

## WEEKLY ReCAP

February 19, 2021

### A Sampling of News and Views



P.O. Box 935, San Andreas, CA, 95249 • (209) 772-1463

*Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006*

**The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future. Learn more at [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com).**

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**NEXT CALAVERAS PLANNING COALITION MEETING:**  
**March 1, 2021, 3:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME AT CPC MEETINGS**

Organizations, groups, and individuals may join the CPC. Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website: [www.calaverascap.com](http://www.calaverascap.com). There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the CAP/CPC. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in CPC membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, [tomi@volcano.net](mailto:tomi@volcano.net), to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

***To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP/CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.***

***Learn about more ways to get involved with CAP/CPC here!***

**Board of Supervisors Meeting February 23, 2021**  
**Find the Agenda Here**

**Planning Commission – February 25, 2021**  
**Find the Agenda Here**

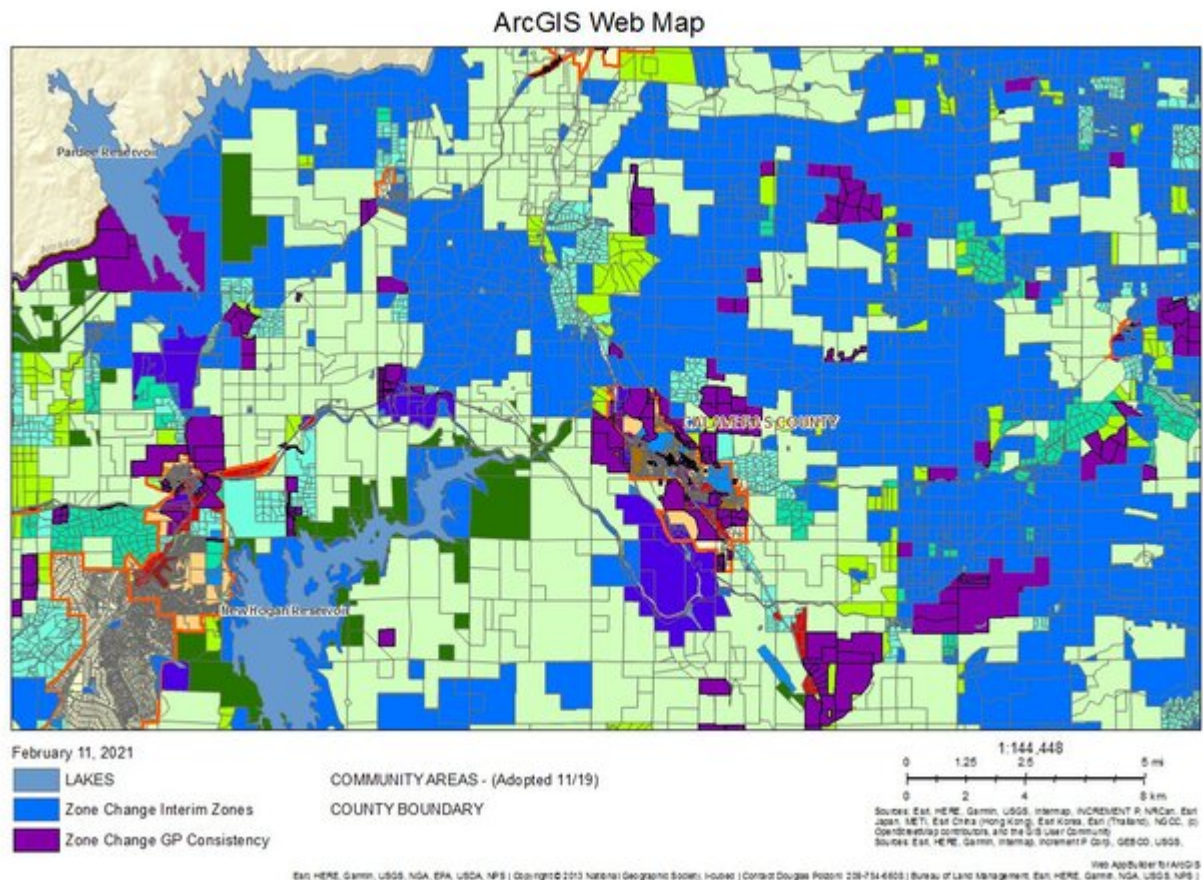
**You can find current agendas and agenda packets, as well as previous agendas on the County page here**

**Interested in learning more about the General Plan Update? Click Here**

**County Improves Accessibility of Zoning Update Map after encouragement from MVS.com**

As Calaveras County planning staff move forward with the Zoning Update, regional groups have been diligent in their participation throughout the process. Recently MyValleySprings.com (MVS) seems to have made some headway with the County after multiple requests for improvements to be made to the GIS Map and related zoning update information.

