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On behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition, we would like to thank the Community Development Agency, Mintier and Associates, and others who have put time and effort into creating the Draft Baseline Report for the General Plan Update. We appreciate the invitation to the public to comment on this document.

This binder contains comments on the Report from member groups and individuals of the Planning Coalition. These folks have been hard at work for weeks, reading the report, digesting the information, and preparing their remarks. It is a rather formidable task to thoroughly read such a voluminous work, and it is a testament to their dedication that they have had the willingness to take it on.

Our comments are offered in the spirit of cooperation and assistance. We want our county to have the most accurate portrayal of its current state of affairs that is possible. We hope that the Board and staff will make full use of our remarks and commit the time and resources needed to make the report a complete and reliable background to the General Plan update.

The Coalition has provided such voluminous contributions to the Baseline Report because, like the concerns gathered from public meetings, the Baseline Report is a key part of the information foundation upon which the General Plan Update will be built. If this foundational information is not properly provided, both the General Plan Update and the General Plan Environmental Impact Report will fail to meet legal standards, and will fail to provide useful planning direction to the County.

The Baseline Report is a critical part of the General Plan Update for two reasons.

First, the qualitative information and quantitative data in the Baseline Report regarding land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety reveal the starting points for planning our future. "The general plan must be based on solid data if it is to serve as the primary source of community planning policy." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 36.)

Second, the institutional information and quantitative data is necessary for use later in the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). "Data gathered during this stage, whether in written or map form, will be useful during the concurrent preparation of the general plan's EIR." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 39.) That General Plan EIR will have to provide background information on every potentially significant impact of the General Plan on the human environment, including traffic congestion, water supply and quality, law enforcement and emergency services, forests and agricultural land, wildlife habitat, and air quality. In that General Plan EIR, the impacts of the proposed General Plan must be quantitatively compared to the existing baselines of these resources. That is why the OPR General Plan Guidelines state, "In the interest of efficiency, data collection and analysis should be comprehensive enough to satisfy the needs of both the CEQA document and the general plan." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 42.)

The Baseline Study should meet the need expressed in the OPR General Plan Guidelines to "distill the mass of raw data that has been collected during the early stages of plan preparation into a usable format." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 42.)

It is as essential to quantify the baseline as it is to identify future objectives. Only with both of these items identified can the County determine how much staff time and money it will need to get from where we are now to where we want to go. If the quantitative baseline is not established, the public is likely to suffer the consequences of failures to achieve planning goals.

For one example, a task of the land use element is to create the opportunity for the approval of a sufficient number of parcels to accommodate the desired level of future growth. If the existing number of vacant parcels is not calculated accurately, it is not possible to calculate the number you need to add to accommodate new growth. If land is accidentally designated for too many new parcels, future project approvals may inadvertently result in shortages of road, water supply, and wastewater infrastructure. Similarly, if too few parcels are accidentally created, it may be difficult to accommodate the desired levels of economic growth. That is precisely why the OPR General Plan Guidelines state, "When preparing or revising a general plan, planners need an accurate picture of the existing land uses in the planning area." "Carefully review your previous commitments to determine which are irreversible." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 36 & 41.)

For another example, the safety element will identify safety concerns regarding future development. That is why the OPR Guidelines state that at this stage of the planning process, "Information about environmental hazards such as wildland fires, floods, and landslides can help determine the relative suitability of lands for development." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 39.)

Similarly, predictions about the level of population growth, the characteristics of the population, and economic trends will affect the future housing, transportation, employment, and recreation needs.

That is why the OPR Guidelines indicate that, "the composition of the subject population is more important than the mere size of the population." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 40.)

Key information about housing is needed to plan for affordable housing, and to meet legal requirements. The OPR General Plan Guidelines note the needs for data on population and employment trends, household characteristics, land suitable for residential development, government and other constraints on affordable housing, special housing needs, and opportunities for residential energy conservation. (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, p. 41.)

Finally, a good Baseline Study will explain the local, state, and federal regulations that influence, or are influence by, each element of the General Plan. It is particularly important for the Baseline Study to frankly evaluate the effectiveness of existing methods for meeting general plan objectives. Only by knowing what has worked can we preserve the best of the old plan. Only by knowing what has not worked can we identify issues that need further attention. With regard to issues that need further work, the OPR Guidelines suggest, "Other jurisdictions of similar size to your own may have useful ideas on how to approach local issues." (OPR, 2003 General Plan Guidelines, pp. 38-39.) From time to time our comments point to such useful approaches from other jurisdictions.

The comments which follow are organized according to the corresponding chapters of the Baseline Report. In most cases, more than one individual or group submitted comments for each chapter. The Table of Contents includes a listing of topics and issues addressed. The list of those who contributed follows the Table of Contents. Colored sheets of paper are inserted between entries within a chapter.

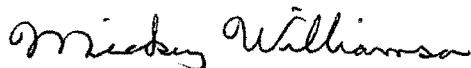
The Calaveras Planning Coalition remains committed to meaningful public participation throughout the General Plan update process. We continue to be a voice for thoughtful, wise, well-planned growth and policy. We are pleased to make our contribution to the Baseline phase, and we look forward to future opportunities to participate and to encourage broad public involvement.

We are available for further conversation on any portion of these comments. Thank you for considering them as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Tom Infusino, Calaveras Planning Coalition Facilitator



Mickey Williamson, Community Action Project Coordinator

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The Calaveras Planning Coalition

The **Calaveras Planning Coalition** is composed of community groups, organizations, and individuals interested in growth and planning issues in Calaveras County. The Coalition was formed January 4, 2006, and has met semi regularly every two weeks since that date.

The Calaveras Planning Coalition is united in its belief in the need for a comprehensive update to the Calaveras County General Plan. Further, the Coalition believes that citizen participation is the key to a successful update of the General Plan, and necessary to the update of area specific plans throughout the County.

Coalition members are listed below.

At the Coalition meeting held May 16, 2006, the Coalition adopted eleven "**Land Use & Development Principles**" to guide the Coalition's efforts and define the criteria by which new groups will be joining. (These are listed on the reverse side.)

These guidelines, which previously have also been adopted by the Amador County Board of Realtors and other groups, provide broad principles related to development and land use.

For more information about the Calaveras Planning Coalition:

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Planning Coalition Members

Calaveras Child Care Council
Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
Citizens for San Andreas
Community Action Project (Coalition Sponsor)
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch
Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability
Keep It Rural, Calaveras
Mountain Ranch Community Club
Murphys Homeowners Protection Alliance
MyValleySprings.com
Paloma Community Group
Wallace Citizens Serving Residents

Associate Members:

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COMMENTS TO THE CALAVERAS COUNTY BASELINE REPORT

Submitted by: Wallace Citizens Serving Residents

Comments are divided into a General Overview Opinion followed by specific omissions and inadequacies in the Elements of Land Use and Public Services.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

If the Baseline is not a legally binding part of the General Plan Update but is a current "snapshot of the county", should it not at least be current? Several key source documents and state mandated Master Plans found in a perusal of OPR: Legislative Summary of 2007 and Planning, Zoning and Development Law of 2008 could be folded into the Baseline if only time were given. Census data from 1999-2000 can not be used to update a Housing element. Land use can not define vacant nor occupied parcel much less give a near-term buildout in order to assess cumulative impacts on all other elements. Public utilities all reference the 1996 Urban Water Plan that does not describe the current environment. A State mandated Conservation plan to reduce water use by 30% in the next 20+ years can not be quantified from this baseline. Circulation is based on the 2001 RTP even though the 2007 draft RTP is awaiting approval.

Summaries of Deficiencies have largely been dropped from the current Baseline. Even where mentioned, quantification is omitted. How will the county be able to configure the "Cost and benefits of Growth, both near-term (10 years) and long term environmental impacts?" required before LAFCO can complete a Municipal Service Review to change boundaries and approve projects? See Section 1. Sec. 56668 amended to Environmental Justice SB 162 (Chapter 428); CALAFCO Resolution 2005-13 in the OPR Guidelines.

