

Weekly ReCAP for June 27, 2019

Notices:

Next CPC meeting on July 1, 2019 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., location- Volunteer Center in San Andreas (directions below)

Members only, at this particular meeting, please.

All guests will be welcomed at subsequent CPC meetings.

The address for the Volunteer Center is 255 Lewis Avenue, San Andreas, CA (P.O.Box 196, San Andreas, CA 95249)

We share the same address as the San Andreas Elementary School, but we are located on the lower terrace, just down from the school office.

In San Andreas at the blinking light in town, take Main Street (old Hwy 49) past the Metropolitan, across the little bridge and turn right on Lewis Avenue. After about one block, Lewis Ave turns into a one-way street and our driveway is at the bottom of the *steep* hill, at the end of the chain link fence.

Next BOS meeting June 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Next PC meeting June 27 at 9:00 a.m., final General Plan Update PC meeting, expect this meeting to have vote to send GPU recommendation on to the BOS.

.....
BOS Public Hearing for Final General Plan Update , proposed dates July 30 & 31. Stay tuned for any update.

Friday release of Grand Jury Report

The Valley Springs News / June 26, 2019

The Final report of the 2018 – 2019 Calaveras County Grand Jury is scheduled to be released Friday.

The report will be available at 4 pm on Grand Jury website at <http://grandjury.calaverasgov.us/> .

A hard copy of the Final Report will also be available at the San Andreas Central Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Rd., in San Andreas after July 1.

From CPC member Foothill Conservancy:

Celebrate the Wild and Scenic Mokelumne with a raft trip! Trips at 11:00 am or 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 14 and Sunday, July 28, 2019.

O.A.R.S. will run guided trips on the Mokelumne's 5.5-mile Electra-Middle Bar Run south of Jackson.

Tickets are \$75. This year, we're offering a special for those wanting to become new members of Foothill Conservancy. For \$100 you can get the raft trip for just \$60 and a new individual membership for \$40.

Advance reservations are required.

For more information go to our [website](#).

You can purchase tickets below, email [Carolyn](#) or call 209-223-3508

Proceeds benefit Foothill Conservancy

Study: Fire services in Tuolumne County aren't sustainable, need change

Alex MacLean / The Union Democrat / June 7, 2019

The way Tuolumne County provides fire protection services is not sustainable without changes that could prove to be controversial, according to a new independent study that will be discussed at a public meeting on Tuesday.

There was a shortfall of more than \$1.5 million in the county's overall fire protection system in 2017 that was expected to grow to more than \$2 million by 2022, the study determined.

At the same time, the study found that close to one-third of the county's fleet of fire engines and water tenders were more than 25 years old and needed to be replaced within the next three to five years at a total cost of between \$5.4 million and \$7.5 million.

The county Board of Supervisors will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday to discuss the study, which was developed over the course of more than two years by a consulting firm based in San Francisco with input from county officials and fire chiefs.

"Our current model isn't working," said Deputy County Administrator Maureen Frank, who oversaw the team that provided input on the study. "This is a serious issue, and we just need to have some conversations moving forward."

A decline in property values due to the 2008 economic recession, increasing prices for equipment and a greater reliance on paid staff as opposed to volunteer firefighters were reasons cited for the current financial situation.

Frank said there are less volunteer firefighters than in the past due to the county's aging population and more demanding state requirements to become one.

Currently, the county contracts with Cal Fire to staff and manage the Tuolumne County Fire Department and its 10 stations for about \$4 million per year. Each is staffed around the clock by one fire captain and one fire engineer, though the study says ideally there would be three dedicated personnel.

There are also eight independent fire districts, which each have their own chief and elected governing board — not including the City of Sonora and Tuolumne Rancheria fire department, which the study recommends should remain independent from the county's efforts.

The study's recommendation was to form a countywide fire district that could potentially contract with the various departments, districts and Cal Fire to provide service. This would allow the county to allocate funding to each district based on the number of calls for service, according to the study.

However, the study was short on details or options on how to best go about setting up a countywide district.