CAP website here!



*Parcels shown in blue and purple have zoning changes proposed under the update*

## BLM Restricts Target Shooting Near New Hogan Lake

*By BJ Hansen / MyMotherLode.com / February 15, 2021*

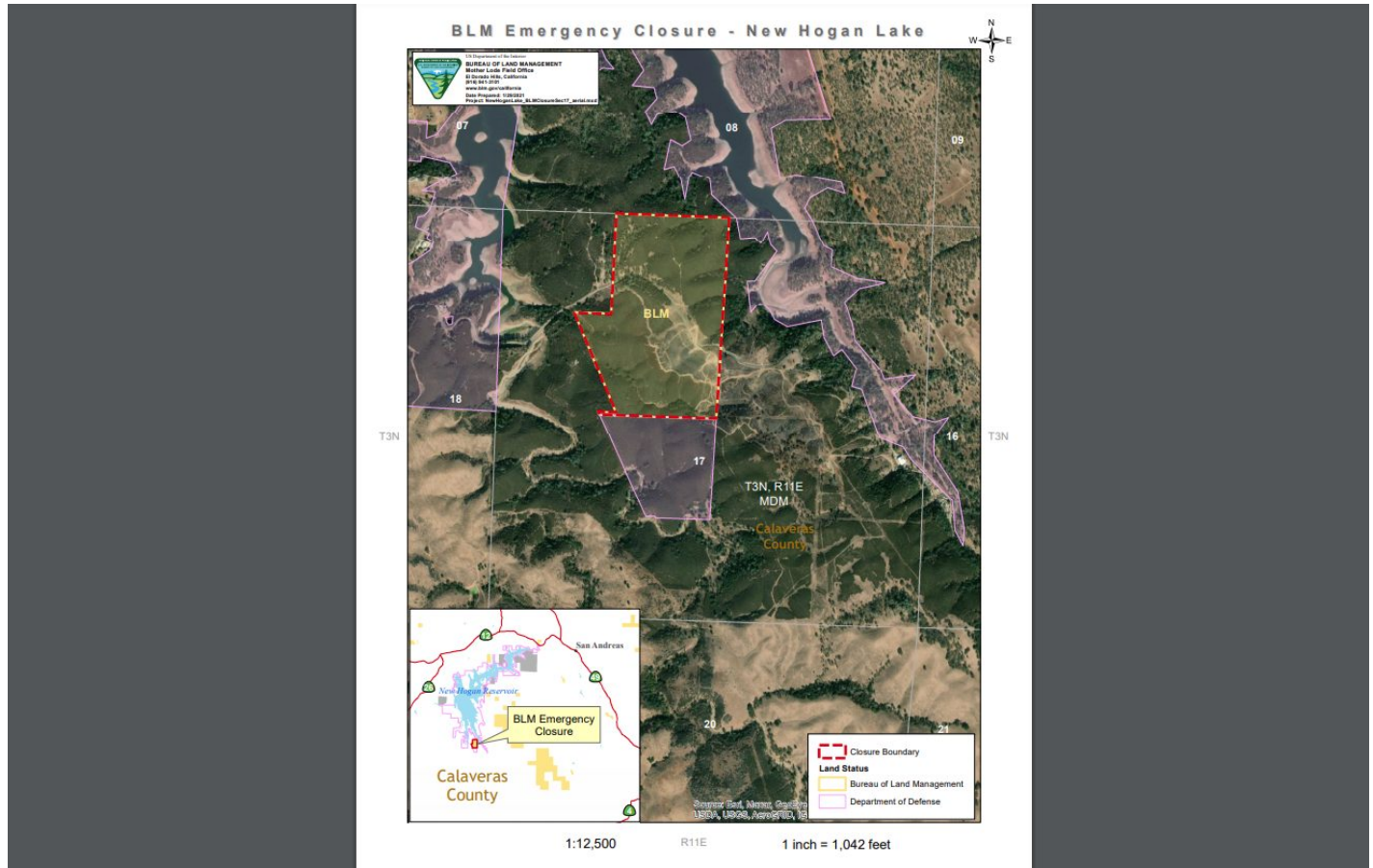
Calaveras County, CA — Effective today, target shooting is temporarily prohibited on Bureau of Land Management property located directly south of New Hogan Lake in Calaveras County.

