



# County of Calaveras Department of Planning

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Date: July 18, 2013  
To: Advisory Agencies  
From: Amy Augustine, AICP - Planner  
Project: Calaveras County General Plan Update – Request for Input

Respond by: **August 18, 2013**

Calaveras County has been undertaking a comprehensive update of its General Plan for the past several years. Details can be found at: <http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/cc/Departments/PlanningDepartment/GeneralPlanUpdate.aspx>. Staff is currently drafting the goals, policies and implementation programs for the General Plan. Your input, ideas and guidance are requested.

## What do you want to see addressed in the Calaveras County General Plan?

Do you have ideas related to water use? Where in the County would you like to see growth occur? How much growth should occur? Do you have recommendations for managing habitat for wildlife species? What types of housing do you think the County needs? What existing roads should be improved and how? Where should new roads be added? Who should pay for upgrading existing and installing new infrastructure? How can agricultural and timber lands be protected and maintained? Does the County need more recreational facilities--if so, where and what kind? What sorts of jobs does the County need more of—industrial or manufacturing, retail sales, service-oriented, others?

These are just a few of the topics that the General Plan is expected to address. Your input on any or all of the following General Plan elements is requested: Land Use, Circulation, Conservation/Open Space, Noise, and Safety plus an Agriculture/Timber/Mineral Lands Element. Attached is an outline of the range of issues to be addressed in each element in accordance with state law.

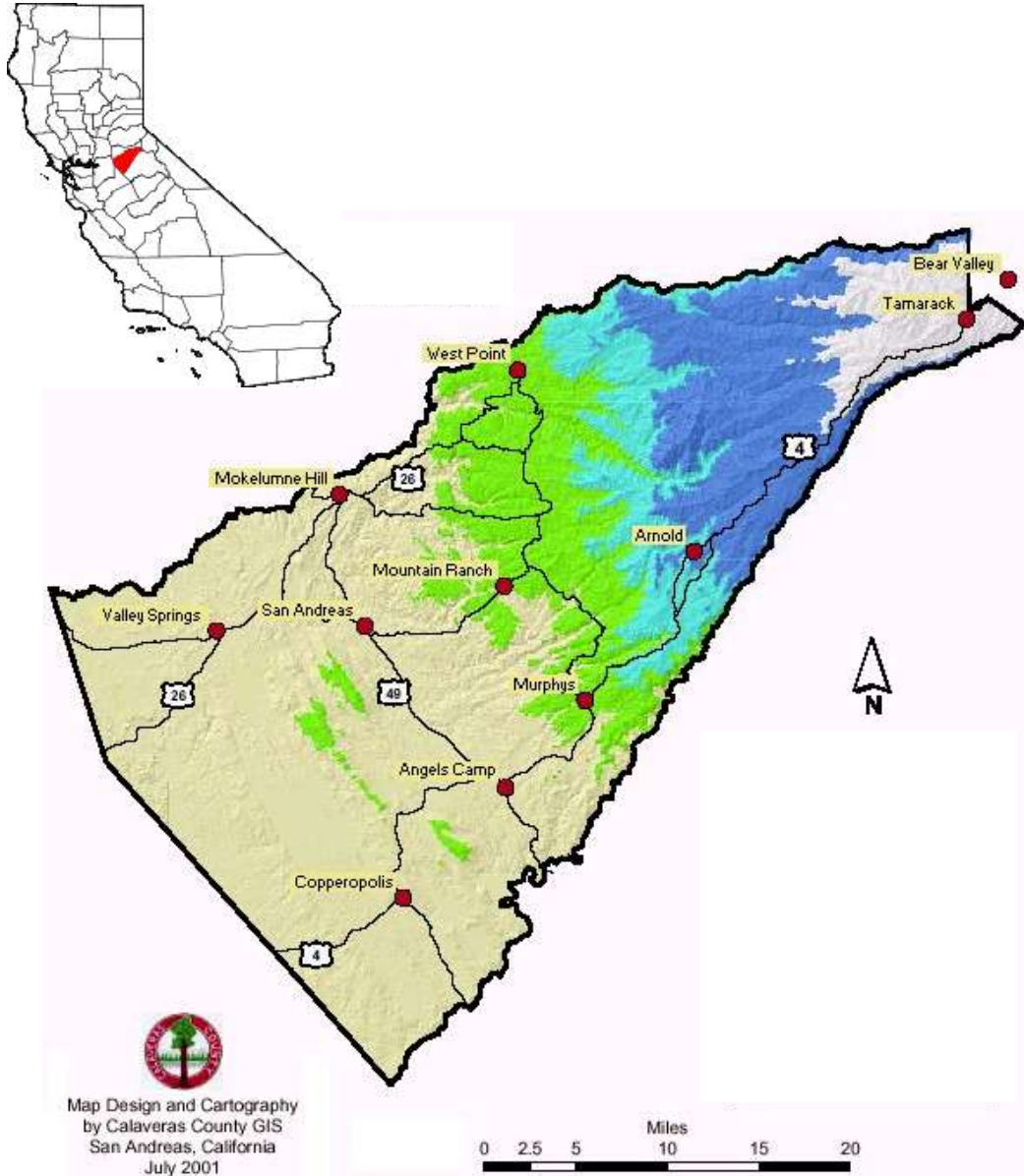
You will have additional chances to review draft General Plan elements before the plan is considered by the Calaveras County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, but **this is your chance to help shape the contents of the General Plan before the draft General Plan is released!** Thank you in advance for your input. Please consider forwarding this invitation to comment to other interested stakeholders.

