

## **Agree to disagree: hear every opinion**

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In the current climate of accusations, counter-accusations and personal attacks, the genuine discussion of our county's present and future well-being is lost. Reasonable people can and should disagree reasonably. The issues need to be explored, point and counter-point made, in order to arrive at a solution that is inclusive and representative of all involved and all concerned. The members of the Calaveras Planning Coalition support civil discourse that will allow everyone to be heard. So let's turn down the volume on the shrill, empty rhetoric and the personal attacks that do not reflect well on the attackers. There's a lot at stake.

The CPC values the inherent wisdom of local residents in determining the design and development of their communities. The people are not only the beneficiaries of public policy, they are the shapers of it. The CPC is united in its desire for principled, strategically planned growth and development that is the result of an open and transparent process. The mission of the CPC is to promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural and economic environment now and in the future.

The coalition is a group of community organizations and individuals united behind 11 land use and development principles. Like you, we want a healthy, sustainable future that will be reflected in the people, the land and the economy of Calaveras County. We are neighbors, friends, local businesspeople, parents, grandparents and volunteers.

Formed in 2006, the coalition supports a comprehensive update of the Calaveras County General Plan and updates of individual community plans. We believe public participation is critical to a successful planning process and necessary to preserve the unique character of the region. We care about our agricultural heritage, our foothill oaks and mountain forests and our Gold Rush history. We want to balance their preservation with jobs, housing, safety and services. We're pretty sure that's what everyone wants, but we need to be able to talk to each other with respect and consideration to make it happen.

**Muriel Zeller**

*Calaveras Planning Coalition*