

## **Rural development standard**

We continue to be concerned that the county's draft general plan does not adequately focus growth into towns; protect wildlife habit, plant habitat, agriculture, open space, rivers and streams, forests and oak woodlands, water quality, groundwater quantity, and the county's scenic beauty; or adequately address climate change impacts. The impacts to each under each alternative must be measured and quantified in the general plan EIR.

In addition, the county is relying on future mitigation to avoid the destruction of property, forests, and the loss of lives from the continued development in the county's wildland-urban interface and intermix. There is no doubt that continued parcelization and exurban development in the WUI zones will lead to increased wildland fires and higher fire prevention and suppression costs, while increasing the risk of catastrophic, stand-replacing fires in industrial timberlands and the county's critical watersheds. It could also lead to loss of lives.

We urge the county to include a "rural development standards" option in one of the EIR alternatives:

"To protect the public health and safety and water quality, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure adequate drinking water supplies, no new parcel smaller than 40 acres in size shall be created until the following are available:

- Paid, FT 24/7 fire and EMS department other than CalFire
- Roads that are adequate for emergency vehicle access and simultaneous resident evacuation during a wildland fire
- Public water service from a surface water source
- Public wastewater service
- Schools, jobs and shopping within three miles"