

**Amador – Calaveras Regional Watershed Plan  
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*(from draft issues paper and SAC comments)*

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**III) Watershed-based Planning Strategies: Principles & Recommendations**

A) Principles and Recommendations for Water-wise Land Use

*(Each subsection below represents a specific planning principle and will include background information that will lead to specific recommendations. See "Planning Principles Outline" document for structure of each section)*

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## Proposed Goals

The goals listed below are derived from past SAC meeting discussions regarding land use and water planning issues in Amador County and Calaveras County. Draft goals were presented at the last SAC meeting in April and were modified to reflect comments we received from that meeting. In response, two new goals have been added (maintain rural character and supporting prosperous region) and one goal was removed from the list (use land efficiently). The purpose of these goals is to provide direction and foundation for developing planning principles as well as policy and program recommendations for Amador and Calaveras counties.

1. Sustainable and Efficient Water Use
2. Protect Natural Assets and Infrastructure
3. Minimize Watershed Impacts of Development
4. Strengthen Existing Communities
5. Maintain Rural Character
6. Support a Prosperous Region
7. Increase Coordination and Collaboration

*Sustainable and Efficient Water Use:* Plan and design new development and associated infrastructure to make the most efficient use of existing water supplies in tandem with expanding water conservation and reuse efforts in the region.

*Protect Natural Assets and Infrastructure:* Invest in and promote the protection and restoration of “natural infrastructure” systems that provide water and community benefits such as healthy lands, soils, streams and forests.

*Minimize Watershed Impacts of Development:* Plan and design development to prevent and minimize its impacts on water resources and watershed health.

*Strengthen Existing Communities:* Focus growth and investment towards existing communities to ensure efficient use of land, water, infrastructure & fiscal resources as well as to ensure communities remain as physically separate, unique entities.

*Maintain Rural Character:* Support new development patterns which respect traditional rural character, lifestyles, culture, and economies; protect natural habitats; and preserve the aesthetic quality of the surrounding countryside.

*Support a Prosperous Region:* Align development decisions with economic development goals to ensure new growth supports regional prosperity and the ability of residents to live and work in their communities.

*Increase Coordination and Collaboration:* Create programs and policies that encourage greater cooperation locally and regionally within and between different agencies, promote public involvement and balance different interests.

## **Chapter Outline: Planning Principles and Recommendations**

This outline focuses in on the “Planning Principles and Recommendations” section of the outline above. It shows the proposed structure and, in the first portion (Open Space and Green Infrastructure) describes what will be included under each of the subsections of the document.

### **I. Natural Infrastructure and Open Space**

#### *Overview*

The overview introduces the principle and associated strategies included within the section, and clarifies the connection to watershed protection/water management. It also includes basic concepts the reader should know.

#### ***Strategy 1. Open Space Conservation***

Each strategy section will include a general overview and brief description of common strategies/programs followed by recommendations sample general plan policies.

#### *Background*

Similar to the overview above, but provides more specific information to the particular strategy being discussed.

#### *General Policy Approaches*

This section discusses common ways that the section’s principle and associated strategies are addressed in local planning and management programs. It may also introduce newer concepts or policy models that are emerging as alternatives to conventional policies.

#### *Institutional Issues*

This section provides comments related to “institutional issues” discussed during project meetings. For example, the Open Space and Green Infrastructure section discusses property rights and conservation financing.

#### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

This section provides a brief overview of how the topic/strategy is being addressed in Amador and Calaveras counties. It references relevant policies and programs that local jurisdictions have or are considering in plans or planning processes.

#### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

This section recommends specific strategies based on local needs and conditions, filling in important details for the most relevant policy tools described in the previous subsection. It includes more detailed information about the recommended strategies as well as sample policies that have been instituted in other communities. In some cases the recommendation is intended to support new programs or policies and in others it is to support implementation of existing policies.

