

Press Release

from the Calaveras Planning Coalition

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tom Infusino

tomi@volcano.net

(209) 295 – 8866

On Tuesday morning, the Calaveras Planning Coalition presented a formal written request to Calaveras County Planning Director Peter Maurer for a copy of the Mintier General Plan. That plan was prepared over a four year period, at a cost of over \$900,000, before the consultant was replaced in November of 2012. Since then, the County has refused to let the public see the Mintier General Plan, and has entered into over \$400,000 in additional contracts for new consultants to write another general plan.

CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino presented a copy of the request to the Board of Supervisors during their meeting on Tuesday morning. Quoting the California Constitution, Infusino told the Board, “The people have the right to access information concerning the conduct of the people’s business.” Quoting colonial era patriot Patrick Henry, Infusino told the Board, “The liberties of the people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.” The 17-page request referenced 31 attachments and included detailed legal arguments explaining the people’s right to see the document.

A general plan has been called the constitution for all future development. It is the fundamental document that empowers a Board of Supervisors to make land use decisions. It has a long-term perspective of twenty years or more. It includes land use maps and policy pronouncements on a variety of topics that affect people's lives every day.

When completed, Calaveras County's new general plan will identify the potential future locations of homes and businesses. It will identify acceptable levels of traffic congestion and noise that people may have to endure. It will determine the efforts that the County will take, or not take, to conserve its water supply, to protect water quality, to preserve wildlife habitat, and to maintain the viability of farms, ranches, and forestlands. It will identify efforts the County will take, or not take, to protect residents from crime, from floods and from wildfires. It will identify the efforts the County will take, or not take, to develop park and recreation facilities.

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.

The CPC has participated in the General Plan Update since 2006. For more information about the CPC you can go to their website at calaverascap.com .

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