

Exhibit 1.0-1

Sample Workshop Comment

**Presentation of Thomas P. Infusino, Esq.,
Before the Calaveras Board of Supervisors
Study Session on the General Plan Update
1/23/06**

My name is Thomas Infusino. I have been practicing land use law for 17 years. I advised and represented business and non-profit clients during the General Plan Update process in El Dorado County from the development of the draft general plan in 1992, through the completion of the environmental impact report in 1996, and through the first round of litigation in 1999. I currently advise non-profit clients regarding the ongoing general plan processes in Mariposa and Amador Counties.

For the last two months, it has been my great privilege to meet with good people from throughout Calaveras County who have many questions and concerns regarding the general plan update process. I have also had the honor of speaking with some of you Board members on these issues.

In anticipation of this study session, people have asked me to address a number of issues. I was asked to explain to the Board the legal jeopardy posed by the County's currently inadequate plan. It turns out that I do not need to address that issue, since the inadequacy of the current plan is among the worst kept secrets in Calaveras County. In the written materials I am submitting, I point out some of the most obvious flaws in the plan. There is no need to belabor those issues today.

People also asked me to explain the need for a comprehensive G.P. update. It turns out that I don't need to do that either. The Board is well aware of the fact that it could spend the next two or three years tuning up the countywide General Plan, but if it does not address the issues in the outdated community plans in for places like Valley Springs and San Andreas, the County will still have an outdated and legally inadequate general plan.

Finally, I have been asked to provide advice on how the County should go about getting the General Plan from the condition it is in now, to the condition it needs to be in at the end of a General Plan update process. That is the topic I will address in some detail.

My first piece of advice is: Seize the Day. *

As supervisors, you can not afford to sit back on the sidelines and let staff do the heavy lifting. Resolving thorny planning disputes in your districts will require your hands-on brokering of the compromises that will become the foundations of peaceful and prosperous communities. The enthusiastic people here today are prepared, not only to point out the problems, but also to be involved in crafting the solutions. Together you can move from conflict over issues, to compromise in agreement, and ultimately to commitment to implement solutions. Seize the day.

My second piece of advice: Improve Upon on What Others Have Done. *

Don't waste valuable staff time trying to prove that policies and programs employed successfully in other counties cannot work here. Don't try to prove that you can't have design standards like Mono County, or an open space conservation program like Placer County, or an Air Quality Element like Nevada County. Instead, invest staff time in adapting such measures so that they can play a role in a brighter future here in Calaveras County. If you do this, your end product will be the best general plan in the Sierra, and you should aim for nothing less.

My third piece of advice: Craft a General Plan that Makes ^a Market for People Who Want to make Good Investments in the Community. *

This involves placing some mandatory, fundamental and specific policies in the General Plan that provide clear and unambiguous directions regarding what is desirable, what is allowed, and what is not allowed. The good investors will welcome such direction, because it protects their investments. Once you create this floor of certainty for investors, the market will unleash creativity without walls.

My fourth piece of advice: Leave No One Behind. *

If the County spends a lot of time and money updating the countywide General Plan, but fails to resolve the planning issues in District 2, Valley Springs, or Lake Tulloch, it will have failed. Do not start this process by aiming for less than the minimum needed for a valid general plan. I realize that this is a long, expensive, and even risky proposition. However, it is far better to engage in a process that has a 50/50 chance of success, than it is to pursue a strategy that has a 100% chance of failure.

My fifth piece of advice: Establish ^{a level} ~~an Even~~ Playing Field. *

Many concerned citizens have amendments they would like made to the general plan. In addition, many developers have amendments they would like made to the general plan. If the County tells the concerned citizens that they must wait for the end of a three-year update process to get their amendments approved, it is only fair that the county should extend the same waiting period to the development community. If instead the County sets up a process in which developers seeking General Plan amendments have a fast track to approval, outside the comprehensive general plan update process, the public perception will be that the developers come first, and the rest of the public comes second. Rather than the inclusive general plan update process you seek, you will have one process for the exclusive developers, and another for the excluded public. Separate and unequal processes will fail. During this general plan update process, all general plan amendments must be treated equally.

Finally, the most important advice I can give you about how to get from the current general plan to the next general plan is this: take the first step today. Seize the day. Direct your staff to come back to the Board in a month or so to present options on:

- 1) How to complete a comprehensive general plan update,
- 2) How to finance a comprehensive general plan update,
- 3) How to involve the public in the comprehensive general plan update, and
- 4) How to process general plan amendments during the comprehensive general plan update.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Board. Your study session today has obviously awakened a new level of community interest in the Calaveras County General Plan Update. Thank you. God bless you, and God Bless the good people of Calaveras County.