“My speculation is that they list a very detailed direction on the implementation for this model because there's more than one way of going about establishing a countywide fire district,” Frank said.

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors hired the Matrix Consulting Group for nearly \$70,000 to conduct the latest study.

Previous studies conducted in-house by county officials in 2010 and 2012 leaned toward consolidating all of the districts and departments into a single, centralized fire agency, though fire chiefs and people in the districts pushed back against the idea.

Each of the districts are primarily funded by property taxes from the residents who live within their boundaries.

The latest study didn't recommend getting rid of the contract with Cal Fire and consolidating all of the districts into a standalone county fire department because the cost would be close to \$9 million, which is almost \$1 million more than now when the budgets of all departments and districts are combined.

Frank likened the debate to the longstanding one over the consolidation of the various school districts in the county, which proponents say would save money by reducing the number of school superintendents receiving high salaries and benefits for overseeing a relatively small number of students, but opponents say it would take away local control.

“Every district, every fire chief is so passionate and dedicated to what they're doing and sometimes it's hard to look past that,” she said. “People in the community might ask if we do some type of change, how can they know they'll get the same level of service?”

Fire chiefs have already pushed back against the latest study's conclusions.

Jerry McGowan, president of the Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association, penned a response letter on behalf of the group that stated the final study did not meet their expectations because they believe many data points, analyses, and delivery options are flawed.

McGowan did not go into detail in the letter about the perceived flaws and could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Frank said another point of contention was related to findings on processing fire-related calls for service, which are handled by Cal Fire in San Andreas.

The study found that the average length of time between a call and dispatching units in 2016 was one-minute and 56 seconds, which was 52 seconds longer than the national standard.

Josh White, chief of Cal Fire's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit, disputed the data because the area's current dispatch system is more about tracking resources than tracking times.

White said a unit may already be en route to an incident but they aren't logged as such until a dispatcher does a "call back" over the radio and the unit responds.

"The important thing is to get the information out to the responders and then do the check back process," he said. "The reality is that I could have been responding for three minutes. I could have jumped in my truck and started responding."

Cal Fire is installing "automatic vehicle locating" technology in all of the state-owned that will better track times because the unit will only need to press a button to log when they are en route to a call.

"Now that times are becoming a more important criteria in defining how the fire service is doing, I'm really happy we're going to these mobile digital locators and terminals in the vehicles," White said.

The study also evaluated the county's ambulance service, but didn't recommend any changes to the existing system. The county owns the ambulances and stations while contracting with Manteca District Ambulance Service for staffing at about \$3.5 million per year.

Frank said the goal of beginning the conversation on Tuesday is to hopefully determine a proposal for improving the system before the 2020 election, because changes would likely have to be approved by voters.

"We're falling farther and farther in the hole, so something needs to happen," said Frank, noting that the county's proposed budget for fire service in the next fiscal year doesn't have any money for replacing equipment.

"If we're going to something countywide, if that's what we do, it's going to take a lot of energy and help from the community," she said. If that doesn't happen soon, there might be other actions that the county and independent districts need to take on their own to sustain themselves."

California hunters face nation's first lead ammo ban

The nation's first 100% lead ammunition ban for hunters...starts with the rabbit season July 1. As game seasons then open from mid-August through November, hunters will be required to make the change for good. Nearly 60 manufacturers have been certified to sell lead-free ammunition in California, according to the DFW. [Click here for article](https://www.sfchronicle.com/outdoors/stienstra/article/California-hunters-face-nation-s-first-lead-14001919.php)—San Francisco Chronicle, June 16, 2019

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/outdoors/stienstra/article/California-hunters-face-nation-s-first-lead-14001919.php>

Backup Plan For PG&E Forced Outages

[By Tracey Petersen](#) / MML / Jun 20, 2019

Angels Camp, CA – As PG&E has alerted the public that it will be implementing its Public Safety Power Shutoff Program (PSPS) this summer when weather conditions threaten possible extreme fire danger — City of Angels Camp officials advise they are prepared.

