

Lack of responsiveness at General Plan Update hearings

By Tom Infusino

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors on July 31 unanimously directed staff to prepare the paperwork needed for the board to adopt the updated General Plan. The board's direction concluded a two-day review of the General Plan's 10 elements. The updated General Plan will rescind the existing community plans for Valley Springs, Arnold, Avery/Hathaway Pines, and Murphys/Douglas Flat. Fourteen of the county's 24 Community Areas do not have community plans in the updated General Plan.

The Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC) supports public participation in land use decisions. Unfortunately, the board's General Plan review hearing was characterized by a lack of responsiveness to both public and supervisor concerns. It was paced and conducted more like

a calf-roping than a public hearing. Public comment was limited to three minutes on each element, which forced speakers to condense and, consequently, minimize multiple complex land use and public policy issues. During the hearing, both county staff and the board regularly ignored valid concerns raised by the public.

The three-minute time limit even jeopardized individual property rights, as Dianne Kindermann, an attorney representing a local landowner, was cut off in mid-speech.

There were also many items of concern to District Four Supervisor Dennis Mills, but they were only discussed in detail if two other supervisors agreed. In this fashion, the genuine concerns of

people regarding a plan that will affect the county for decades were rapidly roped, tied, and left in the dust.

The gallop through the plan was led by District Two Supervisor Jack Garamendi, chairman of the board, who indicated during his July 30 introductory remarks that he wanted to move forward with the General Plan Update as quickly as possible, favoring progress over perfection. It is not progress to trade one deficient plan for another deficient plan. That is simply spinning your wheels.

Throughout the hearing when other supervisors identified problems with the plan that would take time for discussion, Garamendi encouraged them to move on, reminding them that the board would have the opportunity to fix this plan four times a year. This ignores the fact that this General Plan Update was supposed to be the fix for the 1996 General Plan. Why should we settle for a fix that is still broken?

On the occasions when actual policy debate was allowed, a couple of positive changes were made to the plan. The Land Use Element was modified to ensure that all new Specific Plan developments would include public access to recreational assets, open space, a diverse range of housing types, and measures to protect biological and cultural resources. The Circulation Element was changed to maintain free flowing traffic along Highways 4 and 49.

The hearing concluded Wednesday with a discussion of the Community Plans that were being eliminated by the board. Members of the CPC read long lists of names of people from multiple communities who signed petitions asking for the retention of the community plans. CPC members held

up pictures of some of those people that were captioned with requests like "Plan for Arnold," "Plan for Murphys," and "Plan for Copper."

The CPC seeks to balance the conservation of local agricultural, natural and historic resources, with the need to provide jobs, housing, safety, and services. Since new development in the GPU is focused in the existing communities, the text of the Community Plans is essential to ensure that new growth complies with local standards, and meets local needs.

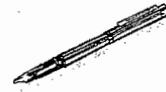
Muriel Zeller of the CPC reminded supervisors that in 2007, the public was told "to go forth and plan, and we did." She said Valley Springs has an updated "\$250,000 Community Plan that included unprecedented public outreach and participation." She spoke of her deep disappointment in the county's failure to keep its promise and adopt that plan. "Forgive me if I have lost faith in you," she said.

Colleen Platt of MyValleySprings.com said communities had trusted that their community plans would be included in the General Plan Update. She said the board had betrayed that trust. She encouraged the board, "To find the backbone and will... to include all Community Plans in the General Plan." CPC member Marti Crane asked the board to fix the updated General Plan in order to deliver the "accountability, commitment, and transparency" asked for by the people.

Also left out of the updated General Plan is a Community Plan for Copperopolis. Ralph Copeland, another CPC member, proclaimed, "The people of Copperopolis have worked hard enough. The people of Copperopolis have waited long enough. Now is the time to include the 2013 Copperopolis Community Plan in the General Plan Update." He concluded, "The community plan is our

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Guest Column



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Book sale at San Andreas library

The San Andreas Main Library Christmas items will be available. You can donate your own gently used books and items by calling Karen at 754-9512 and leave a message. Please no magazines or clothing.

The San Andreas Main Library is located at 1299 Gold Hunter Road. The event supports library programs and is put on by the San Andreas/Mountain Ranch Friends of the Library.

Calaveras County Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

New improvements are coming to Calaveras County for the 2020 Elections!

The Registrar of Voters has opted to adopt the Voter's Choice Act Election Model. The draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) is being released with this announcement. The EAP outlines the county's proposal on how to facilitate an All-Mail/Vote Center election and the various changes in policy and procedure that accompany the transition. There will be a public comment period ending September 12, 2019. There will be multiple consultations, and informational meetings held related to the Voter's Choice Act. All meetings will be located in the Cheseborough Room of the San Andreas Library at 1299 Gold Hunter Rd. San Andreas, CA 95249.