Support for Urgency Ordinance

Testimony of Tom Infusino to Calaveras B.O.S. 12/4/06

Good afternoon. My name is Tom Infusino. I am here to offer my support for the recommendations in the staff report. I encourage the Board to approve the proposed work plan, and to adopt the shorter timetable for completing the General Plan Update.

I encourage the Board to adopt the urgency ordinance and Option 4 of the staff report.

This option will allow us all to focus more attention on the prompt completion of the General Plan Update. In El Dorado County, a similar strategy reduced their General Plan Update process by two years.

Former Sacramento Superior Court Judge Cecily Bond described a General Plan Update process in this way.

"The preparation and adoption of a new General Plan is a major event in the life of a county. The Plan must deal with virtually every aspect of the county's future growth and development. The range of topics it must cover, and the level of detail demanded to accomplish the task adequately, is daunting."

I agree with Judge Bond. Updating the general plan is a challenging task. Here are some of the most challenging tasks as I see them.

I challenge your Community Development Agency and its consultants to learn from the past by improving upon good concepts, and leaving behind the failed concepts.

I challenge your Community Development Agency and its consultants to be daring, to be innovative, to make real changes, and to plan for a future that is different from today.

I challenge your Community Development Agency and its consultants to use their talent and expertise to present us with a gourmet feast of ideas from which we may choose to shape our future.

Finally, I challenge the Board to listen carefully to the input of the good people of Calaveras County. Give them places to work and to play. Give them community where they want community, and give them isolation where they want isolation.

To meet these planning challenges, we must all challenge ourselves to be better as a community, than we are as individuals. We must challenge ourselves to sacrifice some of our self-interest, for the greater good of the community as a whole, recognizing that others are being called upon to do the same. We do this inspired by the knowledge that, over the next 20 years, every man, woman and child, who will live, travel, work, go to school, drink the water, flush the toilet, breathe the air, grow crops, raise livestock, harvest trees, hunt, fish, use emergency services, and benefit from law enforcement , are depending upon us. But hey, no pressure.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the good people of Calaveras County.

Thomas P. Infusino, Esq.
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866
tomi@volcano.net

4/24/07

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors
Calaveras County Planning Commission
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: Joint BOS/PC Meeting on General Plan Process, 4/24/07 BOS Agenda Item # 15.

Dear Supervisors & Commissioners:

I am very pleased to submit these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition ("Coalition"). The Coalition is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of area specific plans throughout the County.

Back in December of 2006, the County's general plan consultants Mintier and Associates proposed to the Board of Supervisors a General Plan Update Work Program. The first phase of the work program was called "Program Initiation", and included a "joint Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission Study Session(s)." During this Program Initiation phase, the County would develop a public participation plan, discuss the format and organization of the General Plan Update, identify needed GIS data, and develop a detailed schedule of the General Plan Update process. The Work Program included proposals for a Community Outreach Program, a General Plan Structure and Format, a GIS (Geographic Information System) Requirements Table, and a General Plan Update Schedule. (See Exhibit 1, Mintier & Associates, Calaveras County General Plan Update Work Program, 12/1/06.) The Coalition has a number of suggestions regarding these four proposals.

I) Comments on the Community Outreach Program

First, with regard to the Community Outreach Program, we support the Major Objective to "Involve a broad range of the community and stakeholders throughout the entire Update Process." (12/1/06 Work Program, p. 4.) We are happy to see that community workshops will be held in five locations Copperopolis, San Andreas,

Murphys, Valley Springs, and West Point. (12/1/06 Work Program, p. 15.) This will be especially helpful to the communities of Copperopolis, San Andreas, Murphys, and Valley Springs as they update and streamline their Community Plans.

However, the December Work Program also indicated that the General Plan Update would "update, streamline, and incorporate" Community Plans from Arnold, Avery-Hathaway Pines, and Mokelumne Hill; as well as the Special Plans for Rancho Calaveras, Ebbetts Pass Highway, and the Calaveras County Airport. (12/1/06 Work Program, p. 5.) How does the County intend to involve these communities in the update of their Community Plans, if it does not even intend to hold workshops in these communities? Will residents be directed to gather at other specific workshop locations to provide input on their Community Plan updates?

Similarly, the December Work Program indicated that the development of Community Plans for West Point, Wilseyville, and Glencoe/Railroad Flat will be outside the scope of the General Plan Work Program. (12/1/06 Work Program, p. 5.) As you well know, this is contrary to the resolution passed by the Board on 10/16/06 directing staff to "process these plans concurrently with the Copperopolis and Valley Springs Community Plans and the associated environmental review." (See Exhibit 2, BOS Final Minutes for 10/16/06, p. 7.) Since the inception of the General Plan Update process in January of 2006, Coalition members have repeatedly encouraged the County to leave no community behind. We again ask you to include the development of these Community Plans in the General Plan Update process.

