

Dear Editor,

This year's Calaveras County Grand Jury Report recommends that the County fund and hire the staff to maintain wildfire fuel breaks. It suggests annual testing of the emergency alert system beginning in 2024. It recommends a system, now lacking, for monitoring and tracking environmental regulation compliance and violations. Unfortunately, the problems identified by the Grand Jury are not the only areas where essential staffing, funding and specifics are lacking.

The approval of the 2019 General Plan Update resulted in a 34-page list of over 190 implementation measures needed to deal with things like public infrastructure and services, public safety, resource production, and conservation. But this list indicates neither the level of staffing needed nor the cost of accomplishing the task. Only a few tasks on the list have a deadline.

The County's proposal to monitor numerous measures to mitigate adverse impacts from the General Plan and protect the environment is only one page long and contains no specifics on how the County will monitor the performance of these measures. The failure to provide implementation timelines and specific steps for mitigation monitoring are among the reasons for the legal challenge to the 2019 General Plan Update by the Calaveras Planning Coalition.

As individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations, we can commit to do our part for each other to take up the slack created by a county government that refuses to commit to measures the county itself identifies as necessary. To learn more about the list of neglected issues and the personal actions you can take to make a difference please consult the CAP/CPC website: calaverascap.com/list. Thank you!

Mega Fiske, Outreach Coordinator
Community Action Project and Calaveras Planning Coalition
San Andreas