The utility acknowledges that the public may not be notified until the day of threatening weather and that the power could be out for several days. With that disclosure Angels Camp officials are planning to mitigate forced outages by installing multiple back-up generators at critical sites in the City. While uninterrupted power is required to operate the city's water and sewer treatment plants along with the water distribution and sewer collection system 24/7, according to city officials, interruptions may still occur and residents will be asked to conserve water.

If the power is shut off for a prolonged period, "Resiliency Centers" will be set up to give citizens a place to go to get water and electricity or just cool off. Those designated locations will be announced when opened during a PSPS. Further information on the company's power shut offs were earlier reported [here](#).

RCRC – The Barbed Wire – June 21, 2019

[RCRC Board of Directors Creates Homeowners Insurance Ad Hoc Committee](#)

Earlier this week, the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors approved a resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Homeowners Insurance (Committee).

The Committee is tasked with considering potential solutions for the increase in homeowners insurance cancelations and non-renewals in high fire risk areas.

The potential solutions include, but are not limited to, introducing additional insurers into rural areas, working with the insurance industry on an insurance risk-reduction model, examining insurance industry risk modeling, re-creating/revising California's Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIR Plan), and working directly with policy advocates, the California Legislature, and the Department of Insurance to explore other options.

Members of the Committee include the following County Supervisors:

1. Sherri Brennan (Tuolumne; Chair)
2. Bob Williams (Tehama)
3. Lee Adams (Sierra)
4. Kevin Cann (Mariposa)
5. Diane Dillon (Napa)
6. Randy Fletcher (Yuba)
7. Dan Miller (Nevada)
8. Brian Oneto (Amador)
9. Lori Parlin (El Dorado)

The Committee shall issue a report of findings no later than the August 2020 Board of Directors meeting.

[PPIC Issues Report on Recidivism of Felony Offenders](#)

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released a report on Thursday that analyzes recidivism of felony offenders in the state. The PPIC's study draws on data from 12 counties, including Humboldt and Shasta Counties, and analyzes the two-year recidivism rates for felony offenders in the four years following realignment from October 2011 to October 2015.

According to the report, overall recidivism rates have declined for each of the four sentencing groups (persons sentenced to: 1) prison; 2) jail only; 2) jail followed by probation; or 3) probation only). However, re-arrest rates for felony offenses increased toward the end of the study period and recidivism rates are likely to be related to multiple factors.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Cannabis Banking

This week, the House passed H.R. 3055, a bundle of appropriations bills referred to as a “minibus,” that includes several amendments on cannabis banking and other cannabis-related issues. Last week the House Appropriations Committee approved the financial services appropriations bill for Fiscal 2020 that contains the SAFE Banking Act of 2019 (SAFE Act). If enacted, the SAFE Act would allow banks to provide marijuana-related businesses with financial services without the threat of prosecution for violating a myriad of federal banking and anti-racketeering laws.

In addition to the SAFE Act, House Democrats submitted several other amendments to prohibit the federal government from interfering with states’ rights to impose their own cannabis laws.

The most noteworthy proposal, introduced by Congressman Tom McClintock (R-Placer) and Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon), would prohibit the federal Department of Justice from imposing federal law over state cannabis programs. The amendment was adopted by a 267-165 vote, with numerous Republicans voting “aye”.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) is expected to oppose the Blumenauer-McClintock amendment, but the provision will likely have support from backers from the STATES Act, a similar proposal in the Senate that would grant states autonomy over marijuana enforcement. The provision could also face opposition from Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-New York) who said recently he prefers an approach to marijuana reform that de-schedules the drug from the Controlled Substances Act. When the House and Senate go to a Senate-House conference committee to negotiate a final version of the appropriations package for Fiscal 2020, the proposal should have strong support from the House in addition to some backers in the Senate. Advocates of marijuana reform hope this momentum will continue into the final round of negotiations.

