

WEEKLY ReCAP**JANUARY 1, 2021****A Sampling of News and Views****HAPPY NEW YEAR!****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.

**NEXT CALAVERAS PLANNING COALITION MEETING:
January 4, 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. 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, 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.

New Outreach Coordinator Joins Community Action Project Staff



San Andreas, CA. The Community Action Project (CAP) Governing Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Megan Fiske to its staff as the Outreach Coordinator for both CAP and the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is CAP's primary program.

"We are extremely pleased to put Megan's education and experience to work for CAP and the Coalition," said CAP Co-Chair Joyce Techel. "She is already familiar with the county and the issues we address and has previously done similar work in the region."

CAP's mission is to protect and improve the natural and built environments in Calaveras County by empowering people to claim their rights and participate in local government. The CPC, which is a federation of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals, promotes public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.

"I truly believe in the mission of CAP/CPC, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to put my passion and skills behind that mission as the Outreach Coordinator," Fiske said. She will apply the insight she has gained with experience, "Spending my adult years working locally in both public and private sectors taught me all about what processes and which people affect the local environment."

Fiske has a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management and Conservation and spent five years working for a regional conservation organization. She has reviewed land use planning documents and written comment letters relative to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Her previous job also included the coordination of public outreach events and synthesizing technical information for the public.

Fiske spends most of her personal time enjoying and photographing the natural environment while hiking, kayaking, climbing, birding, backcountry snowboarding, and more. She sells her photography online and at community events. She currently resides in Bear Valley where she teaches snowboarding.

"Megan will be a real asset in helping the public to understand why the CPC had to challenge the General Plan Update in court," said CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino. "And she already has experience testifying at public hearings at the city, county, state, and federal levels which will be a real asset," he added.

Although the CPC and many others consistently advocated over 13 years for a general plan that protects open space values and sufficiently mitigates the impacts of growth and development, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors adopted a General Plan Update in November 2019 that does not satisfactorily meet these critical requirements.

On December 9, 2019, the CPC filed a case in Calaveras County Superior Court which convincingly argues that the Supervisors violated state planning law and the California Environmental Quality Act. The Petition for Writ of Mandate; Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief Pursuant to General Plan Law, the California Public Records Act, and the California Environmental Quality Act can be viewed on the CAP/CPC website: <http://calaverascap.com/planning-documents/general-plan-documents/>.

Planning Department Says Zoning Update Map Fixed –

Review Time Extended

The Calaveras County Planning Department posted the following message regarding the Zoning Map update, "Thank you for your patience while we worked out some glitches with the GIS maps of the proposed zone changes. The southern portion of the County is now included in the map.

"Because of the delay in getting all of the information up, we are extending the review period for comments. We ask that you get your comments to the Planning Department by Friday, January 22, 2021." Comments were previously due on January 8.

One "glitch" appears to remain. There is a discrepancy between the amount of land designated as Agriculture Preserve and the amount of land under a Williamson Act contract. According to the Zoning Code, they should be the same as "Agriculture preserve zoning applies to lands for which a Williamson Act contract has been executed." The county as yet has no open space zoning other than Agriculture Preserve.

To view the proposed rezoning map, which is part of the General Plan Update Implementation, visit the Planning Department webpage: <https://planning.calaverasgov.us/>. In the drop-down menu under "Zoning" you will find the "Zoning Map" and "Zoning Map Help."

According to a Planning Department press release, "The purpose of the map changes are to rezone parcels zoned with the interim zones of Unclassified and Highway Service to a zone compatible with the General Plan land use designations. This affects approximately 5000 parcels in the county. Additionally, another 1100 parcels are proposed for rezoning to make them consistent with the land use designations."

Questions or comments regarding the proposed zoning amendment should be directed to Planning Director Peter Maurer at (209) 743-6394 or by email to pmaurer@co.calaveras.ca.us.