**Contact:** Please contact Amy Augustine if you have questions or require additional information:

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# CALAVERAS COUNTY



## WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

The General Plan is the County’s “road map” for guiding land use through 2030. In addition to the following elements, the General Plan will include an **Agriculture, Forestry, & Minerals Element** either separately or as part of the Conservation & Open Space Element. A **Housing Element** is being prepared in 2014 in conjunction with the five-year planning cycle mandated by state law. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research details the required contents of general plans at [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/General\\_Plan\\_Guidelines\\_2003.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/General_Plan_Guidelines_2003.pdf). These requirements are summarized as follows:

Required Element	Topics Addressed (List is not all-inclusive and may include optional topics) Source: Governor’s Office of Planning & Research
Land Use	The land use element guides the ultimate pattern of development for the county at build-out. The element guides zoning, subdivision, and public works decisions and must show the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of uses of the land. Required elements include: land use diagrams (See online draft land use maps <a href="http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/cc/Departments/PlanningDepartment/GeneralPlanUpdate.aspx">http://www.co.calaveras.ca.us/cc/Departments/PlanningDepartment/GeneralPlanUpdate.aspx</a> ), standards of population density, standards for building intensity, and, to the extent relevant, address: Distribution of housing, business, and Industry; Distribution of open space, including agricultural land; Distribution of mineral resources and provisions for their continued availability; Distribution of recreation facilities and opportunities; Location of educational facilities; Location of public buildings and grounds; Location of future solid and liquid waste facilities; Identification of areas subject to flooding; Identification of existing Timberland Preserve Zone lands; Other categories of public and private uses of land.
Circulation	The circulation element includes transportation and infrastructure planning addressing the circulation of people, goods, energy, water, sewage, storm drainage, and communications including, but not limited to: Major thoroughfares, Transportation routes, Terminals, Other local public utilities and facilities, Streets and highways, Public transit routes, stops, and terminals, Transit-oriented development, Private bus routes and terminals, Bicycle and pedestrian routes and facilities, Truck routes, Railroads and railroad depots, Paratransit plan proposals, Airports, Parking facilities Transportation system management, Air pollution from motor vehicles, Emergency routes
Conservation (May be combined with Open Space Element)	The conservation element provides direction regarding the conservation, development, and use of natural resources including, but not limited to: Water and its hydraulic force, Forests, Soils, Rivers and other waters, Fisheries, Wildlife, Minerals and Other natural resources. <b>The discussion of water in the conservation element must be prepared in coordination with water suppliers and include any information on water supply and demand prepared pursuant to §65352.5.</b> The conservation element may also cover the following: reclamation of land and waters, prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters, use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan; prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils; protection of watersheds; the location, quantity, and quality of rock, sand, and gravel resources and other minerals of statewide or local significance; Flood control and floodplain management; Biologic diversity and its implications for the ecologic sustainability of plant and wildlife habitats.
Open Space (May be combined with Conservation Element)	The open-space element guides the comprehensive and long-range preservation and conservation of Open-space land which is defined in statute as any parcel or area of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to open-space use including: Areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life including habitat for fish and Wildlife; Areas required for ecologic and other scientific study; rivers, streams, lake shores, banks of rivers and streams, and watersheds; Open space used for the managed production of resources including, but not limited to Forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; Areas required for recharge of ground water basins; rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; Areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply; Open space for outdoor recreation including, but not limited to: Areas of outstanding scenic, historical, and cultural value; Areas particularly suited for park and recreational purposes, including access to lake shores, rivers and streams; Areas that serve as links between major recreational and open-space reservations,

<b>Required Element</b>	<b>Topics Addressed</b> <b>(List is not all-inclusive and may include optional topics)</b> <b>Source: Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research</b>
	including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors; Open space for public health and safety including, but not limited to: Areas that require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions, such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, floodplains, watersheds; areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs, and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality; Open-space areas designed for fuel break and fuel reduction zones, helispots, and fire access; Open-space fire safety standards and policies can be implemented by the adoption of open-space zoning regulations; Historical natural hazard boundaries, such as inundation areas, landslide paths, debris flows, sites of wildfires, and earthquake faults; Demands for trail-oriented recreational use (Public Resources Code §5076); the retention of all publicly owned corridors for future use (e.g., abandoned rail lines, utility corridors, easements, etc.); the feasibility of integrating city and county trail routes with appropriate segments of the California Recreational Trails System (Public Resources Code §5076).
<b>Noise</b>	The purpose of the noise element is to limit the exposure of the community to excessive noise levels. Issues to be addressed by the noise element include the following: Major noise sources, both mobile and stationary; Existing and projected levels of noise and noise contours for major noise sources; Existing and projected land uses and locational relationship to existing and projected noise sources; Existing and proposed sensitive receptors, including: Hospitals, Convalescent homes, Schools, Churches, Sensitive wildlife habitat, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered Species; The extent of "noise problems in the community" including a Survey of community to determine location and extent; Methods of noise attenuation and the protection of residences and other sensitive receptors from excess noise; Implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems.
<b>Safety</b>	The aim of the safety element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social dislocation resulting from fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and other hazards. Other locally relevant safety issues, such as airport land use, emergency response, hazardous materials spills, and crime reduction, may also be included. Some local jurisdictions have even chosen to incorporate their hazardous waste management plans into their safety elements.