To save money, the Mintier Contract excluded research and data collection. If the General Plan Update is primarily driven by time and money constraints this inadequate Baseline may lead to an unacceptable EIR and a conflicting set of policies, goals and objectives. In the end, even more rework, time and costs will result. Who says you only have two years?

How will the county be able to identify Oak woodlands and other types of Conservation easements, wetland protection areas, appropriate areas for high density building, beef up timber production, come up with a land use water element with a regional emphasis and devise a habitat conservation program? Can a rural economic model be derived from the current snapshot? From what set of data will workforce housing and new jobs needs be determined when old 2000 Census data is used? (Housing, Circulation, Demographics)? How useful is addressing "Community Centers" in rural areas without costs associated with correcting existing inadequate infrastructure and water quantity to meet the existing population?

Why not take the necessary time to get the best result? In a market slow down predicted to last into 2010, and a budget deficit, time is on your side now to get a correct snapshot.

Subject: ACCURATE BASELINE DATA FOR THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

ISSUE: Is the baseline report an accurate “snapshot” of the county in the year 2008 and will it contribute to an Environment Impact Report that is valid and legal?

DISCUSSION: After review of the Baseline report and some inquiries surrounding the development of the report we find much of the data used to capture accurate land use designations may be flawed. For instance baseline information for some of the area in and around the city of San Andreas is not accurately reflected on figures 311-A and B. Some residential San Andreas areas are designated as unimproved or unclassified, both of which we believe to be erroneous. Examples include Oak Shadows Mobile Home Park which is designated unimproved land. Oak Shadows opened in 1980. The county has had 28 years to clean up the data for Oak Shadows to accurately reflect its current status. The parcel where Supervisor Bill Claudino lives is still classified as unclassified. Bill obviously does not live under a rock so this must be wrong. The Buckskin development is also reflected as unimproved.

It would seem that the data is flawed for older developments and data is accurate for newer developments. When checking the Valley Springs area we find that much of Rancho Calaveras is designated unimproved when in fact it was developed decades ago.

The recent highly publicized Calaveras County Williamson Act violations and penalties debacle is also an example of the same “gnarly data syndrome” that affects the General Plan Update. It appears when called upon to conduct the county’s business, county employees cannot draw from our repository of data – be it paper or computer – to make important business decisions.

We believe there is a critical need for an upgrade to the systems that act as a foundation for county-based decisions.

After some inquiries we found that the assessors parcel books are being slowly entered into the database for the county. Are we to conclude that old data was the basis for some of the erroneous data reflected in the Mintier Baseline report? We understand that it was not in the contract with Mintier and Associates to evaluate data and they used raw data for their report. It is our understanding that the data may have come from various sources which further clouds its value and integrity.

In a letter dated 11/20/07 from the law firm Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisor they write, "After reviewing the County's General Plan and subsidiary planning documents, we have concluded that the General Plan suffers from numerous deficiencies, as explained below. Due to the General Plan's failure to be in compliance with the State's legal mandates, the County is legally barred from approving new development projects that have a nexus to these deficiencies." Because the current baseline report may be based in some part on flawed data then it can be concluded that the next step, the Environmental Impact report, which is mandated by law may be based on flawed data. Therefore the new General Plan update may also fail to be in compliance with the State's legal mandates and the County could be legally barred from approving new development projects that have a nexus to these deficiencies.

A Calaveras Enterprise article titled, "We're in a recession," dated 2/29/08, highlights the impact of the National recession on County departments and services. In times of fiscal tightening it is imperative that County departments have the tools they need to efficiently conduct business. These tools include an accurate and modern data infrastructure. Otherwise the cost of lost and inefficient man hours is exorbitant. The current national economic crisis calls for the need to have the political will to build and maintain accurate and modern County wide data systems. It is imperative that these systems have the ability to share information effectively among County departments. Otherwise Calaveras County will be reactive instead of proactive.

CONCLUSION: Essentially we are back to square one. The Baseline report which is the basis for the new Environmental Impact Report and General Plan update appears to include a large amount of flawed data. The Background report is the largest and most expensive component of the General Plan update and the County may have entered the wrong information into the Background report. This flawed data may make much of the Environmental Impact Report and General Plan illegal and irrelevant.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Conduct an audit of the data that was submitted to Mintier and Associates for the Background Report.
2. If the data is found to be flawed update or rebuild the County wide data systems infrastructure, maintain it and train personnel to use it properly. Enter the correct data into the system and submit the corrected data to Mintier and Associates to be the basis for a complete and factual Background Report.

If these recommendations are not followed the County's new General Plan may be headed for the same fate as the current one; a General Plan that is illegal and irrelevant.

Population and Demographics

The Population and Demographics section of the draft Baseline Report continues to rely on information from the 2000 U.S. Census, the information for which was collected in 1999, for the determination of household income. There is more current information available, most notably from the state Department of Finance. (Attached is a DOF "snapshot" of Calaveras County.) In the baseline report the county's median family income is listed as \$41,022. Based on 2004 tax returns, the DOF lists joint median adjusted gross income at \$55,422 and individual median income at \$35,025. Assuming "joint" income refers to household or family income, that is a discrepancy of \$14,400. As the baseline report itself notes, "changes over the years in demographic variables such as age, income, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, and others can fundamentally influence the level and type of public services demanded by residents." We need a more current accounting of income.

Calaveras County

POPULATION

Land area (acres):	652,800	Cities	Population 1-1-06
Population, 7-1-05	45,272	Angels City	3,576
Population, 7-1-06	45,928	Unincorporated	42,135
Percent of California	0.1		
1-1-06			
Population in households	45,255		
Population/household	2.361		

EDUCATION

Median years of school, 1990 **	13.0	2004-05 (\$ mill)	Spending on education: School districts*	62.4
Enrollment, Fall 2006 (public & private schools)				
Kindergarten-12	6,880			

* Not including community college districts.
 ** May not be comparable to the 1990 census. The 1990 median was computed on the basis of educational attainment. The 1980 median was based on actual years of school completed.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Civilian labor force, 2006	20,900	Number of establishments by industry and employment size, 1999							
Civilian employment	19,700	Employment size	All industries *	Mining/Utilities Construction	Manufacturing	Trade **	Transportation & Information	FIRE ***	Services
Unemployment	1,200								
Unemployment rate	5.8%								
Nonagricultural wage & salary employment, 2006 (BLS series)	9,231	1-4	610	145	29	96	22	52	231
Percent of California	0.1	5-9	197	41	9	38	4	12	92
Natural Resources, Mining and Constr	1,348	10-19	81	10	4	12	3	5	45
Manufacturing	375	20-49	49	3	6	14	2	2	22
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	1,619	50-99	4	1	1	1	—	—	1
Information	129	100-249	3	—	1	—	—	—	2
Professional Activities	330	250-499	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional and Business Services	565	500-999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Educational and Health Services	660	1000 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leisure and Hospitality	1,313	Total	944	200	50	161	31	71	393
Other Services	361								
Federal Government	132								
State and Local Government	2,399								
* Includes forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture support									
** Wholesale and retail									
*** Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing									
Totals may not add due to rounding.									

INCOME AND SALES

			1979	1989	1999
Personal income, 2005 (mill.)	1,337.0	Median family income, Census	17,909	32,211	47,379
Percent of California	0.1	Median household income, Census	15,266	27,645	41,022
County Rank	44				
			2003	2004	2005
Per capita income, 2005	28,572	Total taxable sales, (\$ mill.)	275.2	308.8	342.7
Percent of California	77.4	Percent of California	0.1	0.1	0.1
County Rank	32	Taxable retail sales	182.5	198.0	213.6
		Sales and Use tax rate (includes state, local, and district taxes)			7.250%
Avg. earnings per job, 2005	29,655				
Avg. wages per job, 2005	28,929				
		<u>Median adjusted gross income based on personal income tax returns, 2004:</u>			
Avg. earnings per nonfarm proprietor, 2005	23,149	Individual	\$35,025		
		Joint	\$55,422		

HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

	4/1/2000	1/1/2006		Units	Valuation (\$ mill.)
Housing stock	22,946	26,685	Housing authorizations, 2006		
Percent of California	0.2	0.2	Total	499	\$161.1
Single family	19,859	23,114	Percent of California	0.3	0.4
Multiple family	850	878	Single family	499	149.0
Mobile homes, trailers, etc.	2,237	2,693	Multi-family	0	0.0
Vacancy rate (percent):	28.2	28.2			
			Nonresidential permits	—	\$16.9
			Percent of California		0.1

CALAVERAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN BASELINE REPORT, JANUARY 2008 DRAFT

[Public comments 3/4/08 by Colleen Platt, MyValleySprings.com; includes General comments, and comments on Chapters One, Three, and Twelve]

GENERAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT

Page numbers are not noted in the summary of Sections listed in the beginning of each Baseline Report Chapter. This makes finding Sections and cross-referencing very difficult. Please include page numbers for the various Sections, and/or include Section numbers on each page in the Chapters.