### ***Strategy 2: Natural Infrastructure in the Built Environment***

#### *Background*

#### *General Policy Approaches*

#### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

#### *Institutional Issues*

#### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

## **II. Community Planning and Design**

### *Overview*

#### ***Strategy 1: Strategic Location***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approaches*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

#### ***Strategy 2: Compact Community Form***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approach*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

#### ***Strategy 3: Mixing Land Uses and Development Types***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approaches*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

#### ***Strategy 4: Streets and Mobility***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approaches*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

## **III. Sustainable Water and Watershed Management**

### *Overview*

#### ***Strategy 1: Water Supply, Wastewater and Infrastructure***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approaches*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

#### ***Strategy 2: Efficiency and Conservation***

##### *Background*

##### *General Policy Approaches*

##### *Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

##### *Institutional Issues*

##### *Recommendations and Model Policies*

**Strategy 3: Recycling and Reuse**

*Background*

*General Policy Approaches*

*Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

*Institutional Issues*

*Recommendations and Model Policies*

**Strategy 4: Water Quality Monitoring**

*Background*

*General Policy Approaches*

*Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

*Institutional Issues*

*Recommendations and Model Policies*

**Strategy 5: Collaborative Water Resource Planning (i.e. IRWMP)**

*Background*

*General Policy Approaches*

*Local Policy Approach in Amador and Calaveras Counties*

*Institutional Issues*

*Recommendations and Model Policies*

**IV. Cordination and Education**

*Overview*

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**Draft Recommendations Q&A**

Draft recommendations will be included in the draft watershed plan, which will be completed and presented to the group in October. Following is a brief discussion about the origin of the recommendations, what they will focus on and how they will be presented.

*Who is the plan for?*

At the first project meeting the group discussed ideas about the audience and overall scope of the final plan for the project. The group identified several “audiences” including local decision makers, the development community, agency staff and the general public. The group stated the importance of a document that was educational, but also provided clear policy recommendations. Striking this balance will be a goal of the first draft of the plan.

*How will the plan be structured?*

The plan will be structured to provide general information on several “best practices” for watershed-based planning, but will key in on specific strategies that fit the current context (policy, watershed/environmental, social/demographic) of Amador County and Calaveras County.

*Where will the recommendations come from?*

Some of the recommendations will build on policies or programs that are already in place or have been proposed during the General Plan updates (GPUs). For example, both counties have existing or proposed policies calling for the creation of design guidelines for “green” stormwater management practices (often called Low Impact Development or LID). In this case, the

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recommendation is geared to support implementation of those programs/policies. In other cases the recommendations will be geared to supplement existing efforts or answer a specific need/challenge identified by SAC members or during policy review.

### *How will the plan and recommendations relate to the General Plan updates?*

As noted above, some of the recommendations will stem directly from programs and policies under consideration in the GPUs. Additionally, each subsection of the “Principles and Recommendations” chapter will include sample general plan language. All of the sample policies will also be combined and provided as an appendix to provide a foundation for a Water Element. This is geared specifically towards helping Calaveras County develop a Water Element, but is also intended to provide useful policy language for Amador County, that is not planning to have a stand alone Water Element at this time, but may still wish to integrate the policies into other elements.

### *What will the recommendations focus on?*

The “principles” component of Chapter III (Principles and Recommendations) is intended to provide breadth; it will cover a wide range of practices and strategies to align land use planning, community design and watershed management. The “recommendations” component will add depth to a few key focal areas that have emerged. Current focal areas for each section include:

### ***Focal Areas for Recommendations (by section)***

#### 1) Open Space and Natural Infrastructure

##### (a) Market-based conservation strategies

*Basis:* Amador Draft Goals and Policies Paper and Calaveras County Issues and Opportunities Paper, high priority strategy in voting at Mokelumne Hill workshop (May 2008), and the Valley Springs Conservation Strategies workshop (August 08)

##### (b) Guidelines for Low Impact Design and Infrastructure (i.e. LID)

*Basis:* Amador County Draft Goals & Policies, Calaveras County stormwater program (high priority for design guidelines for new and redevelopment), recognized (but not as highest priority) at Moke Hill workshop, interest from local developers.

##### (c) Improve data capabilities for mapping and planning

*Basis:* Priority strategy at Moke Hill workshop (May 2008), AC member input

##### (d) Sample General Plan Policies

#### 2) Community Planning and Design

##### (a) Zoning innovations - “form-based” codes and specific plans

*Basis:* Amador County Land Use Alternatives, SAC input about development and rural character, developer frustrations with current permitting/code structure

##### (b) Community planning in unincorporated areas

*Basis:* New Town Center and Regional Service Center designations in Amador; ongoing and future efforts in Calaveras (i.e. Valley Springs)

##### (c) Sample General Plan Policies

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3) Sustainable Water and Watershed Management

(a) Water Element Policies

*Basis:* Calaveras County Water Element, Amador County GPU, August Moke Hill workshop (priority strategy)

(b) Water Quality Monitoring Plan

*Basis: required for grant Scope of Work*