Secretary Crowfoot Testifies at Federal Wildfire and Forestry Hearing

This week, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Committee) held a hearing to “Examine the Outlook for Wildland Fire and Management Programs for 2019.” Led by Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), the Committee held a lengthy discussion on the upcoming wildfire season. The Committee heard testimony from a panel of expert witnesses that featured Mrs. Shawna Legarza (Director, Fire Aviation and Management, U.S. Forest Services), Mr. Jeff Rupert (Director, Office of Wildland Fire, U.S. Department of the Interior), Secretary Wade Crowfoot (California Natural Resources Agency), and Mr. Chris Maisch (Alaska State Forester, National Association of State Foresters).

The panel shared the impact of the policy tools made available to ramp-up wildfire mitigation and suppression techniques, and discussed potential new resources for fire prevention. During his opening testimony, Secretary Crowfoot urged Congress to double the amount of funding for the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of the Interior for federal forest land management.

In addition, Secretary Crowfoot asked federal partners to increase vegetation management projects and prescribed burn programs to meet the U.S. Forest Service’s commitment to treat 500,000 acres per year of its lands in California. Lastly, the Secretary asked Congress to make

federal funding available to cover permissible costs for devastating wildfires in 2017 and 2018 that were declared as federal disasters.

Focus On Calaveras Unified School District

By [B.J. Hansen](#) / MML / Jun 21, 2019

San Andreas, CA — The Calaveras Unified School has faced budget challenges over recent years as a result of declining enrollment.

It is one of the topics that Superintendent Mark Campbell will address on this weekend's Mother Lode Views. The district is the largest in Calaveras County and includes 10 schools. He will also speak about test scores, how social media is impacting student life, helping graduates transition after high school, efforts to keep campus safe and the possibility of a bond measure in 2020 to help meet infrastructure needs.

Mother Lode Views airs Saturday and Sunday morning at 9:30 on AM 1450 and FM 102.7 KVML. Mother Lode Views can also be heard Sunday morning at 10 o'clock on 93.5 KKBN and at 9am on STAR 92.7.

For our extensive audio archive of past interviews on Mother Lode Views click on the "Multimedia" tab and on "Mother Lode Views" or keyword: [mlviews](#)

Jobless Claims Drop For Mother Lode and California

By [Tracey Petersen](#) MML / Jun 22, 2019

Sacramento, CA — California's jobless rate fell one-tenth of a percent to 4.2 percent for the month of May.

The state Employment Development Department (EDD) released the figures Friday. The number revealed that the state's 111-month employment expansion is the second-longest on record behind the 113-month long expansion of the 1960s, according to EDD officials.

In Calaveras County, the rate declined from 3.8 percent in April to 3.3 percent. In Tuolumne County, it dropped from 4.6 percent to 3.9 percent.

Seven of California's 11 major industry sectors gained jobs last month. The largest increase of 12,800 jobs came in construction, reflecting an increase in home building. Next highest is leisure and hospitality, which gain of 4,500 jobs on the strength of the state's tourism industry, and a 1,800 job gain in government. The sectors seeing the biggest job losses was in financial, manufacturing and other services with a combined total of 3,700.

The national unemployment rate remained steady at 3.6 percent.

Calaveras Visitor's Bureau Details Return On Investment

By [B.J. Hansen](#) On Jun 25, 2019 10:51 am

San Andreas, CA — A newly released Return On Investment (ROI) study shows that the marketing efforts of the Calaveras County Visitor's Bureau bring \$56 to the local economy for every \$1 spent.

Outgoing Executive Director Lisa Boulton delivered the results at today's board of supervisors meeting. The study was conducted by the outside firm, SMG consulting, after some county leaders indicated that this was something they would like to see completed. It also notes that the estimated per party trip expenditure is \$702. Total visitor spending last year in Calaveras County was around \$200-million.

You can find the full report by [clicking here](#).

In addition, Boulton was given a certificate of recognition for her efforts with the bureau, as she recently announced plans to move back to England. She will remain in the position until the end of the month, and has been working over recent weeks with her successor, Martin Huberty, who was also in attendance at today's meeting. [Click here](#) to view a recent story about his hiring.