Last year, the Coalition sent the County copies of its proposed Public Participation Plan. (See Exhibit 3, CPC Public Participation Plan.) We appreciate that some of our suggestions were incorporated into Mintier and Associate's proposed Community Outreach Program in December 2006, and we are disappointed that some of our suggestions were merely listed as "Other Outreach Programs" for your consideration. Our plan included holding workshops in each community updating or adopting community specific language for incorporation into the General Plan Update. Our plan included the use of a public opinion survey to gather public input. Our plan emphasized the need to track community input throughout the process, and to show the people at the end of the process how their ideas were incorporated into the updated General Plan. Our plan indicated that public hearings (like this one today) should be broadly publicized well in advance, with relevant written materials available on the internet at least a week in advance. (Given the short notice and lack of availability of relevant documents prior to this hearing, it appears that the County has not yet adopted this principle.) Our plan included the use of the internet and booths at public events to distribute information. Our plan included presentations to existing community service groups. Before you decide on your Community Outreach Program, we ask you to consider incorporating these and the other important components we proposed last November.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the Coalition is committed to facilitating a General Plan Update process that includes broad public participation and that leaves no community behind. To that end, we will do our best to fill the gaps that the County may

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leave in its public participation and general plan update processes. If the County cannot find the staff or the time to facilitate a meeting in a community that wants to update its community plan, Coalition volunteers will be available to facilitate the meeting. If the County does not provide information on its website, the Coalition will try to provide web access to the information. If the County cannot be at public events or community service group meetings to distribute important information, the Coalition will do so.

II) Comments on the General Plan Structure and Format

The December 2006 Work Program makes suggestions regarding the General Plan Structure and Format. (12/1/06 Work Program, pp. 17-19.)

First, it discusses options for organizing and consolidating topical elements. The Coalition would rather not engage in a debate regarding the need for optional elements, or the need to consolidate mandatory elements. Instead, the Coalition feels that the plan should include both the elements required by state law, and the chapters that provide detail on those issues critical to the future of Calaveras County. Toward that end, the Coalition has proposed a conceptual outline for the General Plan Update. (See Exhibit 4, General Plan Topics.) The outline includes the seven mandatory elements, along with topical chapters that will be included in those elements. The outline also includes some items that should be in the implementation plan for the General Plan Update. We hope that other people in the County will review our proposal and make improvements. There may be other important chapters that should be included in the General Plan Update.

As Coalition member have stated since January of 2006, we encourage the County to improve upon what other jurisdictions have done, both to solve current problems and to grasp future opportunities. This "chapters" approach was taken Nevada County. (See Exhibit 5, Page 11 of Nevada County General Plan.) For the most part, the substantive provisions of these topical chapters have been adopted in many jurisdictions in California, so Calaveras County will have a lot of good policy language to adapt to its particular needs.

Second, the Work Program discusses the "Structure of Policy Content." We note that it sets limits of 10 goals per element, and 10 policies per goal. That means an element could have up to 100 policies. However, the Work Program goes on to limit the number of implementations to 30. The OPR Guidelines state that each policy must have a corresponding implementation measure. (2003 OPR General Plan Guidelines, p. 16.) We hope that the General Plan Update will conform to this OPR direction. However, at this time it is not clear to us how the County intends to implement 100 policies with 30 implementation measures. Perhaps the County intends that the General Plan Update will include individual implementation measures that will implement multiple policies. If that is the case, we hope that the General Plan Update will clearly indicate which implementation measures are implementing which policies.

III) Comments on the General Plan GIS Requirements

The December 2006 Work Program makes suggestions regarding the General Plan Update's GIS requirements. (12/1/06 Work Program, pp. 20 - 23.) Simply put, the December 2006 Work Program identified general plan information that could be presented in maps, and then determined if such maps were a high, medium, or low priority for incorporation into the GIS system. The Coalition is concerned that very important information was given a low priority for incorporation into the GIS system. For example, information regarding transportation right-of-ways, emergency evacuation routes, parking facilities, drainage systems, public utility facilities, schools, community centers, parks, fire stations, law enforcement stations, and hospitals were all considered low priority for incorporation into the GIS system. For future land uses to make the most efficient use of our existing infrastructure, the Coalition feels we need to have this critical information included in the GIS system. To identify areas of the County where additional infrastructure will be needed to service new development, we need this critical information included in the GIS system.

