

Letters to the Editor

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Funds wasted on General Plan work

Editor:

Let's revisit a big waste of Calaveras County General Funds that cost us \$918,000. That was the amount that had already been paid to a company named Mintier-Harnish to rewrite and update our County General Plan.

If you look at The Calaveras Enterprise paper dated Feb. 5, 2016 on page A6 you will see a brief history of the Calaveras County General Plan update process from 2006 to now. This plan was well on its way to being completed with many elements already submitted to our county for their approval.

Suddenly in 2012, the county decided to fire Mintier-Harnish and hire a new company named Raney Planning and Management. In 2014, the Board of Supervisors votes to approve a contract with Augustine Planning Associates. How many hundreds of thousands of more dollars will our county need to pay before we get a legally mandated new General Plan? How much has been spent since they fired Mintier-Harnish? The county has also buried the completed elements/documents of the Mintier-Harnish Plan and refused to allow some county voters to look at what was completed even after formal requests!

My suspicion is that the plan was buried because of the facts that were documented in the last element submitted to the county. Again, I refer to The Calaveras Enterprise Feb. 5 story, (in May of 2011 the last element delivered to the county was the transportation and circulation element is submitted to the Public Works Department) Highway 26 has a D Level Rating from Caltrans with its high traffic volume, narrow lanes and many curves.

The county needs to be careful on how much new developments they approve that will impact our traffic on an already over-burdened highway system. This county must include all of its developments and their current build out and also planned developments and subdivisions that have already been approved by previous supervisors in the plan. We need a complete and legal new General Plan to serve our county and our family's living here.

Bob Vera

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