Calaveras Supervisors Approve Development Fees For Fire District

By [B.J. Hansen](#) / MML / Jun 26, 2019

Land Use	Proposed Fire Impact Fee
	Per Living Area
	Sq. Ft.
Residential Development	
Single Family Housing	\$0.90
Multi-Family Housing	\$1.06
Mobile Home	\$0.68
	Per Building Sq.
	Ft.
Nonresidential Development	
Retail / Commerical	\$1.22
Office	\$1.70
Industrial	\$1.12
Agriculture	\$0.16
Warehouse / Distribution	\$0.60

Calaveras fees placed on new development



San Andreas, CA — The Board of Supervisors will place new fees on residential and commercial construction within the Calaveras Consolidated Fire District as a way to increase revenue for fire protection efforts.

The vote was 4-0, with board chair Jack Garamendi absent. Click on the image to view the fee structure.

The district covers roughly 163 square miles in the western portion of the county, including Valley Springs, Burson, Wallace, Campo Seco, Milton, Rancho Calaveras, La Contenta and Jenny Lind. It covers about 18,000 people and sees over 1,500 calls per year.

Officials with the district noted that they are facing a \$150,000 deficit, and this a way to help meet the demand of service in new housing areas.

It was emphasized that the fee will only impact new development and not existing homes and businesses. It will be used to purchase new equipment and supplies, and will not be used to hire employees.

Angels Gun Club Can Continue To Operate

By [B.J. Hansen](#) On Jun 26, 2019

Angels Camp, CA — After discussing item for over three hours, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors decided the fate of the longstanding Angels Gun Club.

[We reported earlier](#) that the shooting range is located on the outskirts of Angels Camp, and has been operational since at least 1947.

It has been allowed to operate in violation of current zoning ordinances because it was grandfathered in, and started, before the said rule changes. Former Supervisor Tom Tryon owns adjacent property, and had appealed that decision. During the public comment period, a heavy majority spoke in favor the club, and why they feel it is important in the community.

The vote was 4-0 to allow the shooting range to continue operations. The board indicated that while there had been things like new lighting and minor amenities added, it was still functioning in the same capacity as the 1940's, and there was not proof it had really expanded, or added any type of offerings.

Barbara Brooks Adoption Center, Angels Camp

A place for pets

Calaveras Humane Society opens doors on new doggy (and kitty) digs

[by Dakota Morlan](#) / The Calaveras Enterprise /Jun 26, 2019

The Calaveras Humane Society now has its very own shelter. After a year of renovations and permitting, the highly-anticipated facility near Angels Camp opened its doors for pet surrenders and adoptions on June 19.

The Barbara Brooks Adoption Center is named after one of the founders of the society, who left her estate to the organization as seed money for the project.

“We’re just real excited,” humane society Executive Director Dee Dee Drake told the Enterprise on June 25. “This is something that has been in the works for a long time, and we’re very, very pleased and proud to offer this to the residents of Calaveras County.”

The building, situated beside Highway 49, which is believed by Drake to have been built as a 1920s farmhouse, served as a restaurant and night spot, a veterinary clinic, chiropractor office and a vodka distillery before the society purchased it in December of 2017.

“We had a lot of work to do to make it habitable for us,” Drake said.

Including purchase price and extensive renovations by Dean Morris Construction, the entire project cost approximately \$1 million, according to Drake, and was entirely funded by donations and bequests.

The Barbara Brooks Adoption Center in Angels Camp opened on June 19 and was funded entirely by donors and bequests to the Calaveras Humane Society.

Renovated by Dean Morris Construction, the humane society board room incorporates the flooring and fireplace of the original farm house, while state-of-the-art materials were utilized to create a clean, safe space for animals throughout the remainder of the facility.

Amid the bold and bright mid-century modern decor, handpicked by Drake, there are thoughtful details promoting the cleanliness and happiness of the animals staying at the shelter – from hidden cat boxes to catwalks, and half-doors allowing an open flow from room to room.

“Being able to offer the public a place that they find warm and welcoming is exciting to us,” Drake said. “A place that they feel will take good care of their pet if they need to give it up, and a place that really celebrates adoptions. We’ll work hard to make sure that people adopt an animal that’s a good fit for them and will be a good match for life.”