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IV) Comments on the General Plan Update Schedule

The December 2006 Work Program makes suggestions regarding the General Plan Update's schedule. (12/1/06 Work Program, pp. 24 - 26.) Back in December, the Board approved the schedule that called for program initiation ~~in~~ to begin in January 2007, and for the General Plan Update to be complete by December of 2008. While we appreciate the Board's desire to promptly complete the General Plan Update, we also feel that the specific planning tasks must follow a proper sequence to be effective.

Unfortunately, the schedule the Board adopted in December did not reflect such a proper sequence. For example, the schedule has the County completing the development of General Plan Update Alternatives prior to the County completing the Goals and Policies for the General Plan Update Project Description. That makes no sense. You can't complete an alternative until you have completed the project description. Also, both the Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Fiscal Impact Assessment are being prepared before the General Plan Goals and Policies are complete. You can't evaluate the environmental or the fiscal impacts of a general plan until the goals and policies are complete. Finally, there is no place in the schedule for completing a Social Impact Assessment, to compare the alternatives with regard to their overall impact on community wellness. The Coalition recommends that the County revise the General Plan Update schedule to more accurately reflect the time it will take to complete the necessary tasks in the proper order. It is not prudent to create unreasonable expectations that could later unjustly tarnish the actual diligence of your staff and consultants. Nor is not wise to mislead the public regarding the amount of patience they will need to extend during this General Plan Update process.

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V) Comments on Processing Projects Pending Completion of the General Plan Update.

One final issue of concern to the Coalition is the processing of development projects pending completion of the General Plan Update. We have four suggestions that will help the County and project proponents work together to lawfully approve projects, without interfering with the timely adoption of the General Plan Update.

A) Land use law allows the approval of only those projects that, by themselves or in combination with other pending projects, do not foreclose future general plan options. (Committee for Responsible Planning v. City of Indian Wells (1989) 209 Cal.App.3d 1005.) Similarly, the State discourages development approvals that may interfere with implementation of the future general plan, if later found to be inconsistent with it. (Government Code, Section 65360.) Thus, every effort should be made to avoid project that necessitate major alterations to existing communities such as re-aligning highways, moving streams, expanding community boundaries, adding excess waste water treatment capacity, extending infrastructure to open space areas, etc.. To help the County meet this obligation, the project proponent should provide such evidence and argument sufficient for the County to make a valid finding of fact, supported by substantial evidence in the record, that the project (by itself or in combination with others) by its size, location, or other characteristics, would not foreclose future general plan options in the County or in the immediate community.

B) Land use law allows approvals of only those projects that are consistent with the existing general plan, and that do not have a nexus to the legally substandard aspects of the general plan. (Neighborhood Action Group v. County of Calaveras (1984) 156 Cal.App.3d 1176; Garat v. City of Riverside (1991) 2 Cal.App.4th 259.) To facilitate such approvals, the County should provide a list of the general plan inadequacies identified in the Mintier Report. (See Exhibit 6, General Plan Deficiencies.) The Project proponent should provide such evidence and argument sufficient for the County to make a valid finding of fact, supported by substantial evidence in the record, that there is no nexus between the effects of the project and the flaws in the general plan.

C) The State encourages local governments to ensure that project approvals will be consistent with the future general plan. (Government Code, Section 65361.) To help the County meet this goal, after the completion of the draft general plan update (and after the completion of the alternatives) the project proponent should provide such evidence and argument sufficient for the County to make a valid finding of fact, supported by substantial evidence in the record, that the project approval is consistent with the draft general plan update and its alternatives.

D) The State encourages local governments to allocate staff burdens so that the review of specific projects does not interfere with the prompt completion of a general plan. (Government Code, Section 65361.) We look forward to a proposal from the

Planning Department to allocate a limited number of specific staff to continue processing specific development proposals during the General Plan Update process, and to allocate other staff to focus on what must be the County's first priority: the completion of the General Plan Update.

The Calaveras Planning Coalition looks forward to participating in the next steps of the General Plan Update process.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Infusino

Thomas P. Infusino

Volume I

6/1/07

Stephanie Moreno
Director of Community Development
County of Calaveras
801 Mountain Ranch Rd.
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: Input for the General Plan Background Report

Dear Director:

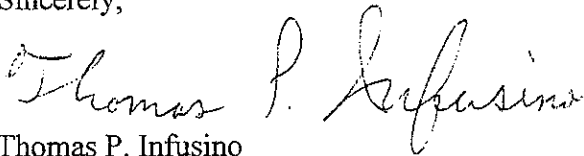
The Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC) is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of area specific plans throughout the County.

As you know, the County and its consultants are preparing a background report to help inform the update of the Calaveras County General Plan. The CPC is providing the attached materials to assist the County and its consultants in preparing that background report.