- August 23, 2019 - 1 pm Public Meeting about draft EAP
- August 23, 2019 - 3 pm Public Consultation Meeting with representatives, and advocates from the Spanish language community
- August 26, 2019 - 1 pm Public Consultation Meeting with representatives and advocates from the disability community
- August 28, 2019 - 2nd Draft EAP will be posted
- September 12, 2019 - Public comment period ends for draft EAP
- September 13, 2019 - Public Hearing (time pending)

Visit our website to view the EAP: <https://elections.calaverasgov.us/>. Additional information about the Voter's Choice Act will be posted to the Elections Website soon!

Contact Elections Department if you have interest in joining the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, or Language Accessibility Advisory Committee, or would like to provide feedback about the EAP. Phone: 754-6376 E-mail: Electionsweb@co.calaveras.ca.us

Published: August 14, 2019 VSN

Calaveras County Legal Notices

The Calaveras County Purchasing Agent will receive bids for:

**O'Byrnes Ferry Road
Left Turn Lane Project
Construction Services
Department of Public Works
ITB 19-1200-01-913**

Invitation to Bid may be obtained from the Calaveras County Administrative Office, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, or from Public Purchase at: <https://www.publicpurchase.com/gems/calaverasco/calbuyer/public/home>

Bids shall be submitted to:
Calaveras County Administrative Office
Attention: Purchasing Agent
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249-9709

Bids shall be submitted no later than August 29, 2019, at 3:00 PM. Envelopes or packages containing the Proposal should be clearly marked, "ITB 19-1200-01-913 - Mailroom DO NOT OPEN"

Published: August 14 & 16, 2019 VSN

Crash ends in DUI arrest

A Vallecito woman sustained moderate injuries and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence after a three-car collision Aug. 3 in Murphys.

According to the California Highway Patrol, a 1989 Nissan Pathfinder driven by Brandy Terry, 39, of Vallecito was northbound on Scott Street, just south of Jones Street, when she turned across the roadway and collided with the left rear of a southbound 2016 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Nathan Newport, 42, of Oakley at 6:09 p.m. The Pathfinder then collided head on with a southbound 2016 Dodge Charger driven by Marlene Flau, 41, of Manteca. Terry, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was arrested and then transported to Doctors Medical Center of Modesto for treatment of her injuries. No other drivers or passengers were injured in the collision.



IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF -- PHILLIP RICHARD GUTTIEREZ ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case Number 19CV44225

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1. Petitioner PHILLIP RICHARD GUTTIEREZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a. Present Name: PHILLIP RICHARD GUTTIEREZ, to Proposed name: RICHARD PHILIP GUTTIEREZ. 2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING - September 13, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept. 2, Superior Court of California, County of Calaveras, 400 Government Center Drive, San Andreas, CA 95249. 3. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county, The Valley Springs News.

Other:
Dated: July 29, 2019
/s/ David M. Sanders
Judge of the Superior Court
Party without an attorney: PHILLIP RICHARD GUTTIEREZ, 2067 Hartvickson Lane, Valley Springs, CA 95252.

Published August 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2019. The Valley Springs News.

Guest Column

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voice. Please don't try to silence our voice."

Clearly touched by the public comments, District Three Supervisor Merita Callaway nevertheless agreed to the elimination of the community plans in her district, and also designated the communities of Copperopolis and Valley Springs as the first priorities for later inclusion in the General Plan.

Mills acknowledged that a new Community Plan was desperately needed for Copperopolis, because the community was deficient in parks, lake access, and services. He recognized that the plans prepared for Copperopolis in 2005 and 2013 had useful components, but he concluded that yet another plan would have to be drafted before he would consider adopting a Community Plan for Copperopolis.

District One Supervisor Gary Tofanelli struggled for words as he inquired of Planning Director Peter Maurer about the process for yet again updating the Valley Springs Community Plan and securing its environmental review. This would mark the fourth attempt, as two community plan updates were drafted in 2010, and a compromise blending of those plans was completed in 2017.

In fact, Maurer had recommended adoption of a Valley Springs Community Plan in January of 2017. However, Tofanelli had the item removed from the Planning Commission agenda. The commission did nothing in the ensuing 30 months to advance the plan toward adoption even though during that time the commission cancelled 10 regular meetings for lack of agenda items.

While board members and staff claimed that adopting plans for Valley Springs and Copperopolis would be a "priority," they again refused to provide a timeline for adoption. This is in contrast to their other "priority," completion of the state-mandated greenhouse gas reduction plan. For that priority the board set 2022 as the deadline for completion.

When it comes to community plans, the supervisors should have heeded the wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

Tom Infusino serves as facilitator for the Calaveras Planning Coalition.