The BLM says the two week emergency closure is needed to allow US Army Corps of Engineers officials time to survey the area. It impacts a 90 acre parcel shown in the map. Target shooting will be allowed again on March 1st. Anyone found in violation could be subject to a \$100,000 fine and imprisonment up to 12 months.

The BLM reports that it has around 14 million acres of land available for hunting and recreational shooting in the state. Anyone with questions can contact the Mother Lode



BLM Field Office at 916-941-3101.



## State and Direct County Funding in President's Coronavirus Relief Package

On Tuesday evening, the House Oversight and Reform Committee, which has jurisdiction over state and local funding, released its portion of the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus (COVID-19) reconciliation package. Notably for RCRC, the House Oversight and Reform Committees' draft legislative text includes nearly all of its \$350.7 billion funding allocation going toward state, local, and tribal aid. Nationally, counties are expected to be allocated \$65.1 billion, which will be allocated directly to county treasuries based on population. The U.S. Treasury will be in charge of distributing these funds within 60 days of receiving a certification of need from counties and other local governments. These dollars will not have an expiration date and can be used to cover the following expenses:

- Respond to or mitigate the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 emergency or its negative economic impacts.
- Cover costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.
- Replace revenue that was lost, delayed or decreased as determined based on projections of the government as of January 27, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.
- Address negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 disease.

Despite the positive news for counties across the country, the releasing of this legislative text by the House Oversight and Reform Committee does not mean counties will be able to see their allocations just yet.

Firstly, the House Oversight and Reform Committee will need to markup the bill, which is expected to take place on February 12th. The bill will then go to the House Budget Committee which will reconcile all pieces

of the various texts from the other House committees. From there, the bill is expected to go to the House Floor for a vote by late next week, and passage is expected. In the U.S. Senate, action on the bill will be deferred until the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump has concluded. This is likely to mean that a bill is expected to reach President Biden's desk for signature in mid-March.

Click [here](#) to view the estimated amounts RCRC-member counties are likely to receive.

Click [here](#) to read the House Oversight and Reform Committee bill text.

Click [here](#) to read the one pager.

Additional details on the \$350.7 billion allocation:

- Any county that chooses to request funds from the U.S. Treasury will be ineligible to request funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or any other U.S. government source for the same expenditures.
- States will receive \$195 billion directly; it is anticipated the State of California will utilize some of these monies to further support county programs such as vaccine roll-out.
- There are no direct "claw-back" mechanisms; however if the demonstrated need submitted to the U.S. Treasury by counties is deemed to not fit the aforementioned criteria, or the money is not spent appropriately once received, the U.S. Treasury does have the authority to require its return.
- Currently, the legislation only calls for a "general statement" of certification on how the money will be spent; however the U.S. Treasury could come up with additional guidelines after the bill is signed into law and rulemaking proceedings occur.
- Cities above 50,000 in population will receive a direct allocation; cities under 50,000 in population will have their monies allocated through the State of California.

RCRC has continually advocated for direct funding to counties to be included in any next round of federal coronavirus relief, regardless of county size and with minimal restrictions on the use of those monies. As this relief package moves through the process, this remains RCRC's top federal priority.

## Bill of the Week: SB 286 (Min) – County Officers Elections: Consolidation With Statewide Elections

RCRC has officially opposed Senate Bill 286, authored by Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine). SB 286 is very similar to last year's Senate Bill 1450 (Umberg), which the RCRC Board of Directors took action to oppose. SB 286 would require the top-two vote-getters seeking election to a county office to face-off in a General Election.

SB 286 would essentially change the current election model for elected county offices by requiring the top-two vote-receiving candidates for a county office in a Primary Election to advance to a run-off in the General Election, including candidates who receive more than 50 percent of the vote in the Primary Election.

Counties, along with other locally-elected offices, have operated under the current election model for several decades, and it is generally agreed that government has worked well. SB 286 is unnecessary and would prolong an already lengthy and expensive campaign, especially for seats on the Board of Supervisors. RCRC's letter of opposition can be accessed [here](#). For more information, contact Paul A. Smith, RCRC Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, at (916) 447-4806 or [psmith@rcrcnet.org](mailto:psmith@rcrcnet.org).

## Registration Now Open - Redistricting Webinar Series- Part 1

CSAC and RCRC have teamed up to bring you a two part webinar series that will break down all you need to know about redistricting for your county. The Redistricting Webinar Series – Part 1 focuses on legal

requirements, including the Voting Rights Act and changes as a result of [AB 849](#) (2019), and will be of interest to county counsel, redistricting staff, and others who need a working knowledge of the technical aspect of redistricting.