The Government Code requires each County to prepare a comprehensive general plan. (Government Code, Section 65300.) There are seven mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. (Government Code, Section 65302.) "The degree of specificity and level of detail of the discussion of each such element shall reflect local conditions and circumstances." (Government Code, Section 65301, subd. (c).) In the documents that follow, we identify some of the local conditions and circumstances in Calaveras County that must be addressed in the general plan update. For other useful sources of important background information, please see OPR's 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 36-42, Chapters 4 & 6, 274-281, and pp. 282-283 for internet info.) The 2003 General Plan Guidelines are at http://www.opr.ca.gov/planning/PDFs/General_Plan_Guidelines_2003.pdf

As soon as the County's draft background report is available, please send us a copy for our review, and/or alert us to its availability on the County web site. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our input. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Infusino".

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Gove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866
tomi@volcano.net

cc. Mintier & Associates

Volume II

6/1/07

Stephanie Moreno
Director of Community Development
County of Calaveras
801 Mountain Ranch Rd.
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: Input for the General Plan Background Report

Dear Director:

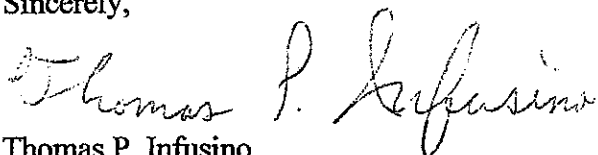
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Infusino". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed contact information.

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Gove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866
tomi@volcano.net

cc. Mintier & Associates

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CALAVERAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGARDING COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATES 8-21-07

My name is Tom Infusino. I am the facilitator for the Calaveras Planning Coalition.

The Calaveras Planning Coalition ("Coalition") is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of community plans throughout the County.

Over the past 20 months of traveling from community to community to discuss the general plan update, it has been my great privilege to get to know some of the good people of Calaveras County. I have found the good people of Calaveras to be a diverse lot. They vary in religion, in politics, in age, in tastes, and in voice. Some work hard in the forest or on the range, while others are retired. Some are busy meeting the needs of the many tourists who visit this beautiful area, while others serve the needs of those who call Calaveras their home all year round. Some live here in Calaveras but have to work elsewhere, while others work here in Calaveras and have to live elsewhere.

However, despite their many differences, I have found that these good people are united in at least one thing: their intense love for this land you call Calaveras. From the wide open ranges to the mini-ranchettes, from the sprawling oak woodlands to the quaint downtowns, from the vast conifer forest to the family orchard, from the deep river canyons to the proudly owned family homes, the good people of Calaveras County deeply and profoundly love the landscape they call home.

I have found that most of these people are here, and hope to stay here, because of their heartfelt connection to their close family and dear friends, because of their deep and abiding connection to this glorious landscape, and because of their strong faith that the people of this County will protect the diversity of its rural legacy.

The Coalition believes that the County can best protect this diverse rural legacy by upgrading the community plans. I am here today to provide you with 3 compelling reasons to upgrade the Community Plans during your comprehensive general plan update.

Reason Number 1: Community Plans provide the best model for reflecting the community diversity.

A review of existing Community Plans and the General Plan shows that some communities want historic district design guidelines, while other communities do not. Some communities are concerned about development on steep slopes, while others are not. Some communities are concerned about localized flood hazards, while other communities are not prone to flooding. Some communities are concerned about regulating excess development, while others are seeking to encourage new development.

Put one way, Community Plans provide for creative planning solutions to localized problems. They provide local people the opportunities to meet local planning goals in locally desirable ways.

Put another way, Community Plans provide opportunities for Communities to maintain their values, without imposing them on the rest of the County. They provide a convenient place for skilled politicians to safely store strongly held and but merely local viewpoints. For example, if star gazers in Arnold want outdoor lighting standards to reduce light pollution, their community plan can do that, without imposing similar constraints in Valley Springs, whose night sky is already washed out by the lights of San Joaquin County. In this way, community plans can help both to respect community diversity, and to reduce conflict over which policies end up applying uniformly, to the entire County, in the General Plan.

Reason Number 2: The Upgrade of the Community Plans is very popular.

It has been much easier for the Coalition to organize folks to discuss the upgrade of their community plans (that affect them the most), than it has been to get folks interested in the County-wide general plan (which is kind of hard to get your head around). People in places like Copperopolis and District 2, who are without community plans, want community plans for their area, and they continue to work hard to develop and refine these plans on their own. People in places like Valley Springs want their Community Plan updated to reflect current and future conditions, and they are raising funds and holding workshops to update their plan on their own. People in places like San Andreas want the good Goals and Policies in their Community Plan implemented, and they are drafting implementation measures on their own. People with community plans of more recent vintage just want to hold on to what they have, by ensuring that their plans meet the standards of modern planning law. My dear supervisors, the Community Plan Upgrade train has left the station and has a full head of steam. I implore you; do not stand in its way! The smart move is to meet the train at the next station, and incorporate these upgraded ~~general~~ plans into your Comprehensive General Plan Update.

