

# Planning Commission asks supervisors to approve the General Plan

By the Calaveras Planning Coalition

The Calaveras County Planning Commission recommended Thursday that the Board of Supervisors adopt the General Plan Update. The county originally expected to update the plan in just three years. If the Board of Supervisors approves a plan, the 12-year general plan update process will be complete.

During seven prior meetings over four weeks, commissioners struggled to agree on many meaningful edits to the document. Commissioner Timothy Laddish came prepared to each meeting with lists of suggested changes for each element. Commission Chair Michelle Plotnik frequently agreed with these changes, while Commissioner Kelly Wooster frequently disagreed. Commissioner Brett Henderson sometimes sided with Commissioner Laddish, and other times sided with Commissioner Wooster.

Only four of the five commissioners participated in the first six meetings. The seat for the commissioner from District One, representing San Andreas and Valley Springs, was empty until Trent Fiorino was approved to fill the vacant position by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday June 11.

While the map of the 2016 Draft General Plan Update was not changed much, the text was meaningfully edited.

In 2015 and 2016, the prior Board of Supervisors directed the Planning Department to eliminate the existing plans for Valley Springs, Arnold, Murphys and Avery/Hathaway Pines. None of the supervisors who voted for those directions are currently on the Board of Supervisors. While some current planning commissioners expressed their frustration with so many community plans being eliminated from the Community Planning Element, they refused to go against those earlier board directions. The commission also refused to include the draft plans for Valley Springs (2017) and Copperopolis (2013). The 2017 Valley Springs draft plan

## Guest Column



is a blend of the two plans prepared for Valley Springs in 2010. The blend was then edited to fit into the Community Planning Element. Despite the recommendation of Planning Director Peter Maurer in 2017 to adopt the plan, the Planning Commission has not acted on it since the plan was pulled from their agenda at the request of Supervisor Gary Tofanelli.

While the Community Planning Element allows for additional community plans to be adopted in the future, no deadline was set for including any additional community plans.

In the General Plan Introduction, the purpose of the general plan was expanded to include the protection of public health, public safety and the environment. A guiding principle was also amended to note that the county will follow all state and federal laws for environmental protection.

In the Land Use Element, a policy was added listing issues the county will consider when evaluating proposals to amend the general plan map to intensify development outside of Community Plan Areas. A policy was added, and an implementation measure restored, to encourage public participation in implementing community character and design policies. The future home occupation ordinance will minimize the impacts of home occupations on neighbors. Also, the two Copperopolis developments designated as Future Specific Plans, one at Sawmill Lake and the other at Table Mountain, will be expected to provide open space, public recreation, and a range of housing types.

In the Conservation and Open Space Element, the greenhouse gas reduction plan to fight global climate change was given a 2021 deadline for completion, a reduction target, and a menu of implementation measures to consider.

Commissioner Wooster pro-

moted many changes to the Resource Production Element and the Conservation and Open Space Element. Specific stream-side setbacks for developments were removed in favor of those recommended by the biologist evaluating the project. Pending development of a county mitigation plan of its own, the detailed and comprehensive Oak Woodland Implementation Policy in the draft plan was deleted in favor of a measure that defers to the minimum required state mitigation. Farmland conversion mitigation will be delayed pending the receipt of Department of Conservation mapping data, and there are no specified mitigation measures or ratios. Despite the fact that the Agricultural Coalition provided mitigation guidelines to the county in 2011, mitigation for the conversion of Resource Production land has been deferred until the development of new guidelines, and there is no specified mitigation for use in the interim.

In addition, a number of general plan policies and implementation measures were limited in their application to discretionary projects subject to CEQA review. Therefore, it is unlikely that future ministerial approvals and by-right projects will be conditioned to assist the county in reducing impacts on oak woodlands, biological resources, riparian corridors, air pollution, and odors.

Priorities for implementing the general plan are still a mystery, and are likely to remain so. The plan calls for the Board of Supervisors to annually select implementation priorities for the coming year based upon the recommendations of the planning director. This is critical, as many of the implementation measures in the General Plan Update are simply a promise to do more planning and program development at an unspecified time in the future. The biggest of these efforts will be reviewing and updating the county's

ordinances to deal with issues like light and glare, landscaping, zoning for historic centers, expanding agritourism, noise, conforming to state fire safety regulations, grading, and when connection to public sewers is mandatory.

