission and stakeholders.

The previous Valley Springs Community (See Page 2)

Plan

From Page 1

Plan dates back to 1975. By 2010, two community plans had been drafted for Valley Springs. One plan was a \$200,000 Caltrans funded document based on a public process and Planning Department participation. The other plan was

drafted by a committee of citizens appointed by Supervisor Tofanelli.

The competing plans generated controversy. To address this, the two drafts for Valley Springs were merged.

In written remarks submitted before Tuesday’s meeting, Colleen Platt of MyValley-Springs.com explained to the

supervisors, “The Valley Springs Community Plan section and policies currently before you is a ‘blended’ and condensed version, and includes a broad spectrum of goals and policies from both of the draft plans submitted by community members in 2010.”

She encouraged the board to support the addition of the Valley

Springs section to the Community Planning Element of the Calaveras County General Plan “to help guide future economic development and conservation in the Valley Springs Community Area.”

“I’m sure this is one of the things you’d like to close the book on,” Tofanelli said to Maurer at the end of consideration on the item.