Testimony of Tom Infusino, To the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, 11/24/15

Tom Infusino. Calaveras Planning Coalition.

Today I am delivering to Planning Director Maurer a formal written request for a copy of the general plan produced by Mintier-Harnish and delivered to the County between December 2010 and February 2011. My past informal requests have been denied.

There are three reasons I am confident that you Supervisors will direct your staff to grant this formal written request.

First, the Constitution of the State of California says “The people have the right to access information concerning the conduct of the people’s business.” Over $900,000 of taxpayer money was spent on that plan. Since you all took an oath of office to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the State of California, I am confident that you will direct your staff to follow the Constitution, and to release the document, so that the people can finally see, that for which they paid.

Second, I believe that as true patriots, you will stand by the wisdom of our nation’s founding fathers regarding liberty and the freedom of information. As Patrick Henry observed, “The liberties of a people never were, no ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.” As Thomas Jefferson rhymed, “If you expect a nation, to be ignorant and free, you expect what never was, and can never be.” The totalitarian governments of the former Soviet Union, Red China, and Nazi Germany are prime examples of this adage. They destroyed books and record in a vain attempt to restrict the fundamental freedom of thought. By contrast, in America, our freedom of information, our freedom of thought, our rights to respond by speaking out and by voting, are among the noblest ways that our American system of government distinguishes itself from the totalitarian regimes of the 20th Century. I am confident that you will direct your staff to release the Mintier General Plan, because you would rather side with our nation’s founding fathers, than with the international despots of the most despised regimes of the 20th century.

Third, in 2006, when I was last forced to submit to the County a formal written request for a public record, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors had the wisdom to grant that request. I am confident that you will direct your staff to release the Mintier General Plan, because I believe that this Board of Supervisors is at least as wise as the 2006 Board of Supervisors.

Please put this matter on your next agenda and direct your staff to release the Mintier General Plan. The people have the right, to access information, concerning the conduct, of the people’s business.

If anybody in the audience would like to support this request, I have a petition for them to sign.

Thank you, God Bless, and Happy Holidays.