Reason Number 3: You have to plan for the development of these communities anyway to properly update the General Plan.

To conform to state law, the General Plan must include a map showing the land use designation for every acre in the County, including the acres covered by the existing Community Plans. Those land use designations must be defined in the General Plan. There is no way to avoid planning for these communities. The real question is do you want to build on the existing community plans, or do you want to start from scratch with some other planning model? You are already collecting community input. Why not put it to good use, by upgrading the community plans?

In conclusion I would like to remind you that, when I came before this board in January of 2006, 20 months ago, I gave you three pieces of advice on how to proceed with your General Plan Update. I encourage you to "Improve Upon What Others Have Done," to "Leave No One Behind," and to "Seize the Day." By upgrading the existing community plans you will improve upon what others have done. By adding the new community plans, you will leave no one behind.

But how do you seize the day? What is the prize to be won by your vote today to upgrade the community plans during the General Plan Update?

Your vote will inspire communities throughout Calaveras County to continue to cooperate in the rest of the General Plan Update process.

Your vote will respect the wishes of highly motivated communities to chart their vision for a brighter future.

Your vote will energize community members to continue their volunteer efforts to upgrade their community plans.

So today, the Coalition stands with people from Arnold, who want to retain the integrity of their existing community plan, and we ask you, the Board, to stand with them.

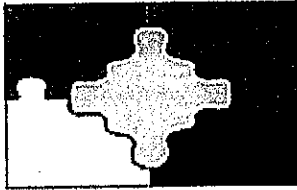
Today, the Coalition stands with the people in Murphys, San Andreas, and Valley Springs who are working to upgrade their community plans, and we ask you, the Board, to stand with them.

The Coalition stands with the people in Copperopolis and in District 2, who long for the adoption of their first community plans, and we ask you, the Board, to stand with them.

Please, take this opportunity to stand with us all.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the good people of Calaveras County.

Baseline Report Important



Calaveras Planning Coalition
PO Box 2633
Murphys, CA 95247

March 11, 2008

Lynn O'Connor
General Plan Coordinator
Community Development Agency
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

On behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition, we would like to thank the Community Development Agency, Mintier and Associates, and others who have put time and effort into creating the Draft Baseline Report for the General Plan Update. We appreciate the invitation to the public to comment on this document.

This binder contains comments on the Report from member groups and individuals of the Planning Coalition. These folks have been hard at work for weeks, reading the report, digesting the information, and preparing their remarks. It is a rather formidable task to thoroughly read such a voluminous work, and it is a testament to their dedication that they have had the willingness to take it on.

Our comments are offered in the spirit of cooperation and assistance. We want our county to have the most accurate portrayal of its current state of affairs that is possible. We hope that the Board and staff will make full use of our remarks and commit the time and resources needed to make the report a complete and reliable background to the General Plan update.

The Coalition has provided such voluminous contributions to the Baseline Report because, like the concerns gathered from public meetings, the Baseline Report is a key part of the information foundation upon which the General Plan Update will be built. If this foundational information is not properly provided, both the General Plan Update and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report will fail to meet legal standards, and will fail to provide useful planning direction to the County.

The Baseline Report is a critical part of the General Plan Update for two reasons.

First, the qualitative information and quantitative data in the Baseline Report regarding land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety reveal the starting points for planning our future. "The general plan must be based on solid data if it is to serve as the primary source of community planning policy." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 36.)

Second, the institutional information and quantitative data is necessary for use later in the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). "Data gathered during this stage, whether in written or map form, will be useful during the concurrent preparation of the general plan's EIR." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 39.) That General Plan EIR will have to provide background information on every potentially significant impact of the General Plan on the human environment, including traffic congestion, water supply and quality, law enforcement and emergency services, forests and agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and air quality. In that General Plan EIR, the impacts of the proposed General Plan must be quantitatively compared to the existing baselines of these resources. That is why the OPR General Plan Guidelines state, "In the interest of efficiency, data collection and analysis should be comprehensive enough to satisfy the needs of both the CEQA document and the general plan." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 42.)

The Baseline Study should meet the need expressed in the OPR General Plan Guidelines to "distill the mass of raw data that has been collected during the early stages of plan preparation into a usable format." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 42.)

It is as essential to quantify the baseline as it is to identify future objectives. Only with both of these items identified can the County determine how much staff time and money it will need to get from where we are now to where we want to go. If the quantitative baseline is not established, the public is likely to suffer the consequences of failures to achieve planning goals.

