

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2009

For more information contact: Tyler Summersett, Calaveras Council of Governments, 754-2094

*Valley Springs.* The Valley Springs Community Plan workshops will begin with the “Opening Meeting” on May 28, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Valley Springs Elementary School multi-purpose room, 240 Pine Street. The workshops will continue on Saturday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 2, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the same location. Saturday will address “Community Design” and Tuesday will be the “Presentation of Plan Concepts.” All residents, property owners, and interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. The public will be responsible for creating the vision for future growth and land use in the Valley Springs area based upon their intimate knowledge and understanding of the place in which they live, work, or own property. Food and refreshments will be provided.

The workshops are hosted by the Calaveras Council of Governments (CCOG), the regional transportation planning agency, who received funding for the community plan project through a Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant. The community plan project partners include the CCOG, the Local Government Commission, MyValleySprings.com, and Calaveras County. EDAW, Inc. is heading the design team for the community-driven planning process, which also includes traffic and circulation specialists from Omni-Means, Inc., and noted rural land use planner Randall Arendt of Greener Prospects.

The May events are the first in a series of workshops, which will take place in two stages to: 1) establish the vision for a coordinated land use and transportation plan; and 2) establish the basis for zoning, subdivision and development standards to direct revitalization of the town center and to direct the form and character of new neighborhoods, streets, and corridors. The second workshop series is scheduled for late August. Plan concepts and components will be presented to the community at each stage for feedback to ensure the design team of planning professionals is meeting community expectations.

The community is also represented in the planning process by the Stakeholders Advisory Committee, which is comprised of about twenty representatives from local agencies, organizations, and the community at large. The Committee will continue to help identify important issues or additional planning data needs and determine strategies to engage all segments of the community and maximize participation by the general public in the workshops.

Prior to the workshops, a short survey will be mailed to residents, property owners, and businesses in the Valley Springs area, including Wallace, Burson, Campo Seco, Jenny Lind, Rancho Calaveras, Paloma, and Toyon. The survey may also be taken online at

[www.calacog.org](http://www.calacog.org), the CCOG website. The survey will help identify those people who consider themselves residents of Valley Springs in an effort to determine just how much Valley Springs has grown beyond the boundaries established in 1974. One of the primary components of the community planning process is the establishment of new community boundaries that reflect the reality of who, what, and where Valley Springs is today and what the people want it to be tomorrow.

The community design team will host drop-in hours on Friday, May 29, 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and on Monday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church, 135 Laurel Street, and on Sunday, May 31, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the school’s multi-purpose room. The informal drop-in hours provide an opportunity for everyone to be heard and have their concerns addressed. Members of the public and all interested parties may ask questions of individual design team members and offer additional input on the community plan. For more information on the Valley Springs Community Plan project, call Tyler Summersett, Project Manager, Calaveras Council of Governments, 754-2094, or visit [www.calacog.org](http://www.calacog.org), and click on “projects,” then “Valley Springs CBTP.”