

# Maintain our open space

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**Editor,**

As we enter the holiday season, we give thanks for the many gifts that bless our lives.

Calaveras County is blessed with a wealth of natural resources across its open space lands. It has tens of thousands of acres of productive farm and rangelands. It has tens of thousands of acres of productive forest lands, in both public and private holdings. These lands provide habitat for fish and game and dozens of special status species in need of careful management.

Flowing through watersheds in Calaveras County are the mighty Mokelumne River, the vibrant Calaveras River, and the turbulent Stanislaus River, all of which provide water and power not only to people in Calaveras County, but also to distant farms and to urban developments in the San Joaquin Valley and the East Bay.

In 2026 and 2027 the county government will update its open space plan to address challenges to resource conservation and production, public safety, outdoor recreation, and cultural resource protection. Public participation in this process is critical. The Calaveras Planning Coalition encourages all local residents to become involved to ensure that we can pass on the blessings of our open space lands to future generations.

With gratitude,

**Tom Infusino**

**Facilitator**

**Calaveras Planning Coalition**

**San Andreas**