For one example, a task of the land use element is to create the opportunity for the approval of a sufficient number of parcels to accommodate the desired level of future growth. If the existing number of vacant parcels is not calculated accurately, it is not possible to calculate the number you need to add to accommodate new growth. If land is accidentally designated for too many new parcels, future project approvals may inadvertently result in shortages of road, water supply, and wastewater infrastructure. Similarly, if too few parcels are accidentally created, it may be difficult to accommodate the desired levels of economic growth. That is precisely why the OPR General Plan Guidelines state, "When preparing or revising a general plan, planners need an accurate picture of the existing land uses in the planning area." "Carefully review your previous commitments to determine which are irreversible." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 36 & 41.)

For another example, the safety element will identify safety concerns regarding future development. That is why the OPR Guidelines state that at this stage of the planning process, "Information about environmental hazards such as wildland fires, floods, and landslides can help determine the relative suitability of lands for development." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 39.)

Similarly, predictions about the level of population growth, the characteristics of the population, and economic trends will affect the future housing, transportation, employment, and recreation needs.

That is why the OPR Guidelines indicate that, "the composition of the subject population is more important than the mere size of the population." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 40.)

Key information about housing is needed to plan for affordable housing, and to meet legal requirements. The OPR General Plan Guidelines note the needs for data on population and employment trends, household characteristics, land suitable for residential development, government and other constraints on affordable housing, special housing needs, and opportunities for residential energy conservation. (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 41.)

Finally, a good Baseline Study will explain the local, state, and federal regulations that influence, or are influence by, each element of the General Plan. It is particularly important for the Baseline Study to frankly evaluate the effectiveness of existing methods for meeting general plan objectives. Only by knowing what has worked can we preserve the best of the old plan. Only by knowing what has not worked can we identify issues that need further attention. With regard to issues that need further work, the OPR Guidelines suggest, "Other jurisdictions of similar size to your own may have useful ideas on how to approach local issues." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 38-39.) From time to time our comments point to such useful approaches from other jurisdictions.

The comments which follow are organized according to the corresponding chapters of the Baseline Report. In most cases, more than one individual or group submitted comments for each chapter. The Table of Contents includes a listing of topics and issues addressed. The list of those who contributed follows the Table of Contents. Colored sheets of paper are inserted between entries within a chapter.


The Calaveras Planning Coalition remains committed to meaningful public participation throughout the General Plan update process. We continue to be a voice for thoughtful, wise, well-planned growth and policy. We are pleased to make our contribution to the Baseline phase, and we look forward to future opportunities to participate and to encourage broad public involvement.

We are available for further conversation on any portion of these comments. Thank you for considering them as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Tom Infusino, Calaveras Planning Coalition Facilitator



Mickey Williamson, Community Action Project Coordinator

Tom

From: Tom Infusino <tomi@volcano.net>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2009 5:46 PM
To: 'ttryon@co.calaveras.ca.us'; 'sph@volcano.net'; 'merita9@comcast.net'; 'rthos2020@caltel.com'; 'gtofanelli@co.calaveras.ca.us'
Subject: Draft Water Element and Ag. & Forestry Element - Position Letters from Calaveras Planning Coalition Attached
Attachments: Water Element Support.doc; Ag Element Support.doc

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866
tomi@volcano.net

February 9, 2009

Calaveras County Board of Supervisors
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: Support for Draft Agriculture and Forestry Element

Dear Supervisors:

I am very pleased to submit these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition ("CPC"). The Coalition is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of area specific plans throughout the County.

For many months now, agricultural interests from around the county have cooperated in the drafting of an agriculture and forestry element for the General Plan Update. They have made their element drafts available for public review and comment on the Agricultural Extension website. They sent representatives to CPC meetings to hear our concerns about their element drafts, and we were pleased to be their host. The result of their efforts is a draft agriculture and forestry element that is being presented to you this week. While we feel that there are areas in the draft element that continue to need work, we also feel that the draft element is a very good start. We hope that you will accept this draft element, and direct your planning staff and consultants to improve the draft element as it moves through further staff, public and environmental review.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Infusino, Facilitator
Calaveras Planning Coalition

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665
(209) 295-8866
tomi@volcano.net

February 9, 2009

Board of Supervisors
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: Support for Draft Water Element

Dear Supervisors:

I am very pleased to submit these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition ("Coalition"). The Coalition is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of area specific plans throughout the County.

