



www.MyValleySprings.com

email: [info@myvalleysprings.com](mailto:info@myvalleysprings.com)

P.O. Box 1501

Valley Springs, CA 95252

January 22, 2008

For Immediate Release

*Valley Springs.* On January 15, MyValleySprings.com (MVS) presented the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and the Community Development Agency (CDA) with the Valley Springs Community Design Workshop Summary of Results. The report summarizes the process and results of a two-part workshop that took place Wednesday, October 24 and Saturday, October 27, 2007 hosted by MVS and facilitated by the Local Government Commission (LGC), which is a Sacramento non-profit organization dedicated to helping local governments and their constituents build livable, resource-efficient communities. In 1991, the LGC wrote the Awahnee Principles for Resource Efficient Communities, and paved the way for the Smart Growth Movement.

The purpose of the design workshop was to bring together residents and other stakeholders from the greater Valley Springs area to initiate formal discussion of a common vision for the future of the community. It is hoped the report will help inform the update of the Valley Springs Community Plan and the General Plan. The event began with a Wednesday evening town meeting attended by 75 people and continued with a community walk-audit, training, and community design session on Saturday attended by 40 people.

The design workshop was part of an ongoing effort by MVS to promote responsible growth and development and encourage public participation in the update of the Valley Springs Community Plan that began with the creation of the MVS website, [www.myvalleysprings.com](http://www.myvalleysprings.com), which provides planning information, development news, maps, opinions, and links to related sites. In 2007, the non-profit organization's website had 27,060 visits representing 11,464 visitors. "We are delighted at the amount of traffic on our website this past year," said Colleen Platt, MVS Secretary. "It is an indication of the tremendous amount of public interest in planning and community design." MVS is anticipating grant funding for redesign and maintenance of their website in 2008.

The MVS community planning effort continued with a series of town hall meetings designed to educate the public on important land-use planning issues and the hiring of a graduate student intern to compile baseline information for the Valley Springs area. Currently, MVS is facilitating creation of a broad-based citizens' group to offer public input and also plans a community image survey. Anyone interested in being part of the group may contact MVS President, Joyce Techel, 772-1463, or email [info@myvalleysprings.com](mailto:info@myvalleysprings.com). "It is important for people to realize that we, as an organization, are not writing the community plan," said Techel. "What we are trying to do is ensure broad and representative public participation in the process. We want the people to be recognized as the 'experts' in planning the future of their community."

MVS will continue to encourage a grassroots community planning effort with diverse public participation as evidenced by its participation in the recent application for a Caltrans Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant. If awarded, the grant will fund creation of a community planning document for the greater Valley Springs area based upon a highly

participatory public design charrette process. The grant applicant is the Calaveras Council of Governments, the regional transportation planning agency, and the sub-recipients include the CDA, the LGC, and MVS. If the grant is successful, funds will likely be received in early 2009.

Top priorities identified for the Valley Springs area during the Community Design Workshop (in order of importance) included rural atmosphere and agricultural preservation, traffic and improved roads, preservation of oaks, more housing options, water conservation, code enforcement, design guidelines, parks and recreation, wildlife habitat and conservation, jobs, mixed use development, government services (police, fire, jail, parks), one town center, development fees for new growth, shopping, trails, walkways and sidewalks, youth/community center, cell phone service, childcare, a high school, drug treatment for teenagers, and social services center.

Recommendations to revitalize the town center and accommodate future growth included creating a mixed-use village in the downtown area, continuing the grid street and short block pattern in new development adjacent to downtown, considering a roundabout at the Highway 12/26 junction, maintaining the Highway 12 view corridor heading east into downtown, adding trees and improving entry into downtown, a one-way through road by Starbuck's connecting Jean Street to Highway 12/26 to alleviate congestion, providing storm drainage in Valley Springs, developing the depot area with small boutiques, cafes and a visitor center, encouraging a restaurant on the water at the Hogan Lake marina, considering Cosgrove Creek trails and recreational use, complete sidewalks and planting strips on downtown streets, adding street trees and thematic light posts to downtown streets, beautifying downtown building facades and providing covered overhangs, considering a western town theme, no new strip malls, and creating greenway/park space and avoiding additional development in the Cosgrove and Spring Valley Creek flood area. The complete report is posted on the MVS website.