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CALAVERAS COUNCIL
of GOVERNMENTS

October 19, 2010

George White, Planning Director
Calaveras County
891 Mountain Ranch Rd
San Andreas, CA 95249

Dear Mr. White,

The Project Partners (Local Government Commission, MyValleySprings.com, Calaveras Council of Governments) proudly transmit on behalf of the many community members of Valley Springs who participated in the Community Plan update the Final Draft Valley Springs Community Plan.

This Plan is the cumulative product of many efforts combined over the course of the last two and half years to secure funding for, organize, write and complete this community based effort. The Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant facilitated a public process that would not have otherwise been possible. This process included a twenty-plus member Stakeholder Advisory Committee, direct mail notification of meetings and community questionnaires, the hiring of a professional planning firm, the creation of banners and flyers to notice the community, the convening of community resource agencies and the construction of a flexible process that allowed the Project Partners to react to what the community was saying.

This broad outreach at times strained the community as hundreds of community members weighed in on the future of their community. The project documentation supplementing the plan attests to the many folks and interests we heard from in the area.

Like any community process which seeks input from broad and diverse members of a place, it is impossible to please all the people all the time and this process was no anomaly. However, Community values and priorities were captured throughout the collaborative process.

This project held its first SAC meeting in March 2009 and its last community meeting on September 15, 2010. During this time the community identified a myriad of community characteristics which have drawn them to Valley Springs and a handful of issues which serve as a thorn in the side of the community. It is these "places of the heart" and issues such as circulation, jobs, and flooding which the Community Plan spends its time addressing.

In the document you will find the public process recreated, because it was here that the project partners got direction on what to address, protect, improve and enhance in the community. Chapters 6, 7 and 8 are designed to provide a means for community members, planners, builders & developers, the Planning Department, Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to appropriately respect the desires of the community.

Public and community participation on a shoestring:

2009

May 28-June 2: 200 participants

August 27: 175 participants

Stakeholder meetings (Landowners/Resource Agencies/ Business Community/ Latino Outreach): 50 participants

Questionnaire respondents: 900 (800 hardcopy, 100 online) respondents

2010

February 23, 25, 27: 450 participants

April on-line Questionnaire: 116 respondents

May 5: BOS presentation


September 15: 68 participants

Total Community Participation Occurrences: 1900+

We urge you to take an open, in-depth look at the Community Plan and supporting documentation before you.

On behalf of the many folks who have diligently participated in their community plan update we thank you for finding a way to incorporate the voice of a community into the larger County planning process.

Respectfully,



Tyler Summersett
Project Manager

Cc: Gary Tofanelli, District 1
Steve Wilensky, District 2
Merita Callaway, District 3
Tom Tryon, District 4
Russ Thomas, District 5
Michael Robinson, Caltrans D10