The new facility includes accommodations for seven dogs, 22 cats and a number of small animals. Dogs are housed in top-of-the-line suites with access to the outdoors, and friendly adult cats enjoy the home-like environment of the “Cat Lounge” and “Catio.”

The shining new facility is a departure from an earlier agreement between the humane society and county-funded Animal Services to collaborate on a shelter, which was planned to be built by the CHS on seven acres of county land. That agreement fell through in November of 2017 when negotiations stalled, partially due to Animal Services budget concerns.

“(It) just wasn’t looking like a realistic project,” Drake said. “We decided the best way we could make an impact in the county and do it much, much sooner, was to build our own shelter.”

The Animal Services shelter in San Andreas has been described as “inundated with cats” and has been found by past grand jury reports to be “aging and obsolete.”

According to Drake, the humane society shelter will work with Animal Services and other municipal shelters to identify and take in adoptable surrendered animals, while referring strays to the county-run shelter.

“We are not able to accept strays. Legally, that is a function of Calaveras County Animal Services,” Drake said.

Outside of the rare occurrence of a very sick or dangerous animal, the humane society shelter is a no-kill facility, according to Drake. The shelter has already begun to take in surrendered cats, dogs and small animals that are friendly, safe and in reasonable health – space permitting.

“Our space is extremely limited,” Drake said. “It’s a small shelter. It’s exactly what we are able to afford and operate, and we think it will make a huge difference in this area. But we don’t have unlimited space.”

Those who are seeking to surrender and re-home their pet must make an appointment to have the animal evaluated before it is taken into the shelter. Due to the “very different emotions” between surrendering and adopting a pet, the two processes are designated to separate wings of the building.

For prospective adopters, a scheduled appointment yields an open tour through the facility and the chance to meet with potential pets in the play rooms. The organization’s emphasis on adoption counseling provides a pseudo-matchmaking experience for those ready to adopt.

The “open adoption program” is not restrictive, according to Drake.

“It’s very much about treating pet adopters like the adults that they are and understanding that they know their own capabilities,” Drake said. “We try to know as much as we can about every animal in our care so that we can tell people, and they can make good choices.”

Due to limited parking space, the shelter will not have a grand opening, but will likely host a weekend-long open house later in the summer.

Currently, the shelter’s 25 volunteers have been working tirelessly to get the facility up and running while nearly at full capacity. In the coming weeks, the organization will be looking for approximately 30 additional cat cuddlers, dog walkers and office volunteers.

The society will continue to provide all of its pre-existing services, including the Feral Feline Program, spay and neuter vouchers, free pets for veterans and veterinary assistance for seniors. Cat adoptions at the Calaveras Humane Society Thrift Store in Arnold will also continue.

The new shelter is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m to 5 p.m. For more information, visit calaverashumane.org.

County adopts preliminary budget for 2019-20 year

By [Davis Harper](#) / The Calaveras Enterprise / June 26, 2019

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors adopted the preliminary budget for 2019-20 Tuesday. Unlike last year, there were no cuts made to departments, Calaveras County Administrative Officer Al Alt said in a phone interview Wednesday.

As part of the county's process to close the books for 2018-19, an increase of \$29,411 was allocated to the Butte Fire Debris budget to reimburse Tetra Tech for hazardous ash removal, but that was shored up without using General Fund revenues.

General Fund monies were increased by \$22,000 in the GIS budget, \$674 in the Community Organizations budget, \$132,000 in the Assessor budget, \$75,500 in the Environmental Health budget, \$3,000 in the Onsite Wastewater budget and \$329,816 in the County Contributions budget.

Part of the County Contribution budget consists of \$98,000 for the Sheriff's Office for the purchase of two additional Ford F-150 trucks, a \$17,000 drone, a hostage negotiation phone and a transport vehicle.

Additionally, the county library received its request of about \$36,000 to fund a permanent position for a traveling STEAM educator for children.

Alt stated in previous budget hearings that the biggest influences on his initial recommendation was based on unfunded Public Employees' Retirement System liability, financial strains of last year's \$9.8 million deficit due mostly to lost cannabis tax revenues, midyear expenses for salary increases and filling vacant positions and a projected national economic downturn in 2021.

