

Suggested title: Mitigating flood risk is a lot easier than stopping a flood

California residents typically celebrate the rain, but atmospheric rivers have inundated the state and Calaveras County with too much water. Catastrophic flooding has been the result. In Valley Springs, Cosgrove Creek predictably flooded its banks and, yet again, displaced residents from their homes.

According to a January 11 article in the Calaveras Enterprise, nearly 50 homes along the creek flooded in La Contenta, and “a recurring theme” from every homeowner impacted by flooding was the unresponsiveness of county government. One homeowner “says he has been going back and forth with the county since 1999 over this very issue.” Residents are paying the financial and emotional toll for the county’s neglect.

The Calaveras Planning Coalition consistently advocated over 13 years for a General Plan that protects our health and safety and sufficiently mitigates the impacts of growth and development, but the Board of Supervisors adopted an updated General Plan in November 2019 that doesn’t provide sufficient protections or mitigations.

All general plans contain a Safety Element which, according to state law, “must develop a set of comprehensive goals, policies and objectives” to protect communities from the unreasonable risk of flooding. The Coalition encourages you to share your concerns with Calaveras County Flood Prevention Officer Gabriel Elliott who is also the Planning Director.

In December 2019, the Coalition filed a case in Calaveras County Superior Court which convincingly argues that the supervisors violated state planning law and the California Environmental Quality Act when adopting the updated General Plan. Learn more at calaverascap.com/gpu.

With Gratitude,

Megan Fiske
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