CHAPTER ONE—INTRODUCTION

Section 1.4 Purpose of the Baseline Report (pg. 1-5) states: *“The Baseline Report provides a “snapshot” in time of the county’s existing conditions...The data and information in this report have a baseline date of October 2007.”* The date of October 2007 conflicts with a later statement in **Section 1.6 Format** (pg. 1-7): *“**Existing Conditions.** These sections, which form the bulk of each individual chapter, describe the existing conditions as of January 2008 for each resource or issue area.”* There cannot be two different dates for existing conditions baseline.

CHAPTER THREE—LAND USE

Section 3.1 Introduction (pg. 3-1) states: *“This chapter of the Calaveras County General Plan Baseline Report describes overall existing land use conditions in Calaveras County, and provides a detailed glimpse of land use conditions in many of the county’s more densely developed areas.”* This statement is the crux of this chapter, but sadly, much of the data therein is incorrect and inadequate in describing existing conditions, especially in the more densely developed areas (see detailed comments showing areas of deficiencies in Section 3.2 Existing Property Use).

Major Findings (pgs. 3-1, 3-2)

- *“Descriptions of land use designations within the existing 1996 General Plan are not consistent with each other. Land use designations within the 1996 General Plan are also not consistent...”* This Finding should also include the statement “land use designations are not consistent with the County Zoning Code” (see comments under Section 3.4 Existing Zoning Summary).
- *“Existing residential land uses constituted only 2.3% of the land base in the Planning Area (15,307 acres) in 2007.”* If this Finding is based on the highly inaccurate data found in Section 3.2 Existing Property Use Tables and Maps, the Finding of 2.3% existing residential use is likely to be incorrect (see comments under Section 3.2 Existing Property Use).
- *“As of 2007 only 396 of the 662,791 total acres in the Planning Area were developed as medium-density and high-density residential uses.”* As defined by General Plan Coordinator Lynn O’Connor, the average lot size for “medium density residential” is .1 to .99 acres. This is the lot size for many Calaveras County subdivisions and towns. There is a much higher amount of acreage developed as existing medium-density

residential areas (see comments under Section 3.2 Existing Property Use, Table 3-1).
The Finding of 396 acres medium- and high-density residential development is incorrect.

Section 3.2 Existing Property Use

Figure 3-1 Existing Property Use (Map) (pg. 3-3)

This countywide map presented in the report is nearly useless, due to the poor quality of the image. Even after zooming in or blowing areas up, it is impossible to accurately determine land uses, and there seem to be almost no (yellow) existing residential areas shown. A map of better quality needs to be included in the baseline report.

Table 3-1 Existing Property Use, Planning Area 2007 (pg. 3-5)

1) There are no definitions for the High, Medium, Low, and Very Low Density Residential property use categories included anywhere in the Baseline Report. These Property Use terms must be defined to be meaningful. Our inquiry to the County produced an email from the General Plan Coordinator with definitions for Average Lot Size as follows: High Density Residential: .1 acres; Medium Density: .1 to .99 acres; Low Density: 1.0 to 4.99 acres; Very Low Density 5.0 to 20 acres. These definitions need to be included in the Land Use Chapter.

2) Table 3-1 lists only 39 parcels, 214 acres Medium density residential, countywide. Based on the above definitions, studying current County GIS maps, and our own research and sorting of the 2006 County Parcel database (available on the County ftp website), we question the accuracy of all densities of residential parcels and acres listed, especially in the Medium Density category. In just the Valley Springs residential subdivisions of Gold Creek, La Contenta (over 200 acres alone), New Hogan Lake Estates, Lakeview, and Rancho Calaveras there are at least 824 acres of medium density residential. If there are over 800 acres in just one area, what is the total acreage countywide? Many lots in the county from .1 to .99 acre do not appear to have been counted, including the subdivisions of Wallace Lake Estates, La Contenta, Gold Creek Estates, the ½ acre lots in Rancho Calaveras, Saddle Creek, Copper Cove, Copper Meadows, Lake Tulloch Shores, Forest Meadows, Big Trees Village, Blue Lake Springs, and Meadow Mont. Town centers such as downtown Valley Springs, San Andreas, Murphys, and Moke Hill were also not counted as medium density areas in their Tables in this Section. The Residential totals in the Planning Area Table appear to be incorrect and based on highly inaccurate data and maps, perhaps due to inadequacies in the Parcel database and lack of/ inaccurate database sorting.

Figure 3-3 Community & Specific Plans (Map) (pg. 3-17)

On page 3-14, the baseline report says the County has produced the Draft Copperopolis Community Plan and draft District 2 Community Plans, and that “Figure 3-3 shows all the existing and draft community plan areas...on a map of Calaveras County.” This is incorrect—draft plans are not shown on the map.

Adopted Community Plans (pgs. 3-19 to 3-61)

Most of the nine “Existing Property Use” Tables and Maps in Section 3.2 are highly inaccurate. They particularly undercount existing residential developed parcels and acreage. It takes but a casual glance at the nine Community and Special Plan maps to see that existing communities and town centers are mostly categorized “Undeveloped” or “Unclassified.” This is obviously incorrect. In addition, as mentioned earlier, residential density category figures are incorrect, often showing zero Medium Density parcels in obviously developed subdivisions and town centers with numerous Medium Density parcels.

Rancho Calaveras Special Plan, Tables 3-11B, Figure 3-10 A/B (Map) (pg. 3-42, pg. 3-45)

We have examined one area closely, the Rancho Calaveras Special Plan, to determine what more accurate data sorting and map study would show. According to baseline report Table 3-11B, developed residential parcels in Rancho total only 894 acres, or 16.6%, of the 5,384 acres in Rancho Calaveras. This is grossly undercounted. There are a total of 3,615 lots in Rancho. In the Rancho Calaveras Special Plan, updated in 1999, approx. 1,700 of the lots—47%--were classified “developed with single family residential homes” (pg. 5 of the Special Plan). In 2006, according to data in the County GIS Parcel database, there were approximately 2,253 Single Family Residential / Manufactured Home developed parcels in Rancho—62% of all lots—for a total of 2,984 developed acres, which is 55% of Rancho’s total 5,384 acres, not 16.6%. This is a big discrepancy (and does not even include over 100 “Unclassified” parcels that appear to actually be “developed”, having a structural value of \$10,000 or more). Has adequate data sorting been done? Why are so many existing developed homes, some of them built over 25 years ago, not being counted?

As a mirror to underscore the deficiencies in Table data, **Figure 3-10B (Map) Rancho Calaveras Special Plan Existing Property Use** (pg.3-45) shows the majority of parcels “Unimproved” or “Unclassified”. Again, this does not reflect actual existing conditions, or land use classifications and data in the 2006 GIS parcel database. Approximately 62% of the parcels on the Rancho Calaveras Map should be shown as developed Medium and Low Density Residential.

These Rancho Calaveras map and table errors are consistent for other Community Plans and Specific Plans in the Baseline Report. For example, Saddle Creek lists only one acre residential developed out of 889 acres. The rest of the 888 acres are shown Unimproved and Unclassified. An existing golf course subdivision with only one acre developed houses??