The webinar series is open to all supervisor and county staff. [Register now](#) for Part 1, **occurring on Friday, March 5, 10am-12pm.**

#### Presenters

Chris Skinnell, Nielsen Merksamer  
Marguerite Leoni, Nielsen Merksamer  
Douglas Johnson, National Demographics Corporation

Date: Friday, March 5, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[Register now!](#)

Part two (date to be announced) will be a conversation with county supervisors and staff on best practices and what you can expect the redistricting process to look like on the ground. If you have any questions please reach out to [Dorothy Poole \(RCRC\)](#) or [Ada Waelder \(CSAC\)](#).

## Update on Board of Forestry Regulations Proposal

This week the California Board of Forestry (BOF) released a [revised draft](#) of its proposed changes to the State Fire Safe regulations. The February 8th proposal is accompanied by an [explanatory memo and attachment](#) outlining revisions to the language and specific areas of focus for stakeholder feedback.

The BOF has scheduled a [public workshop](#) for February 24 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the revised draft rulemaking language. BOF staff is requesting that comments on the new proposal be submitted by February 17th in order to allow staff time to consider the feedback before the workshop. All public comments received by the BOF since the first workshop in November are [now available for viewing](#) on the BOF website, and will be updated weekly.

The State Fire Safe regulations set forth basic wildfire protection standards for development in the State Responsibility Area and, beginning July 1, 2021, the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones of the Local Responsibility Area.

For updates from the BOF on the Fire Safe Regulations and other activities of the BOF Resource Protection Committee, subscribe to email updates [here](#). For more information, please contact Tracy Rhine at [trhine@rcrcnet.org](mailto:trhine@rcrcnet.org).

## State to Establish Home and Community Hardening Standards for Insurance

On Monday, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced that his office has formed a partnership with Governor Newsom's Administration to establish home and community hardening standards statewide to reduce risk for those living in wildfire prone areas as well as to help make insurance more readily available and affordable in high fire risk areas. The partnership includes the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), all of which have been

evaluating the effectiveness and necessity for community-wide and individual homeowner mitigation standards as California's annual wildfire seasons have worsened.

While the hardening program is still in development and the role of the insurance industry is unclear, the new partnership hopes to develop a statewide retrofitting program for communities and homeowners in high fire risk areas that will ultimately lead to not only safeguarding them from high severity wildfires, but will also incentivize insurers to offer more affordable policies in areas where they are currently withdrawing coverage.

The various agencies and departments are slated to begin meeting sometime this month, although it is unclear if those meetings will be open to the public. The Commissioner's full press release on the partnership can be viewed on the [Department of Insurance website](#).

## California Public Utilities Commission Adopts Minimum Wireline Communications System Resiliency Requirements

On Thursday, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) unanimously adopted a [Decision](#) requiring wireline communications providers to increase system resiliency so they can remain operational during power outages. The CPUC's actions are in direct response to the widespread loss of communications service during the late 2019 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. This Decision helps ensure that rural wireline-dependent communities enjoy the same levels of communications resiliency as do those who have reliable access to wireless communications coverage in Tier 2 and Tier 3 High Fire Threat Districts, such as maintaining service for a minimum of 72-hours immediately following a power outage; maintaining customer access to 9-1-1 service, emergency notifications, and basic internet browsing; and submitting waivers for facilities where it is unsafe or objectively impossible or infeasible to deploy backup power (and discuss actions to mitigate the resulting service loss).

Within the next eight months, wireline providers are ordered to implement 72-hour backup power requirements for critical facilities and network equipment in communities that lack sufficient wireless coverage, and wireline providers must implement 72-hour backup power requirements for all remaining facilities across Tier 2 and Tier 3 High Fire Threat Districts within the next 18 months.

RCRC engaged extensively in this proceeding and many of our suggestions were incorporated in both the Wireless Decision (D.20-07-011) and this Decision. RCRC again sincerely appreciates the efforts of Supervisors Ted Williams (Mendocino), Lynda Hopkins (Sonoma), David Griffith (Alpine), Lee Adams (Sierra), and Ryan Coonerty (Santa Cruz), and their staff, in preparation of RCRC comments and testimony in this proceeding. Please contact [John Kennedy](#), RCRC Legislative Advocate, with any questions or for more information.

