



IT'S TIME FOR VALLEY SPRINGS TO GET “SMART”

Smart growth = “development that serves the economy, the community, and the environment.”

MyValleySprings.com strongly favors smart growth as defined above by the California Planning Guide. That definition implies participation and cooperation from representatives of each of these areas. For more information:
<http://www.myvalleysprings.com/smartgrowth.html>

Participate in the Community Plan Update

“Many rural areas that attract vacationers or homeowners seeking a natural setting or small-town atmosphere become the victims of their own success.”

Barbara Wells

Smart Growth:

- is an evolving approach to land development and redevelopment that promotes a mix of residential, commercial, and recreational uses;
- preserves green space and working landscapes; and provides a variety of transportation choices;
- appeals to cost-conscious communities by maximizing the use of existing infrastructure — highways, transit, schools, sewer systems, and every type of public service;
- protects air and water quality by conserving undeveloped land; minimizing the spread of paved, impervious land cover; and offering alternatives to automobile travel that reduce traffic congestion and the number of vehicle miles traveled; and
- is not as widely applied to rural areas as to urban and suburban areas.

Rural Smart Growth:

- recognizes rural towns are at the very frontier of tomorrow’s sprawling development;
- reflects concerns about growth and its effect on traditional town centers, natural resources, and working landscapes;
- means innovations in planning for growth and leveraging a wide variety of financial and technical resources;
- revitalizes small towns; links natural resource protection with recreational and residential development; maintains working landscapes; and coordinates regional development;
- identifies economic assets that help draw growth back to town centers; and
- recognizes the traditional, historic American “hometown” as an example of mixed use and smart growth.

Virtually every example of successful rural development, revitalization, and conservation illustrates three characteristics:

- a critical mass of committed citizens determined to enhance their community’s growth and quality of life;
- the recognition and use of the area’s assets — location, natural resources, natural attractions, and historic and cultural value; and
- financial and technical support.

*(adapted from: Smart Growth at the Frontier: Strategies and Resources for Rural Communities by Barbara Wells
<http://www.borderlandsproject.org/content/Publications/RuralSmartGrowth.pdf>)*

For information on planning, land use, and current development, visit www.myvalleysprings.com.

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