Public and Commercial property uses shown in tables and maps are also inaccurate: Calaveras County Government Center in San Andreas is shown and counted as Commercial; Valley Springs Public Utility District (public) land is shown as Commercial; the Gold Creek Estates residential subdivision is shown as Commercial; and many large undeveloped parcels in the Valley Springs area are shown as Existing Commercial Use. A more thorough examination and sorting of parcel database information and other records needs to be done.

In summary, Section 3.2 Existing Property Use is so inaccurate and flawed that it should not be used as a basis for Land Use Findings, or any policy decisions concerning land use.

Furthermore, with current conditions not accurately reflected, the Land Use Chapter will not be adequate for use in the Environmental Impact Report needed for completion of the General Plan Update.

Section 3.4 Existing Zoning Summary (pg. 3-62)

As stated in this Section, *“The Zoning Ordinance regulates land uses...that relate to development on individual properties...One key requirement...is that zoning regulations be consistent with the general plan. Zoning ordinances are often considered the primary tool used by cities and counties in California to implement the general plan land use element.”*

Our existing Zoning Ordinance must be consistent with all General Plan Elements. The current Land Use Element designation “Community Center, Multi-Family Residential”, and the matrix to Consistent Zones R2 and R3, as described in this Section and defined by the Zoning Ordinance”, are not consistent, since R2 and R3 zones allow one primary single-family detached residence per legal parcel as a permitted use. This single-family “permitted use” has been used

to approve many single-family detached home subdivisions on R3 and R2 parcels. This Zoning is not consistent with the purpose of the Community Center designation or the Multi-Family Residential designation in the Land Use Element.

In addition, the Housing Element uses R2 and R3 zoning to create affordable multifamily housing opportunities and provide “adequate site capacity” to accommodate the regional housing need for all income groups. By allowing R2 and R3 single-family detached homes as a “typical permitted use” in our Zoning Ordinance, the County creates a conflict with the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the Housing Element. This is another serious conflict in goals and policies of the General Plan. This problem needs to be resolved during the General Plan Update, which may mean including the Housing Element in the Update to ensure consistency.

The Zoning Ordinance must also be internally consistent. Our current Zoning Ordinance is not—the Purpose and Permitted Uses of R2 and R3 zones are in conflict. The R2 zone is intended to provide duplexes and single-family attached housing (condos or town homes); the R3 zone is intended to provide apartments, condos, town homes, and other high-density residential housing. But, as per our Zoning Ordinance, “one primary residence per legal parcel” is allowed in R2 and “single-family dwelling, one per permitted general plan density” is allowed in R3 (quotes from Calaveras County Zoning Code Chapter 17.26 and 17.28). These are not only “Permitted uses”, they are “Typical Permitted Uses.” Calaveras County regularly allows single-family homes and subdivisions to be built on R2 and R3 parcels. This is an internal conflict between Purpose and Permitted Uses in the Zoning Ordinance and Code.

Table 3-17 Zoning District Descriptions, Density Standards, and Acres Zoned, Planning Area 2007 (pgs.3-65, 3-66)

The descriptions of Typical Uses Permitted for the Two-Family Residential R2 and Multiple-Family Residential R3 zones are incomplete. Both zones typically allow single-family homes on R2 and R3 parcels. See above discussion about the Zoning Ordinance and quotes from Chapter 17 Zoning Code. Table 3-17 needs to include single-family homes as “Typical Uses Permitted.”

**Section 3.9 Regulatory Setting
General Plan Law**

“As described by State law, internal consistency holds that no policy conflicts can exist, either textual or diagrammatic, between the components of an otherwise complete and adequate general plan. Different policies must be balanced and reconciled within the plan.” There are obvious conflicts and inconsistencies within the Zoning Ordinance, between the Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Classifications, and between the Zoning Ordinance and Goals and Policies of the Housing Element (see above Section 3.4 discussion). To avoid policy conflicts, the County Zoning Ordinance and the Housing Element both need to be updated concurrently with the General Plan Update.

CHAPTER TWELVE—ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

This chapter is missing in the Baseline Report. When will it be available? Economic findings serve as the basis for issues to be addressed in the Policy Document. How can the Board of Supervisors create a Vision for Calaveras County or make General Plan policy decisions without these important economic analyses and projections? Please prepare and incorporate Economic Conditions before moving forward with Visioning and Policy.

Baseline Report – Land Use Section, Chapter 3

Discussion of Figure 3-2, page 3-15, entitled

Calaveras County General Plan Update/General Plan Land Use Designations

It should be noted that this map (Figure 3-2) does not show the change in the Blue Mountain Residential Center required by GPA 97-75, which was initiated in 1975. This General Plan Amendment contained the following implementation measure: *The Glencoe/RailRoad Flat/West Point Residential Center shall be adjusted to reflect a change in Residential Center lands that will be proportional in land area to other exiting Residential Centers in the County. Until such adjustment is completed, any proposed development within this area shall be subject to the goals, policies and implementation measures of the Conservation and Open Space Elements.*

GPA 97-75 was not formally implemented until December, 2006 when the Board of Supervisors adopted project no: 2006-74 GPA, ZA. At that time the Blue Mountain Residential Center (designated on the 1996 Land Use map as Future Single Family Residential – 5, FSFR,) was to be removed from the GP Land Use Map and replaced with Land Use designations corresponding to those found in the Conservation and Open Space Elements. This Amendment did not affect land use within the existing Community Centers (West Point and Glencoe/Rail Road Flat.) It was later discovered that the Wilseyville Community Center had never been placed on the 1996 map. This error was to be corrected along with the new land use designations and densities as specified by the 2006 GPA. New land use designations outside of the community centers were to be Timberlands (20 acre minimum), Agricultural Lands (20 acre minimum) Mineral Resource Lands (10 acre minimum) and Wildlife Habitat/Botanical Areas (40 acre minimum). On any lands within the Timber, Ag and Mineral Resource areas with LOS D,E or F, densities were to be 40 acre minimums. Apparently the new map was never made, so the Baseline Report shows almost 16,000 acres (approximately 25 sq. miles x 640 acres) incorrectly designated as Future Single Family Residential. (Of course, the areas which constitute the Community Center Lands, which are primarily residential must be subtracted from the total area to achieve an accurate measure of the affected acreage.)

Note: It is not clear from the Dec., 2006 documents (2006-74) that any change was to be made to the Land Use Map. Perhaps only changes were made to zoning, pending the update of the General Plan, but at the very least, there should be a note on the map or in the nearby text of the baseline report which explains 2006-74 and clarifies the amended land use designations as a result of the resolution.

Chapter 3 Land Use

Figures 3.1 and 3.2 Neither map identifies Timber Production Zones. Figure 3.1 refers to "unimproved private land" and Figure 3.2 to "Timberlands/Mineral Resource," but neither shows Timber Production Zones. Since these are a large part of the County, it seems that these should be identified.

Chapter 4 Scenic and Community Character

Rural Landscape

4.4 The sentence "Nevertheless, it is possible in broad terms to define at least two widespread cultural landscapes in Calaveras County: ranching landscapes and mining landscapes (**forest landscapes are also important to Calaveras County, but are not discussed here as they fall heavily on land owned by the Federal government**)" is inaccurate.

According to the 2006 tax base, Sierra Pacific Industries owns 72,000 acres of land while the US Forest Service owns 78,000 acres. (See following map.)

