

I am speaking today on behalf of the Community Action Project and the Calaveras Planning Coalition. I will summarize our overall response to the Issues and Opportunities report, the Draft Vision Statement, and the Guiding Principles for the updated general plan with one word: YES! We fully support the directions indicated in these documents and will happily work with the county to create a general plan that embodies them.

In 2006, the Planning Coalition adopted eleven land use and development principles. Four of these are directly represented in four of the proposed Guiding Principles for the general plan. Several others are also reflected in the proposed principles. This year we set five goals for our work – land use consistent with community visions and goals; protected wildlife habitat, visual quality, agricultural land and open space; adequate infrastructure and services; a vital, sustainable economy; and innovative, legally compliant planning; all are incorporated in the documents being presented today. Our new Planning Coalition logo summarizes our quadruple bottom line: Nature, Humanity, Community, Economy. Each is addressed in the guiding principles.

What we are most pleased about is that the report and vision being put forth today reflect the desires of the citizens who have been participating in the general plan update process from the beginning. The issues, opportunities, and principles presented here are what we heard in both rounds of community workshops held in June and December last year.

We urge your acceptance of this Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. We pledge our continued participation, and we promise to continue to encourage and support broad citizen involvement in the general plan update process. It is a large vision we are being asked to move toward, and it will take all of us, a whole county, to do it.