

Suggested Title: Zoning Ordinance Update Promises to Respect Rural Quality of Life

The Calaveras County Planning Commission recently passed a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 270-page Zoning Ordinance Update (ZOU). The Commission, the Planning Department, and their consultant spent nine months carefully reviewing and editing the ordinance during public hearings. This is the first comprehensive overhaul of the ordinance in nearly four decades. The Calaveras Planning Coalition thanks the County for their efforts to make positive changes and incorporate public input into the ZOU.

We especially appreciate the improvements made to better protect the community from the risk of wildfire. Requiring permits for certain uses helps prevent human caused ignitions in remote locations with long response times and without adequate evacuation routes.

We are grateful for the updates supporting our rural economy, which outline where residential uses can be intermixed with commercial. Mixed uses support diverse, small businesses and allow opportunities for affordable housing.

The CPC appreciates that our rural quality of life is better respected by the clear and direct illumination ordinance and the detailed sections addressing telecommunication facilities. The requirement of a permit should help prevent the proliferation of monopine cell towers, allow for public input, and ensure facilities are more beneficial than burdensome for the community.

Development setbacks from streamside, wetlands, and agricultural land protect those resources while still allowing for property owners to pursue desired uses in a responsible manner.

Now is the time to protect lives and property from wildfires, to support small businesses, and to conserve both natural resources and productive working lands. This is not the time for delay. This is a time for prompt action. You can take action by encouraging the BOS to approve the ZOU when it comes in front of them in the near future. Stay informed about opportunities to participate by signing up for action alerts at calaverascap.com

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