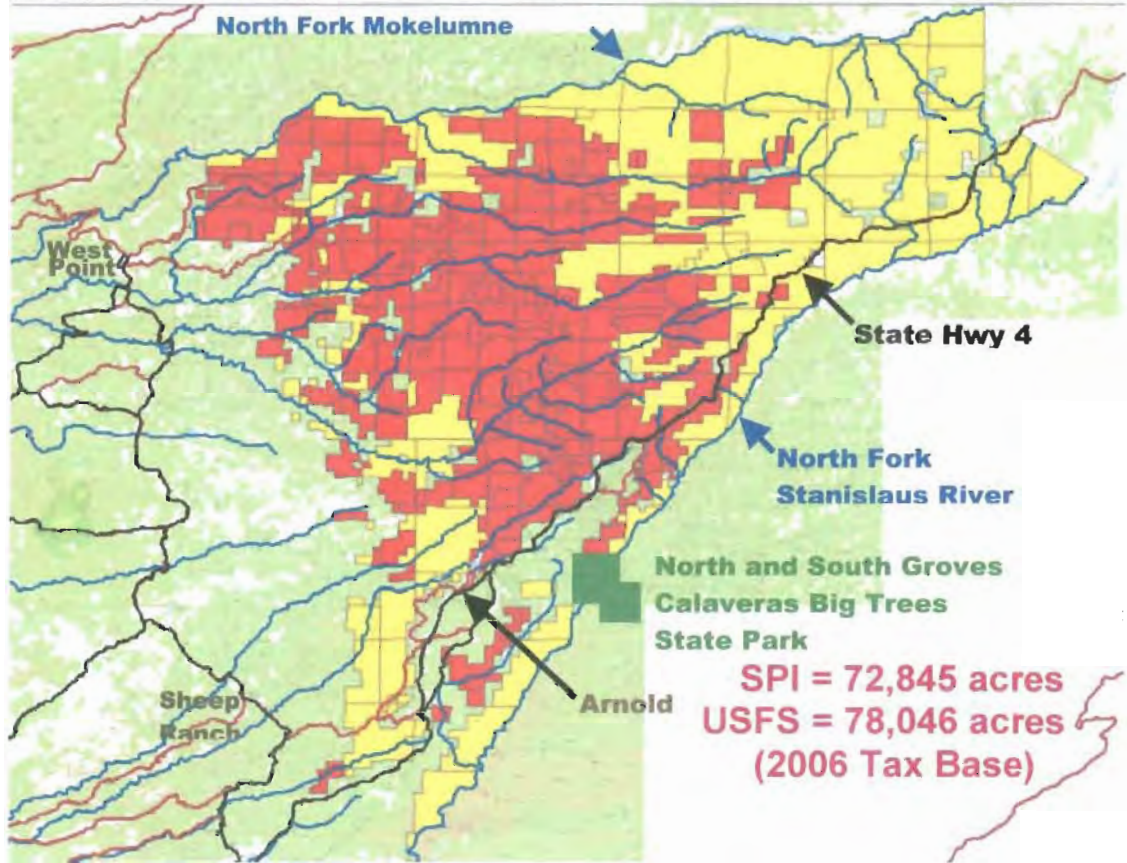
Concerning Land Use in the County in general, National Forest lands comprise 12% of the County, Bureau of Land Management, 5%, other public, 4% for a total of 21% of the land in public hands in the County; private land comprises 78% of the County. (Sierra Nevada Wealth Index 1999-2000 edition pg. 95, published by the Sierra Business Council.)

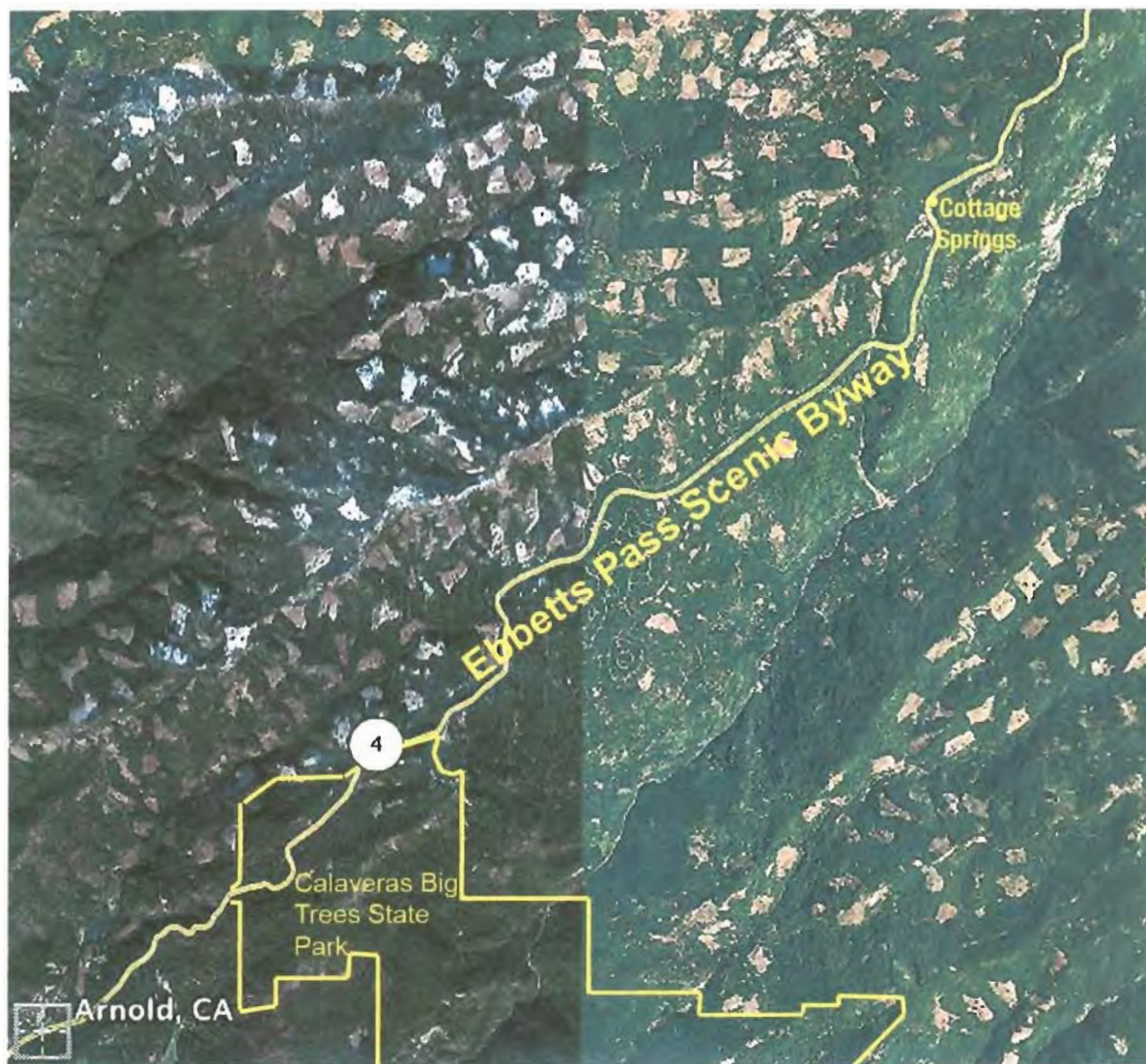
Figure 4.4 Western Portion of Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway

While this map is accurate as a topological map, the actual terrain around the Scenic Byway is quite different. (See second map.) To the extent these clearcuts are visible from Highway 4 they can have a negative impact on the scenic value of the forest landscape to the County.

Also note the following picture taken from Big Trees State Park, one of the largest natural attractions in Calaveras, generating thousands of tourists visits a year, showing the degradation of the views from the Park due to clearcutting.

Calaveras County, CA – Parcel Ownership: SPI (red) - USFS (yellow)







View from Big Trees State Park

DRAFT COMMENTS ON THE HOUSING ELEMENT IN THE BASELINE REPORT FOR THE CALAVERAS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Chapter 5, Housing, of the Baseline Report contains only one paragraph:

California state law requires that general plan housing elements be updated more frequently than the rest of the general plan (every 5 years) and approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The background information in the existing Housing Element adopted by Calaveras County in May, 2005 has not been updated for this report.

According to the state Department of Housing and Community Development website, the next Housing Element Update for Calaveras County is due on August 31, 2009, at the same time as the County's Community Development Department is projecting approval of the entire updated General Plan by the Board of Supervisors. It is inconsistent to exclude updated baseline information for a legally binding element of the general plan, and one that is linked to all other elements, from the baseline report.