While not necessarily associated with ordinance changes, there are a number of other implementation measures that also have no priority or deadline.

With regard to public finances, the county will update Road Impact Mitigation fees and benefit basin fees. The county will help establish public facility impact fees, and complete capital facility plans. The county will adopt a Recreation Master Plan and pursue park funding.

With regard to public safety, the county will establish minimum level of service standards for emergency responders, law enforcement, water, sewer, fire protection, and other public facilities and services. The county will establish a comprehensive fire safety standards reference, a fire safety committee, evacuation plans for intermittent high occupancy uses like campgrounds, and a map of identified evacuation routes throughout the county.

However, when asked to identify the costs and personnel requirements for each of these tasks after plan adoption, Planning Director Maurer indicated he was not sure that he could do it. Instead, staff and funding requirements will be identified annually for the implementation tasks selected by the Board of Supervisors.

While the hearing was mostly a discussion among the planning commissioners and Planning Director Maurer, the meetings were sparsely attended by members of the public.

Patricia Gordo of Valley Springs spoke on many topics, generally asking the commission to avoid unnecessary government intrusion into people's use of their property. Tom Hicks of Copper Valley LLC convinced the commission to add four parcels to the Future Specific Plan designation

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**Calaveras County  
Legal Notices**

The Calaveras County Purchasing Agent will receive proposals for:  
**Consulting Engineer Services for Integrated Waste System Improvement Project(s)**  
**Administrative Office/Integrated Waste Management**  
**RFP No. 18-1170-09-925**

Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Calaveras County Administrative Office, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, or from Public Purchase at: <https://www.publicpurchase.com/gemscalaverasco.ca/buyer/public/home>

Proposers must submit one (1) original, three (3) copies, and one (1) flash drive of their proposal, along with any addenda, in a sealed envelope or container, clearly marked "RFP #18-1170-09-925 – DO NOT OPEN", no later than 3:00pm on July 24, 2019 to:

Calaveras County Administrative Office  
Attention: Purchasing Agent  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

A cost proposal must be submitted in a separate, sealed envelope titled, "RFP #18-1170-09-925 – Cost Proposal Enclosed".

Published: June 28, 2019 and July 3, 2019 VSN

The Calaveras County Purchasing Agent will receive bids for:

**West Point Bikeway  
Construction Services**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**ITB No. 18-1200-39-913**

Invitation to Bid may be obtained from the Calaveras County Administrative Office, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, or from Public Purchase at: <https://www.publicpurchase.com/gemscalaverasco.ca/buyer/public/home>

Bids shall be submitted to:  
Calaveras County Administrative Office  
Attention: Purchasing Agent  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

Bids shall be submitted no later than July 18, 2019, at 3:00 PM. Envelopes or packages containing the Proposal should be clearly marked, "ITB 18-1200-39-913 – Mailroom DO NOT OPEN".

Published: June 28, 2019 and July 3, 2019 VSN

The Calaveras County Purchasing Agent will receive bids for:  
**Murphys Drive Road Repair Project  
Construction Services**  
**Department of Public Works**  
**ITB 18-0920-40-913**

Invitation to Bid may be obtained from the Calaveras County Administrative Office, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, or from Public Purchase at: <https://www.publicpurchase.com/gemscalaverasco.ca/buyer/public/home>

Bids shall be submitted to:  
Calaveras County Administrative Office  
Attention: Purchasing Agent  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

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The Valley Springs News is Calaveras County's official newspaper for the publication of the county's legal advertising and public notices.

**Calaveras County  
Legal Notices**

**Public Notice**

Notice of Availability of a Draft Initial Study and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Announcement of a Public Meeting for the **Calaveritas Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

**WHERE AND WHEN?**

Date: Thursday July 11, 2019  
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Place: Overflow Board of Supervisors Room  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249

**WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?**

Calaveras County, in coordination with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to rehabilitate and strengthen the Calaveritas Road Bridge (Bridge Number 30C-0024) over Calaveritas Creek. Caltrans has determined that the bridge is structurally deficient. As a result, the bridge has been recommended for rehabilitation. The proposed project would rehabilitate and strengthen the existing bridge over Calaveritas Creek to provide an improved local transportation facility. The bridge is located just south of the town of Calaveritas, Calaveras County.

**WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?**

Calaveras County has studied the effects this project may have on the environment and has prepared an environmental document. The studies within the document show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains the findings of the studies is the Initial Study with proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. This notice is to advise you that the preparation of this report has been completed and is available for you to review. A public meeting regarding this project will be held on July 11, 2019 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the overflow Board of Supervisors Room (directly adjacent to the Board of Supervisors Room), 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249. This public meeting will be conducted in an "Open Forum" format. No formal presentation will be made.

**WHAT'S AVAILABLE?**

The Initial Study with proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review beginning June 28 through July 29, 2019. During the public review period, a copy of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and all supporting documents will be available at: Calaveras County, Department of Public Works; 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249. An additional copy of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available online at <http://publicworks.calaverasgov.us/>.

**WHERE DO YOU COME IN?**

If you have any comments about the Initial Study and processing the project with a Mitigated Negative Declaration, disagree with the findings of the study as set forth in the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, or care to make any other comments on the project please submit your comments in writing no later than July 29 2019 to: Calaveras County Department of Public Works, ATTN: Jennifer Ellis, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249 or via e-mail to [JEllis@co.calaveras.ca.us](mailto:JEllis@co.calaveras.ca.us).

**CONTACT**

For more information, or to receive a copy of the draft Initial Study, please contact Jennifer Ellis at the Calaveras County, Department of Public Works, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249 or by phone at (209) 754-6402. Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact Calaveras County at (209) 754-6402.

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**Planning**

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for the Sawmill Lake development, but did not convince the commission to change the proposed land use designation for the former Copper Valley project area.

Although the Calaveras Planning Coalition submitted extensive written comments, and had many people speak on each day of the hearing, the commission refused most of the general plan improvements offered by the CPC. Furthermore, the commission refused to address CPC concerns regarding the inadequacy of the Final Environmental Impact Report. Despite approximately 30 minutes of public testimony asking for the commission to take 21 specific actions to correct the county's responses to comments on the DEIR, the commission was silent on the subject. Despite a CPC memo and

testimony explaining flaws in the FEIR impact analyses, flaws in the mitigation measures, and flaws in the alternatives analysis, the commission was silent on those subjects as well.

The latest version of the General Plan Update can be downloaded from the county's website at <https://planning.calaverasgov.us/GP-Update>. You can direct your concerns regarding the plan to the Board of Supervisors at 'BoardClerk@co.calaveras.ca.us'. The Board of Supervisors may consider the General Plan Update as soon as July 30.

**Calaveras County  
Legal Notices**

**NOTICE REGARDING SEIZURE OF PROPERTY AND INITIATION OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS, HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 11488.4**

TO: ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR LEGAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING SEIZED PROPERTY: \$3,240.00 Currency of the United States of America.

Notice is hereby given that the property described above was seized on June 5, 2019, from 8337 Pardini Place, Valley Springs, in Calaveras County, California, by deputies of the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department for a violation of Health & Safety Code Section(s) 11358 and 11359.

On June 12, non-judicial forfeiture proceedings were commenced by the Calaveras County District Attorney in Action Number AF19-03.

You have until thirty (30) days from the date of the last publication of this Notice to file a verified claim, unless you have received actual notice. The claim must state the nature and extent of any interest you hold in this property, must be verified, and must be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court, 400 Government Center Drive, San Andreas, California 95249, or the property will be forfeited to the State. An endorsed copy of the claim must be served on the District Attorney, Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, California 95249, within thirty (30) days of the filing of your claim. Claim forms can be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court.

If your claim is properly filed, the District Attorney will decide whether to file a Petition for Forfeiture with the Superior Court to contest your claim. *In the case where a Petition is filed and a contested hearing is held you will have the following rights which include but are not limited to: you have a right to testify on your own behalf, submit evidence showing the legitimacy of the seized assets, and a right to cross examine the petitioner's witnesses. This is a civil action, you have the additional right to represent yourself or hire your own attorney, and there is no right to appointed counsel in this case.* If no claim is properly filed within the time allowed, the property will be ordered forfeited to the State, to be disposed of according to law.

Dated: June 13, 2019

BARBARA M. YOOK,  
District Attorney

By: /s/ Dana L Pfeil  
Assistant District Attorney

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Calendar  
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