## Applications Welcome for New SGIP Energy Storage Program Opportunity for Local Governments

On Friday, January 15, 2021, RCRC hosted an [informational webinar](#) on the new California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Self Generation Incentive Program for Large Thermal Energy Storage (SGIP L-TES). The new energy storage incentive program mandated by the CPUC is currently accepting applications. Funds are limited and will be available to fund energy storage solutions for public and private buildings which are equipped with chillers. Local governments with buildings fitting this profile (administrative centers, courthouses, jails, etc.) are eligible applicants for the SGIP L-TES program.

Eligible applicants include customers of California's Investor Owned Utility (IOU) companies - Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, and San Diego Gas & Electric. The program will cover most, if not all, of the costs associated with the acquisition and installation of specialized energy storage equipment to work with chilled water systems. IOU customers who take advantage of this program to install new energy storage systems will be able to significantly lower their cooling bills, increase resilience, and better position their facility budgets against future rate changes.



For more information about this program and the application process, please contact [Barbara Hayes](#), RCRC Chief Economic Development Officer.

## Supply shortage, delivery delays hamper vaccine effort

*By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / February 17, 2021*

Calaveras County continues to get only a trickle of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency Interim Director Sam Leach on Tuesday told the Board of Supervisors only 100 doses of the vaccine were received last week by the public health department.

He anticipated public health would receive more doses this week.

Dignity Health Mark Twain Medical Center President and CEO Doug Archer informed the board timely delivery of the vaccine was a problem last week.

The med center anticipated getting the vaccine on Tuesday, but it didn't arrive until Wednesday.

The late delivery hindered scheduling for Thursday's scheduled vaccination clinic, Archer said. Calls to make appointments for Thursday's clinic didn't go out until Wednesday when the vaccine was in hand.

"We don't schedule appointments until we have the vaccine," Archer said.

He is expecting to receive 1,250 doses this week.

Leach said the county needs to receive "significantly more supply" before any large-scale vaccination clinics such as those being offered in California's larger cities at this time will be available in Calaveras County.

Other health providers such as CVS pharmacies are beginning to offer COVID-19 doses to the public. Those providers are receiving doses directly from the federal government, Leach said, and although not every pharmacy in the Mother Lode Region is distributing the vaccine, he encouraged the public to check their websites to see when they add new vaccination locations.

Leach reported that as of Tuesday morning, 6,860 vaccinations have been given to Calaveras County residents. That number includes people who have received their second dose of the vaccine.

Seventy percent of those shots have gone to people 65 and older, he said.

Archer said nearly all of those over the age of 80 on the medical center's waiting list have been vaccinated.

In addition, Leach told the board there were two more COVID-19 related deaths reported in the county the past week. That brings the county's total to 25 since the outbreak began last year in China.

The deceased were a man in the 50 to 64 age group and another man over the age of 65.

Leach also reported four people were hospitalized as of Tuesday with COVID-19 symptoms. Archer said only one COVID-19 patient was in his hospital at the time and that patient was in the medical center's intensive care unit.

Calaveras remains in the "purple" or most restrictive tier of the state's COVID-19 monitoring system.

"The (holiday) surge has come and gone a bit," Leach said, and the county may be a week or two from moving into a less restrictive state tier.

He advised the public to continue social distancing and getting tested for COVID-19, even though they are not feeling sick.

The more people who get tested and do not have the virus will help the county lower its positivity rate and move to a less restrictive tier, he explained to the board.

As of Tuesday, the county had 1,825 testing positively for the virus out of 22,143 tests.

Archer added that there is no need for people to show up too early for the med center's vaccination clinics. He said people are showing up 90 minutes before they are scheduled to receive their shots and that is only causing long lines, some confusion, and clogging up the parking lot.



## **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities Newsletter for February/March 2021:**

[Funding Opportunities Newsletter | Sierra Nevada Conservancy \(ca.gov\).](#)

Click the link above to view this electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

## **Glacier Imitation**

by STEPHEN SIPERSTEIN

My voice is not my voice.  
It is the sound of place  
speaking through me:

slope and stone  
moss, cone, and valley.

I grit my teeth on ash

and dust. Before you arrived  
I made my own weather.  
Your air fills me

yet I can't breathe  
as I recede

mountains rise.

From: *THE HOPPER*, THE LITERARY MAGAZINE OF GREEN WRITERS PRESS, FEBRUARY 2020: [Glacier Imitation — The Hopper | Environmental Lit. Poetry. Art. \(hoppermag.org\)](#)



Sonora Pass Under a Midnight Moon Image Megan Fiske Copyright 2019 [yosemitenorthphotography.com](http://yosemitenorthphotography.com)

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