Because the nature of Calaveras County's economy is tied to tourism as a huge revenue driver, a national downturn will impact discretionary travel revenues first, Alt added.

Beyond the aforementioned concerns, Alt said the potential looming Pacific Gas & Electric Co. public safety power shutdowns present a significant risk to the county's economic health.

"(Four to six days without power) would have a huge impact on our revenue streams, like sales tax and (transient occupancy tax), but a huge demand on county operations as well," Alt said.

As far as positive long-term projections that were not factored into the budget, Alt said that trending increases in assessed home values and planned large residential housing developments in the county may provide additional revenue sources for next year.

"It's not good to rely on them if we don't know development will start this year or (whether) assessed value is going up, so we don't plan those into the budget," Alt said.

San Andreas receives funding to build five housing

units for homeless and mentally ill

By [Davis Harper](#) / The Calaveras Enterprise / Jun 27, 2019

Last week, Calaveras County was awarded a set of low interest loans from the state totaling \$640,601 to develop housing in San Andreas for people who are mentally ill and homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Voters made the award possible by supporting the passage of the No Place Like Home (NPLH) bond measure (Proposition 2) last year.

That proposition authorized the state to repay the bond using revenues from a 1% tax on personal incomes above \$1 million established by Proposition 63 in 2004.

According to Kristin Stranger, the Calaveras County Health and Human Services director, the funding will be used for the development of five permanent supportive housing units on a parcel on the corner of Cemetery Ave. and Gold Strike Road in San Andreas. The Stanislaus Housing Authority, the housing authority for Calaveras, will be the developer.

The goal is to make three of the units available to individuals and/or couples and two for families with children. Community members that have serious mental illness and are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless make up the target population for the project. Calaveras County Behavioral Health Services will provide behavioral health services to residents, including one-on-one counseling, case management and workforce training services, Stranger said.

“Calaveras County, like the rest of the state and nation, is facing a housing crisis,” Stranger said. “In the last Point-in-Time count, 186 individuals were identified as meeting the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homeless. Of those 186, 24 were under the age of 18. In addition, another 30 individuals were identified as ‘couch surfers,’ meaning they did not meet the HUD definition, but lacked stable

housing. NPLH funding offers an opportunity to provide housing coupled with supportive services. This model has been shown to have the best results in preventing a return to homelessness.”

The financing will consist of a \$295,000 conventional loan, \$50,000 NPLH Noncompetitive Loan, \$473,830 NPLH Competitive Loan, \$325,000 Housing Authority Loan and a \$58,000 land contribution from the California Department of Housing and Community Development, according to the Stanislaus Housing Authority. The interest rates vary, but are between 3% and 4%.

Site work for the development is estimated to begin in late September following final plan review by the County Planning Department.

San Andreas was one of 37 communities selected across the state for the loan, with \$179 million in total awarded to developers of affordable supportive housing to fund the construction of 2,100 households.

State officials plan to announce another round of NPLH awards in the fall.

The Stanislaus Housing Authority is also in the process of developing 20 to 25 Foothill Terrace units of workforce housing on a plot of land behind San Andreas Elementary in San Andreas that was formerly the site of temporary housing units for Butte Fire victims. The goal is to keep rent between \$800 and \$1,000 per month. That development is estimated to be completed by February of 2020.

Although the two aforementioned projects will be located in San Andreas, the community as a whole is working to address the diverse housing needs throughout the entire county with the “scattered site” approach, according to Stranger. Scattered-site refers to the development of publicly funded, affordable housing units throughout diverse, middle-class neighborhoods, rather than being concentrated in one neighborhood.

“We have had some early success, and we want to continue that strong collaboration and momentum forward to address the lack of housing for our residents,” Stranger said. “It can’t be done alone though and is no single entity’s responsibility. It requires stakeholders from throughout the entire community working together.”

http://www.calaverasenterprise.com/news/article_da9fd29c-9919-11e9-8f82-dbe17aa9aa53.html

(Thanks for the article, Colleen!)