CAP/CPC Ends the Year With Continued Private Foundation Support

In November 2020, the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition received support from the **Fund for Wild Nature** for the second consecutive year. The Fund has been "investing in feisty grassroots action since 1982" by providing "small grants for North American campaigns to save native species and wild ecosystems, with particular emphasis on actions designed to defend threatened wilderness and biological diversity." CAP/CPC is grateful to the Fund for investing in our organization to help us protect habitat for 34 special status species from development through litigation against the 2019 Calaveras County General Plan. Learn more about the Fund for Wild Nature on their website: <https://fundwildnature.org>.

In December 2020, CAP/CPC received its fifth grant from the **Clif Bar Family Foundation**, which was started in 2006 "to support grassroots groups with inspiring ideas and limited funds." The Foundation believes in "the wisdom of starting small, seeing what works, and growing it genuinely." CAP/CPC is grateful to the Foundation for their support as we work toward positive social and environmental change. Learn more about the Clif Bar Family Foundation on their website: <http://clifbarfamilyfoundation.org/>.

Supervisors Vote On Terra Vi Lodge Halted

By Tracey Petersen Published Dec 29, 2020 08:52 pm

Sonora, CA – The hearing on whether to approve the Terra Vi Lodge at Yosemite ended abruptly on Tuesday evening.

After nearly five hours of listening to callers, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors walked away with no decision on the project that would construct 140 guest rooms, 25 cabins, a market, and a lodge near the intersection of Highway 120 and Sawmill Mountain Road. As earlier reported [here](#), the planning commission approved the plans and it was appealed to the board.

Those in favor of the new lodging praised its economic and tax boost for the area while those opposed voiced concerns of a lack of water, wildfire safety and traffic. However, it was the last caller that put the brakes on the board taking a vote.

That caller was John Buckley, the director of Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center (CSERC), who told the board its Environmental Impact Report or EIR failed to respond to all 25 pages of his group's specific comments, stating, "The whole response to our comments is missing."

Buckley criticized the board saying it is "blatantly rushing citizen review in order to allow outgoing board members a chance to approve projects before leaving office." He then told the board why they could not vote, stating, "To be consistent with CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] a supplemental EIR or errata [a list of corrected errors] must be produced and made available for public and agency consideration prior to the county taking any action to certify this EIR as complete and adequate."

No response was given to Buckley's allegations of rushing the vote, but an immediate recess was called. After almost an hour, the board chair, District 1 Supervisor Sherri Brennan, announced, "Mr. Buckley's comment letter was not responded to due to an inadvertent error. Based on this omission the county will continue the hearing...to allow for the preparation and submission of the errata responding to Mr. Buckley's comments."

Another special meeting will now be held on Thursday (Dec. 31, New Year's Eve) at 9 a.m and you can again watch it live on myMotherLode.com.

Written by [Tracey Petersen](#).

Report breaking news, traffic or weather to our News Hotline 532-6397. Send Mother Lode News Story photos to news@clarkebroadcasting.com. Sign up for our FREE myMotherLode.com Daily Newsletters by [clicking here](#).

You can view live video of the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors meeting by [clicking here](#). Meetings are typically scheduled the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 9 a.m.

The live streaming video is provided courtesy of Tuolumne County.

<https://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/1450364/supervisors-vote-on-terra-vi-lodge-halted.html>

Vote on second Highway 120 resort delayed due to error

Alex MacLean Dec 29, 2020

A vote on the fate of the proposed Terra Vi Lodge resort east of Groveland was delayed until Thursday due to an "inadvertent error" in which a local environmental group's comments were not addressed in the final analysis for the project.

The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors listened for more than two hours on Tuesday as 44 people voiced their opinions on the proposal, with six of them speaking in support. The hearing was to consider appeals seeking to overturn the county Planning Commission's approval of the project on Dec. 1.

John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center in Twain Harte, spoke near the end of the public-comment period and raised objections about how responses to the bulk of the points he made in written comments were not included in the project's final environmental impact report.

Buckley said the omission of the points his center made were an example of mistakes made due to the "rushed" nature of the approval process, an argument that many detractors of the project have also made.

County Supervisor Sherri Brennan, who serves as board chairwoman, announced a 30-minute break at the end of the public comments and returned with the rest of the board about 45 minutes later to read a prepared statement that said the hearing would be continued.