The Baseline Report is designed to provide a picture of where the County is at the beginning of the general plan update process and forms the basis for planning for the next 20 years. Unrevised data from a previous housing element will, without doubt, be unacceptable to the Department of Housing and Community Development's review process in 2009 and is unacceptable as part of this baseline report.

The next Housing Element will require an analysis of the current one, which should be taking place now if the County is to meet the 2009 deadline. The County has accomplished few of the goals set out in the current plan and has failed to implement even a fraction of the projected housing needs for the County's very low and low income residents. Per Government Code Section 65400 (b)(1), the County is required to submit annual progress reports for this element. There is no evidence that the County has submitted the required reports. No records are kept on the status of planned, approved or in progress housing developments. Therefore, as the process of updating the rest of the General Plan begins, the County has no statistics on the current status of its housing stock.

Housing law requires the preparation of a regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) which quantifies existing and projected housing needs. Two important objectives of this process include: 1) improving the regional relationship between jobs and housing and 2) allocating a smaller proportion of housing need to a category which already has a disproportionate share of households. It should be noted that at the time of the approval of the current Housing Element (May 9, 2005) the projected need for housing in the Moderate and Above Moderate income categories had already been surpassed. Many large developments have been approved since then, including Tuscany Hills (335 homes), North Vista Plaza (156), and Oak Canyon Ranch (670 single family lots for the first phase, but at final buildout, 3475 dwelling units are projected,) and Saddleback Hills (130).

With no mandates for a percentage of affordable housing as a precondition for approval of such projects, the County has been unable to encourage meaningful cooperation from developers in meeting its projected needs. Oak Canyon Ranch will pay the County \$500/unit for affordable housing. This contribution would require approximately 400 units of housing to

finance **one** affordable unit. In addition, no specific provisions have been made to create an affordable housing trust account to assure that collected funds will be used exclusively for affordable housing in the future. Furthermore, the developer is offering no land for construction of affordable housing. North Vista Plaza has agreed to provide 5 homes onsite to qualified applicants for \$200,000 each, and Saddleback Hills conceded two building lots to Habitat for Humanity for low income families. Despite the County's commitments in the current Housing Element, this leaves the overwhelming majority of low income households without hope of obtaining affordable shelter.

During the period of the current Housing Element, the following units have been proposed or constructed that might help fulfill the projected need for 763 residential units for residents with "very low incomes" and 523 units for those identified as "low income:"

- Habitat for Humanity has completed 3 homes in San Andreas, one in West Point and is expecting to build 2 homes in 2008. (Total = 6 homes)
- During the period from January, 2004 until December, 2007, County records show that permits for the following residential units were taken out:
 - 12 duplexes
 - 2 triplexes
 - 328 manufactured homes

None of the projects listed above was reviewed by the Planning Commission. They were handled administratively. There is no information about the "affordability" of any of them, but it is likely that some of these projects have been/will be built at a lower cost per unit than standard single family construction. During this same period not a single permit was taken out for construction of an apartment building. In 2005, an application was approved by the Planning Commission for an apartment building with an affordable rent structure on Hwy 49 in San Andreas, but costs for road and sidewalk improvements required by CalTrans killed the project. (A local Housing Authority would have been able to assist the developer in securing outside resources).

Section XI of the Housing Element, entitled "Housing Implementation Plan/5 year Schedule and Action Plan" outlines 50 implementation measures with their corresponding quantified program objectives and time frames, to be completed by August, 2009. Four of the objectives are not scheduled to be implemented until 2008 or 2009. Fourteen of the objectives are "ongoing," and the majority of the remaining 35 measures that should have been implemented by now have not been.

The Schedule and Action Plan is divided into the following sections as required by state law: General, Adequate Sites and Affordable Housing, Jobs/Housing Balance, Housing Conservation and Equal Opportunity Housing. An example of unfulfilled objectives in each of these categories follows:

General: A.a Provide a one-stop, single information source for housing information for County residents; to be completed by 12/31/06.

The County website's home page has a drop down menu which reads, "I am looking for information about..." Out of 50 choices, not one lists housing information. There appears to be no central information source for housing information at this time.

Adequate Sites and Affordable Housing: Propose Increasing Maximum Permitted Density for R-3 to encourage the establishment of up to 250 additional housing units for very low and low income households in areas with sufficient water and sewer capacity; to be completed by 12/31/06.

Because the County allows R-3 parcels to be used for single family residences, there is no land specifically reserved for construction of high density housing. During the 2005-2007 planning period, R-3 parcels in Forest Meadows, Gold Strike Heights and Valley Springs, all named in the Summary of R3 parcels, were approved for single family construction, thus removing suitable parcels from the available sites inventory. Maximum permitted density currently remains at 12 units/acre, not the proposed increase to 18 units/acre. But perhaps more important, all objectives in this section (of which there are 18) only "encourage" the construction of housing units for very low and low income households. Without effectively implementing ordinances in place for achieving the stated objectives, it is unrealistic to expect that developers will voluntarily provide affordable units during the current period or in the future.

Jobs/Housing Balance: Facilitate and Promote Moderate-Wage-Jobs and Job-Training Efforts Compatible with the County's Economic Studies. Objective met by the receipt of at least one application for a business offering employee wages of at least \$10/hour; funding application to be submitted by 12/31/07

At the "moderate wage" of \$10/hour, a single individual in Calaveras County would qualify as "very low income" according to income limits established by the Department of Housing and Community Development in 2007, based on an Area Median Income of \$58,900 (for a family of four). Retaining this objective for the upcoming planning period makes no sense if socio-economic equity is to be achieved in Calaveras County. A wage of \$10/hour is no longer a living wage and is therefore not an acceptable goal. Furthermore, the latest report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the median hourly wage for all occupations in Calaveras County is \$14.60.

Housing Conservation: Coordinate with and Educate Code Enforcement & Building Inspectors to Assist Homeowners with Substandard and Dilapidated Housing Units. Objective met by encouraging the conservation of up to 25 housing units in need of rehabilitation to provide housing for very low and low income households; At least one educational information effort prior to 12/31/06.

While the intent of this objective is laudable, Code Enforcement officers and Building Inspectors are charged with enforcing County codes, not providing rehabilitation services. They are not trained nor do they have the time or skills or funding to provide education or assistance to homeowners. All departments of the Community Development Agency have been understaffed and stressed during this period. It is unrealistic to believe that housing conservation will be accomplished in this manner. It should be noted that two CDBG grants have been awarded to Calaveras County during this planning period, some of which is being used for housing rehabilitation.

Equal Opportunity Housing: Continue to Monitor the Status of At-Risk Units and Inform Agencies Able to Pursue Purchase. Objective is to preserve all 65 at-risk housing units in the County. Date of completion, 12/31/07

The agencies responsible for this task, the Planning and Building Departments have been incapable of completing the specific requirements of their basic mandate during this planning period due mostly to understaffing and underfunding. It is unrealistic to

expect the completion of this or other goals outlined in the current Housing Element without more specific and realistic assignment of duties.

CONCLUSIONS

Hundreds of families living and working in Calaveras County, many with deep roots here, cannot afford to buy a first home and the implementation of the current Housing Element, designed to facilitate their accommodation in safe, affordable housing has utterly failed. Continued failure to meet the housing goals could present a legal threat to the County. The next Housing Element will be required to correct the failures of the current one as well as meet new projected needs. Given the unstable financial condition of the County and long term staffing stresses and shortages, it is unreasonable to assume that housing goals can be met without looking for new solutions.

There are many examples in California as well as in other states of successful models for achieving our goals, but the County staff from Administration and Planning to the Board of Supervisors must show greater leadership and commitment to the task. Without specific experienced and qualified staff or better yet, a Housing Authority or a private, non-profit agency assuming responsibility, the job will not get done. We must seek resources to fund this effort.

Mammoth Lakes, CA, voted to increase its Transient Occupancy Tax, devoting a full percentage point to affordable housing—about \$600,000 to \$700,000 annually, to set up a non-profit organization to broker housing deals and to help finance them. Since then, the town has leveraged more than \$20 million in housing investment and is constructing a range of workforce housing that will blend in with the community. It was the only rural town in California to secure a special \$2 million grant from the state for the local housing trust fund. Large grants and loans are usually only given to jurisdictions that demonstrate a serious effort to provide a wide range of housing for their residents.