In August of 2008, the Board of Supervisors and the CCWD Board of Directors held a joint meeting to discuss including a water element in the County's General Plan Update. At that time, the Coalition testified in support of including such an element. In the months that followed, representatives of the Coalition and its member groups participated with many other water interests from around the county in the element drafting workshops. The result of that fast-paced and tumultuous process is the draft water element that is being presented to your Planning Department this week. While we feel strongly that there are many areas in the draft element that continue to need a lot of work, we also feel that the draft element it is a good start. We hope that your professional staff and your consultants will help to improve the draft water element as it moves through further staff, public and environmental review.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Infusino, Facilitator
Calaveras Planning Coalition

Thomas P. Infusino
P.O. Box 792
Pine Grove, CA 95665
(209) 295-5302
tomi@volcano.net

8/16/13

Rebecca L. Willis, Planning Director
Calaveras County Planning Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

RE: CPC's response to the General Plan Update notice to submit policy suggestions.

Dear Director Willis:

My name is Tom Infusino, and I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition.

As you know, the CPC is a group of community organizations and individuals who want a healthy and sustainable future for Calaveras County. We believe that public participation is critical to a successful planning process. United behind eleven land use and development principles, we seek to balance the conservation of local agricultural, natural and historic resources, with the need to provide jobs, housing, safety, and services.

In July, we received a notice requesting topic and policy input for the Calaveras County General Plan Update from one of the County's new planning consultants. (Attachment 3.) This is our response.

A) Review of topic and policy input already generated.

In the first sections of our comments below we review and summarize the GPU topics and policy input that have been generated during prior stages of the GPU process. We review our land use and development principles. We review the improvements needed to correct flaws in the 1996 General Plan, as identified in the 2006 Mintier Report. We review our input provided prior to, and in response to, the County Background Report in 2006 and 2007. We review the topics list we provided to the County in April of 2007. We review the topics identified in the Issues and Opportunities Report. Finally, we review the information the CPC provided in response to the recent growth assumptions articulated by the Board of Supervisors.

We review this information so that the County's new consultants will be aware of the important public input generated in the earlier years of the GPU process from, 2006-2012. For the GPU process to be a success, it is imperative that the current Planning Director and the new GPU consultants build upon this prior work, and not dismiss it. The planning work done from 2006-2012 forms the important public input basis for the GPU, and must not be discarded simply because the consultants who collected that information have been dismissed. The County must be careful not to "throw the baby out with the bath water."

B) Improvements for the comprehensive GPU process.

When this GPU process began, the Board of Supervisors made it clear that it was more than just a fix of the flaws in the 1996 General Plan. This is a comprehensive general plan update process. The Board recognized that 1996 General Plan mostly carried over the direction of the plan from the 1980s, designed to promote the creation of dispersed rural parcels for vacation and retirement homes. The Draft Baseline Report identified that those plans successfully created a huge inventory of such lots. In 2006, the Board recognized that Calaveras County needs a general plan for the new millennium that responds to the county's current and future challenges. After the crash of the housing market, that need became even more apparent.

Thus, we continue our comments in Section 2 by explaining how the County can use the GPU process to better integrate its CEQA and development review processes. By doing so, the County will reduce investor and public frustration with the process, expedite project review, and better mitigate the impacts of development projects. Implementing this process will facilitate economic recovery and enhance resource protection.

Our comments go on in Section 3 to introduce the issues raised by the General Plan Team of the Calaveras High School Earth Club. These young people are the future that will benefit from the successful implementation of the General Plan Update, that will bear the

burdens of its cost, and that will suffer the harm of its failures. Thus, they have a huge stake in the GPU process. These young people will all be eligible to vote when the Board of Supervisors' three newest members seek re-election. Thus, the County should take the input from these young people very seriously.

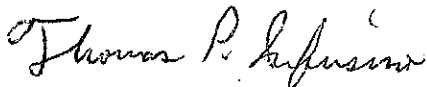
We continue our comments in Section 4 by identifying the importance of properly implementing the updated community plans in District 2, in San Andreas, in Valley Springs and in Copperopolis.

In Section 5 we review the policy proposals from the optional elements that were drafted during the GPU process, but not accepted as stand-alone elements. We accept the Planning Departments invitation to identify the policies from the optional elements that should find a home in one of the mandatory elements of the General Plan.

We thank the County for the opportunity to present this input. We will continue to provide policy input during the remaining stages of the GPU process. In subsequent phases of input, we intend to identify funding sources for policy and program implementation. We look forward to commenting on the Public Review Draft General Plan, and to providing scoping comments for the GPU EIR.

We remain committed to a comprehensive General Plan Update process with full public participation. We look forward to the implementation of our eleven land use principles in the General Plan Update. We believe that such a general plan will serve as the blueprint for a community prosperity shared by all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas P. Infusino".

Thomas P. Infusino, facilitator

Calaveras Planning Coalition