"Based on Mr. Buckley's comments, the county and consultant reviewed the comments and responses and confirmed the bulk of Mr. Buckley's comment letter was not responded to due to an inadvertent error," she said reading from a paper.

Brennan said based on the omission, the hearing would be continued until 9 a.m. Thursday to give county staff time to prepare an errata responding to all of Buckley's written comments submitted during a public review period earlier this year.

Buckley said prior to the break that the board should not certify the final EIR due to a number of inconsistencies in assessing the project's environmental impacts and adequately mitigating them as best as possible as required under California law.

The project involves the construction of a lodge with 100 guest rooms, seven detached cabins totaling 26 additional guest rooms, five apartment buildings each containing four units each for employee housing, a public market, and emergency helipad, all of which would cover about 18% of a 64-acre property at Sawmill Mountain Road and Highway 120 about five miles west of the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park.

County officials have estimated the resort could generate as much as \$650,000 per year in additional Transient Occupancy Tax revenue if approved and constructed.

See Friday's Union Democrat for full coverage of the debate and decision over the Terra Vi Lodge project.

Contact Alex MacLean at amaclean@uniondemocrat.net or (209) 768-5175.

https://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/article_9f43d48c-4a48-11eb-979c-eb71bdbb1280.html

Public Health reports 99 new COVID-19 cases in Calaveras County

• Dec 29, 2020 / The Calaveras Enterprise

The following press release was issued by Calaveras Public Health.

On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, Calaveras Public Health confirmed 99 additional cases of COVID-19 in Calaveras County. To date, Calaveras Public Health reports a total of 853 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of those cases, 711 cases have since recovered while 120 cases remain active. There have been a total of 22 confirmed deaths related to COVID-19 reported in Calaveras County.

If you get a COVID-19 test, you should self-quarantine as much as possible while awaiting the results. Without self-quarantine during that time, you may be exposing others to the virus if you have it. If you get a negative result on your test, continue to physically distance yourself and monitor for symptoms. If you get a positive result on your test, you should isolate yourself as much as possible. Work with family and friends ahead of time to make a shared plan for how to help someone with COVID-19 receive care, isolate, and go to the hospital if symptoms are severe. A person who has tested positive with COVID-19 may not have all or any of these symptoms. A person who has tested positive but does not have any symptoms is considered asymptomatic and can still pass on the virus to others while they are infectious.

Calaveras Public Health is currently working to resolve a discrepancy between the number of COVID-19 cases reported by us compared to those reported by the state. Positive cases are reported in the

state's coronavirus tracking database. The tests reported to Calaveras Public Health are approximate. Case counts can change or even decrease due to duplicates, incorrect addresses, or individuals found not to reside within Calaveras County. One of the primary objectives of Calaveras Public Health is to protect the health of our community by contacting positive cases to confirm their status, and ensuring they have instructions to safely isolate themselves. Calaveras Public Health is working diligently to resolve case count reporting issues. This becomes more complicated as cases continue to rise, resources become more scarce, and as Calaveras Public Health prioritizes COVID-19 testing and vaccine distribution efforts. The public must assume widespread transmission of COVID-19 within our county and take seriously the recommended prevention measures to protect their family and friends from this pandemic.

Calaveras Public Health continues to safely and effectively deliver COVID-19 vaccines and build a system that has the capacity to vaccinate priority groups. Vaccine allocation is administered in phases by prioritizing groups by risk and level of exposure. The initial doses are being used to vaccinate frontline healthcare workers at acute care hospitals, EMTs and paramedics, staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities, and others providing emergency medical services. Calaveras Public Health will continue efforts to immunize other priority groups as soon as feasible and will be based on available resources. Vaccine will be offered according to the CDPH Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine. While this is hopeful news to people, the best thing everyone can do right now is to stay home as much as possible and only go out for work, exercise, or for essential services.

Calaveras Public Health understands that some people may be nervous about the COVID-19 vaccine — this is reasonable. Scientists and medical researchers worked tirelessly to develop and test the vaccine. This has given us the confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine and becomes another critical tool in our toolbox to slow the spread of COVID-19. The vaccine as well as other prevention measures are the roadmap for a faster and more sustainable recovery to help our communities move forward.