The passage of an Inclusionary Ordinance, similar to that which the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors passed on Feb. 19, 2008, is another option. While developers may grumble because of such a requirement they will grumble more if unexpected requirements are thrust upon their projects after they have made a substantial investment in getting their projects approved. Under an inclusionary program, the developer knows what is expected, what will be offered as an incentive, and that the rules will apply equally to all applicants. This environment is more favorable to conducting business than the uncertainty of vague and unevenly applied guidelines.

The city of Ripon in San Joaquin County, with a population of about 15,000, and a small planning staff of three (one planner, one administrative assistant and one development specialist), instituted a Below Market Rate Housing Program in 2001, with a requirement of 3% affordable at very-low, 3% at low, and 3% at moderate income levels. Since its inception, about 152 homes and 22 rental units have been built. The homes are duplexes on corner lots which appear as if they were single family homes and sit side by side with luxury homes which sell for upwards of \$800,000. The most important factor in the success of this program has been the city leadership's strong support of the policy and its willingness to closely monitor the outcomes and continually revise the program to ensure it is meeting its objective.

There are many non-profit developers who could be attracted if a more accepting and supportive political environment was in effect. Another option is to partner with an established for-profit or non-profit provider of single family and multifamily housing for limited income families. Visionary Home Builders (based in Stockton) is a nearby example of such a provider. It has over 22 years of experience in the affordable housing industry. The agency's mission is to provide decent, safe and affordable housing for low-income families. Their accomplishments include the construction of over 700 multi-family housing units and 370 single-family homes in Northern California. The intent of the single-family housing program is to extend the opportunity of homeownership to the community's low-income residents and encourage stability, value and pride within at-risk neighborhoods.

The purpose of the multi-family housing program is to increase the stability and self-sufficiency of very-low and low-income households by providing affordable, high-quality rental units. The properties combine reasonably-priced residences with on-site social services including HeadStart pre-school, neighborhood watch, computer literacy labs and community resource and referral centers. The units are intended for larger families and contain energy-efficient appliances, a washer and dryer and typically include three bedrooms or more. Additional attributes of the project are security gates, recreation areas, beautifully landscaped and well-maintained grounds.

The Homeownership Counseling and Education program serves to adequately prepare homebuyers for all aspects of the home buying process which substantially improves their chances of becoming successful, long-term homeowners. Services include group educational classes, individual counseling and post-purchase support meetings. Since 2000, Visionary Home Builders has provided Homeownership Counseling and Education services to over 1000 households. (The above information about Visionary Home Builders was copied from their website.)

Visionary Home Builders has offered to partner with developers or to undertake complete building projects on their own. This could be accomplished at a relatively low cost to the County and could include public participation in the communities where the housing would be built.

There are many non-profit developers who could be attracted if a more accepting and supportive political environment were in effect.

As part of a serious effort to accomplish a meaningful affordable housing program, the County must seek wide and ongoing community participation. A document prepared by the State Dept. of Housing and Community Development describes meaningful participation:

Various community stakeholders including current and potential beneficiaries of housing programs and services and their advocates, neighborhood leaders, and employers can be mobilized through the participation process to collaborate on housing issues. Responsible participation can help build consensus among constituents for the design and implementation of realistic housing programs. Committed public participation can support an adopted housing element and deflect opposition to future housing projects. Local builders, developers, architects, realtors, mortgage bankers, lenders and others can also be significant contributors by providing base-line data, assist with developing a meaningful sites inventory, better examine land use and permit procedures, and describe practical experience regarding development opportunities and barriers.

Miscellaneous information pertinent to housing affordability in Calaveras County

- Median price of 738 homes sold in 2007 \$378,000 (Calaveras Assn of Realtors)
- Average monthly rents from Calaveras Enterprise classifieds on 2/22/08
3-bedroom units (12 listed): \$1382; 2-bedroom units (9 listed): \$950
- In 2005, average earnings pr job in Calaveras County (\$29,655) were lower than the state (\$51,842) and the nation (\$45,817). Information from www.headwaterseconomics.org
- As of January, 2008, unemployment in Calaveras County was at 8.6%. Information from: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/
- In the Mother Lode Region the fastest growing occupation is Home Health Aide. This field is expected to grow by 80% from 2004-2014. In 2005, the average hourly wage was \$9.56; average annual wage was \$19,897. Information from: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/
- Because of the limited number of Section 8 vouchers for qualifying low income renters, applicants must wait 2-5 years. New vouchers become available only when a former recipient moves out of the area, dies, or disqualifies. Information from: Central Sierra Planning Council
- From 2004 to the present, Calaveras County has received two HOME grants, totaling \$1.5 million. This money is used to assist first time homebuyers with down payments (from \$80,000-100,000 per recipient) Information from: Central Sierra Planning Council
- In 2005, the Mi-Wok tribe in West Point was awarded a \$500,000 CDBG grant for Native American Housing. To date, about \$300,000 has been spent for new manufactured housing and rehabilitation of existing housing. At about the same time, another CDBG grant for \$547,000 was given to the county. Most of it was used to buy land for construction of a new food bank. Some was used for job training programs and about \$100,000 was used for housing rehabilitation in San Andreas and Mountain Ranch. Information from: Central Sierra Planning Council

San Andreas Community Plan Circulation

The purpose of this part of the San Andreas Community Plan is to assure that circulation in the San Andreas Community is adequate for future growth and development. It is intended to identify specific problems that exist.

St. Charles Street (SR49)

State Highway 49 is called St. Charles Street as it runs through San Andreas. Vehicles, including large trucks, heavily travel St. Charles Street (SR49) as they make their way through the Sierra Foothills. This highway was developed in 1919 as a product of the Golden Chain Council. San Andreas supported the development of Highway 49 along the historic Mother Lode Gold Country with the intentions of promoting tourism based on the preservation and protection of the historical early California Gold Rush era settlements. San Andreas serves as home for the Calaveras County Government and administrative offices. San Andreas also serves as home for other public service agencies. Mark Twain Hospital serves the whole of Calaveras County. District offices for DMV, CHP, and CalFire add to the traffic problems experienced by the San Andreas Community. Calaveras High School, which serves the northern residents of Calaveras County, also adds significantly to the traffic problems within the San Andreas Community. The Sierra Foothills will also have one of the fastest growth rates in the State (California Transportation Futures, 2000, p.29). St. Charles Street (SR49) is a major route for the California State Highway system. St. Charles Street (SR49) is also the principal street for the Community of San Andreas. The competing needs of traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49) are a major concern to the residents of the San Andreas Community.

Problems associated with the current levels of traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49).

Safety for Children One of the principle concerns of the residents of the San Andreas Community is the safety of the children going to and from the various schools that serve the San Andreas Community. Calaveras High School, Gold Strike High School, and San Andreas Elementary School are all located on the east side of St. Charles Street (SR49). A significant number of residents of the San Andreas Community are located on the west side of St. Charles Street (SR49). St. Charles Street (SR49) effectively cuts the San Andreas Community in half, creating the need for some students who walk or bicycle to school to cross a major state highway on their way to and from school. The Community also lacks a complete sidewalk system. The Community additionally lacks signed, marked, and modern crosswalks to increase the level of safety for the children of the community.

Excessive Speed The gradients of St. Charles Street (SR49) South of the Mountain Ranch Road and North of Main Street are such that many vehicles travel at excessive rates of speed. These excessive rates of speed are unsafe for all motorists. Excessive rates of speed also create an environment that is unsafe and intimidating to the few pedestrians and bicyclists that use this route.

San Andreas Community Plan Circulation

School Congestion The additional traffic associated with the large number of students that attend schools in the San Andreas Community but live outside the community puts an additional burden on an already heavily congested roadway during peak hours. Calaveras High School serves all of the residents of the northern part of Calaveras County. Congestion before and after school is common at the intersections of High School Street and St. Charles Street (SR49), Court Street/Broadway and St. Charles Street (SR49), and Main Street/Church Hill Road and St. Charles Street (SR49). Gold Strike High School and Mountain Oaks Charter School also add to the traffic.

