



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CAP/CPC staff in 2012 continued their mission to promote public participation in land use and resources planning by distributing information relating to land use issues and other development concerns in Calaveras to the public for their use. Action alerts went out by email. Both useful information and video of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors hearings were posted on the CAP/CPC website. Information was shared with the media through opinion letters and contributing to articles.

Our board and staff, with the support of the Calaveras Planning Coalition, private foundation partners, government agencies, and individual donors, have made 2012 a very successful year for CAP. We thought we would take this moment to share just a few of our accomplishments in pursuit of our mission. Please visit our web site at (<http://calaverascap.com/>).

LAND USE

- CPC staff worked with member groups MyValleySprings and Citizens for San Andreas to review the County's proposed land use maps and make recommendations for adoption. CPC staff assisted the CSA during its meeting to discuss the map with the Planning Department and steps necessary for adoption of both the Community Plan and the San Andreas Mobility Plan. CPC staff Assisted MyValleySprings to craft a proposal to modify the Preferred Alternative Map for Valley Springs, to try to incorporate more of the planning principles expressed by the diverse interest groups in the area.
- CPC staff, member groups, and volunteers sent in detailed letters to the Planning Commission regarding the Sawmill Project, and spoke at the Planning Commission hearing that had been continued from September. After an over four hour hearing, the Commission voted 3 to 2 to send the project to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for denial without prejudice. This was a vote of support for the Planning Director, a vote to preserve the integrity of the General Plan Update process, and a vote to prevent harm to the Copperopolis community and its environment.
- The CPC facilitator spoke in support of a draft County Noise Ordinance at the July 24 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. He noted that ordinance is the missing enforcement piece of a larger system of use permits and environmental review designed to protect one's right to the quiet enjoyment of one's land. This helps to dispel the misconception, promoted by others in Calaveras County, that the goal of environmental regulation is to take away people's property rights.
- CPC staff and members testified at the BOS Study Session and sent in preliminary written comments regarding the Draft 1 General Plan Maps. We also spoke in opposition to a proposal for an anti-planning Agenda 21 Resolution. Our comments included a sample of a more balanced and accurate statement for the general plan text regarding real estate property rights, the public interest, and government authority.

WATER AND WATERSHED CHALLENGES

- CAP staff gave testimony to the Calaveras Board of Supervisors and Jackson City Council in support for the BLM studying the feasibility of commercial rafting on the Mokelumne River
- CPC facilitator Tom Infusino, working with CPC member group Foothill Conservancy, helped put fiscal and environmental screens on projects proposed for the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Calaveras and Amador region.
- In addition, as part of our outreach work, we helped public interest groups in Amador and Calaveras Counties to review and comment on the projects proposed for inclusion in the plan. This continues both our work on the IRWMP, and our work in collaborating with Amador County activists.
- CPC staff got UMRWA to make the MAC IRWMP water project proposals public, and sent out emails to concerned citizens who may want to review them.

For the IRWMP Guidelines, and instructions on how to comment on an IRWMP, go to our website (<http://calaverascap.com/>). Like any draft document, the plan has some good parts and some other parts that need work.

OUTREACH

- CAP and CPC staff led the Calaveras High School Earth Club on a hike in Calaveras Big Trees North Grove. During the hike, the students learned how Giant Sequoias grow, life lessons we can learn from how redwoods grow, and about the Calaveras County General Plan Update. After the hike and lunch, the Earth Club planned its activities for the coming year. The Club chose to form a General Plan Team to provide input on the Calaveras County General Plan Update. The 15 member team has working groups preparing input on many topics including: historical preservation, fire safety, childcare facilities, bike lanes, parks and recreation, public facilities and utilities, agriculture, energy conservation, economic development, cultural services, and San Andreas downtown revitalization. CAP and CPC staff members assist the team members during their Thursday afternoon study breaks at school.

FUND RAISING & LOCAL EVENTS

- Our June 30th fundraising party was a big success, and gave another opportunity for planning activists from Amador and Calaveras to get to know each other better.
- CAP and CPC staff and volunteers prepared for and attended Green Days in Murphys; a two day celebration of the environment. Over 50 people signed letters to fix the MAC IRWMP, and over 90 people signed letters to thank the BLM for studying the feasibility of commercial rafting on the Mokelumne River. We sent the IRWMP letters to the MAC IRWMP staff during the public comment period on the draft plan in October. We delivered the thank you letters to the BLM Field Office during the holidays in December.

CAP Board, staff, and member organizations wish you a very happy holiday.

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