The Regional Stay at Home Order remains in effect. Calaveras County is grouped with 11 other counties which include: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne. Calaveras is currently subject to the requirements of the Regional Stay at Home Order given that the regional ICU bed capacity remains below 15%.

The Regional Stay at Home Order urges Californians to stay at home as much as possible to limit the mixing with other households that can lead to COVID-19 spread. It allows access to (and travel for) critical services and allows outdoor activities to preserve Californians' physical and mental health. The order will be lifted when a region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. This will be assessed on a weekly basis.

Everyone is at risk for COVID-19 and should take precautions to avoid getting exposed to the virus. Older adults and people with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19. This means that they may be hospitalized, require a ventilator to help them breathe, or may even be fatal. COVID-19 can be very serious and Calaveras Public Health asks that you follow the safety guidelines.

Because COVID-19 is highly infectious, one infection can quickly grow into an outbreak. The safest way to gather is to spend time with people in the same household and gather virtually with family and friends who aren't from your household. Traveling to see friends and family could increase your risk of infection and further the spread of COVID-19 in your community. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) strongly recommends:

- Californians stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel
- Anyone arriving into California should self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival.

For complete details and requirements, read CDPH's Travel Advisory.

Nearly 80 people showed up to the first testing event provided by Calaveras Public Health within the county. The event was held Wednesday, December 23, in West Point. Other dates and locations will be announced starting in January.

If you would like to get tested for COVID-19, register online at www.lhi.care/covidtesting or call (888) 634-1123. The OptumServe COVID-19 testing site is located at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds, Blake Elliot Building (Creekside), 220 Southgate Drive, Sonora, CA 95370. Additional COVID-19 test sites can be found on the Calaveras County COVID 19 website.

Testing for COVID-19 is advised, especially:

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19
- People who have had close contact with someone that is confirmed to have COVID-19
- People who have been asked or referred to get tested by their healthcare provider

Public Health staff continue to investigate new cases to determine any possible persons who may have had close personal contact with the positive individuals. Close contacts may be contacted by the health department and monitored for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 illness.

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19. The virus is spreading in the community. Stay safe by taking some simple precautions. The best ways to avoid exposure to COVID-19 are to:

- Wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth when you leave home, including public places and anywhere you will be around people who do not live with you.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid gathering with other households.

Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms of COVID 19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing signs, seek emergency care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- New confusion or weakness
- Bluish lips or face
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Inability to wake or stay awake

Calaveras Public Health asks the public to be aware of scams. A contact tracer will never ask for your social security number, bank account number, or credit card information. Our contact tracers work for Calaveras Public Health. Contact tracers help contact people who have COVID-19 to track symptoms and make sure to keep our community safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Calaveras Public Health encourages that all people 6 months and older get their yearly flu vaccine. While getting the flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, it is shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death. Please speak with your local medical provider or pharmacist for flu vaccine.

To receive information and resources related to COVID-19 visit the Calaveras County COVID-19 website.

In California: Morning, Evening, Late January

By Denise Levertov

Pale, then enkindled,
light
advancing,
emblazoning
summits of palm and pine,

the dew
lingering,
scripture of
scintillas.

Soon the roar
of mowers
cropping the already short
grass of lawns,

men with long-nozzled
cylinders of pesticide
poking at weeds,
at moss in cracks of cement,

and louder roar
of helicopters off to spray
vineyards where *braceros* try
to hold their breath,

and in the distance, bulldozers, excavators,
babel of destructive construction.

Banded by deep
oakshadow, airy
shadow of eucalyptus,

miner's lettuce,
tender, untasted,
and other grass, unmown,
luxuriant,
no green more brilliant.

Fragile paradise.

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At day's end the whole sky,
vast, unstinting, flooded with transparent
mauve,
tint of wisteria,
cloudless
over the malls, the industrial parks,
the homes with the lights going on,
the homeless arranging their bundles.

.

Who can utter
the poignance of all that is constantly
threatened, invaded, expended

and constantly
nevertheless
persists in beauty,

tranquil as this young moon
just risen and slowly
drinking light
from the vanished sun.

Who can utter
the praise of such generosity
or the shame?

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Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition

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