Through Traffic The large volume of drive through traffic and the speed at which this traffic is moving have also made it difficult for San Andreas to develop its full potential both commercially and historically. For the historical and commercial sectors of the San Andreas Community to realize their full potential traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49) will need to be reduced and calmed to a level that will allow them to become more visible and more attractive, not only to the residents of the San Andreas Community, but also to passers by. An improved aesthetic environment in the downtown district is needed to effectively promote the historical and commercial elements of the San Andreas Community. The St. Charles Street (SR49) corridor must be reclaimed from the motorized vehicle for the residents, pedestrians, retailers, and tourists of the San Andreas Community.

Government Services/Hospital Congestion The intersection of Mountain Ranch Road and St. Charles Street (SR49) is heavily congested at peak times. This intersection is also a source of concern for the residents of the San Andreas Community. As Calaveras County grows the volume of traffic using the public services provided at the Calaveras County Government Center, Mark Twain Hospital, DMV, CHP, CalFire, and any other public service agencies in the area will grow as well. It will be imperative that traffic flow (vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle) to and from these public services be designed thoughtfully and with concern for the needs of the San Andreas Community.

Pollution/Noise The pollution levels associated with the current volume of traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49) do not create a healthy environment for the residents of the San Andreas Community. The noise levels associated with this volume of traffic also create an undesirable condition for the residents of the community.

San Andreas Community Plan

Circulation

Collector Roads in the San Andreas Community

As the San Andreas Community grows there will be a greater need for a system of collector roads that will provide safe and effective movement within the community. These collector roads can help connect the residential, commercial, retail, and public sectors within the San Andreas Community.

Problems associated with collector roads in the San Andreas Community.

St. Charles Street (SR49) as Barrier The San Andreas Community is effectively cut in half by St. Charles Street (SR49). To maintain safe and effective movement of traffic a system of collector roads in the San Andreas Community must link the East and West halves of the community.

High Traffic Destinations Need Additional Access The Calaveras County Government Center, Mark Twain Hospital, and the other public service offices in the Mountain Ranch Road vicinity will put a continued and growing traffic burden on the San Andreas Community. To maintain safe and effective movement of traffic (vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle) to and from these public services, the street network must be designed so that the residents of Calaveras County can easily make use of these public services while not impacting the residents of the San Andreas Community with unacceptable levels of congestion.

Post Office Congestion The volume of traffic generated by the San Andreas Post Office is very heavy at times. This traffic creates congestion at the intersection of St. Charles Street (SR49) and Russell Road and unsafe situations for the pedestrians, including school children, using the crosswalk near this intersection. Increased development in the San Andreas Community will only add to the volume of traffic that uses the San Andreas Post Office on an almost daily basis. Ways must be found to service the public that doesn't create additional traffic at this facility.

Inadequate Road Design The heavy volume of traffic on Mountain Ranch Road both east and west of the San Andreas Library, and particularly the rate of speed at which these vehicles are traveling, create a situation that is neither pedestrian nor bicycle friendly. There are residents that live on the south side of Mountain Ranch Road across the street from the San Andreas Library. They are virtually isolated from the Library, the pedestrian and bicycle pathway that begins at the Library, the Government Center, and non-vehicular access to the rest of the San Andreas Community which are all located on the North side of Mountain Ranch Road. The residents living in that area must have safe and usable pedestrian and bicycle access to the rest of the San Andreas Community.

San Andreas Community Plan Circulation

Pedestrian and Bicycle Pathways

The current Calaveras County Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans for San Andreas will provide a pedestrian and bicycle pathway that will run from the San Andreas Library (by way of the Government Center, by way of San Andreas Elementary School) to Calaveras High School. The implementation of this plan in a timely manner is important to the safety of the children of the San Andreas Community in as it will provide some of the children on the West side of Highway 49/St. Charles Street a safe pedestrian/bicycle route to school. The timely implementation of this plan will also provide the residents in the area a non-vehicular mode of transportation to circulate through this part of the community.

Problems associated with the current level of pedestrian and bicycle circulation.

Safe Route to School The children of the San Andreas Community do not have a safe and effective means to get to and from school either as pedestrians or bicyclists. This is especially true of the children who live on the west side of St. Charles Street (SR49) as a majority of these children must cross St. Charles Street (SR49) on their way to either Calaveras High School, the buses for Toyon Middle School (at Calaveras High School) or San Andreas Elementary School.

Sidewalks and Bike Lanes on State Route 49 The current level of traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49) creates a threatening environment for both pedestrians and bicyclists. The lack of a continuous system of sidewalks on St. Charles Street (SR49) through San Andreas heightens this unfriendly atmosphere. There are no bicycle lanes on St. Charles Street (SR49) through San Andreas. San Andreas needs traffic on St. Charles Street (SR49) to be reduced, a continuous sidewalk system, and bike lanes to be established so that the residents of the community can feel safe about using non-vehicular modes of transportation.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Routes to Reduce Vehicle Trips The San Andreas Community currently lacks community wide pedestrian/bicycle routes in order to reduce the number of short vehicle trips within the community. The residential, commercial, retail, educational, recreational, and community service sectors of the San Andreas Community are fragmented by a means of a circulation and transportation system that is dependent on the motorized vehicle.

Enhance Community Assets San Andreas does not have a system of pedestrian and bicycle pathways in the San Andreas Community that serves as a connector for the historical elements within the San Andreas Community. There is not a pathway that provides non-vehicular access to the Red Barn Museum, Main Street Museum, Pioneer Cemetery and other points of historical significance in the San Andreas Community. The San Andreas Community lacks a "Historical Walk" that could serve as a point of interest to tourist visiting the San Andreas Community or to overnight visitors conducting business at the various public service providers in the community.

San Andreas Community Plan Circulation

Enhance the Environment The San Andreas Community lacks a system of pedestrian/bicycle pathways that link the entire Community by a non-motorized means of transportation, promoting a cleaner and quieter environment, supporting the local commercial sector, the historical heritage of the San Andreas Community, and the overall health of all of the residents of the San Andreas Community.

Alternate Modes of Transportation

San Andreas is the location of two of the largest employers in Calaveras County (The Calaveras County Government Center and Mark Twain Hospital) and numerous other public service agencies in the San Andreas Community that burden the roadways of the San Andreas Community by the large number of working commuters coming into and leaving the community in a single occupant vehicle. In addition a significant number of residents in the San Andreas Community work outside the community, and travel to their jobs in the single-occupant-vehicle.

Problems associated with the current lack of ridesharing facilities, park and ride lots for commuters, buses, and other transportation alternatives to the single occupant vehicle.

Public Service Employees Commuting to San Andreas from Outside the Community A large number of the public service employees commute to San Andreas. Calaveras County lacks ridesharing facilities and park and ride lots for commuters outside the San Andreas Community in other areas of Calaveras County. The volume of single occupant vehicles coming into and leaving San Andreas needs to be reduced.

Insufficient Bus Routes and Transportation Alternatives Calaveras County currently lacks sufficient bus routes and transportation alternatives to the single occupant vehicle to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles coming into and leaving the San Andreas Community.

Uninviting Conditions for Use of Public Transportation Currently there are not any covered bus stops nor are there any bus pullouts in the San Andreas Community. This creates an uninviting situation for those people in the community who might choose to use the bus as their primary or alternate mode of transportation.

EDUCATION IN San Andreas

March 8, 2008

San Andreas has numerous educational opportunities for the people who reside in this community. There is currently no college level campus in San Andreas however both Columbia Community College and Delta Community College offer a wide variety of classes over the Internet. Also, occasionally Delta Community College will offer selected evening classes at Calaveras High School.

For the children of the community there are several options that can be taken advantage of to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Mountain Oaks Charter School at 924 Church Hill Road provides an alternative to the traditional public school, K-12 setting. Mountain Oaks currently educates about 400 students and is in the process of building a new facility on Pool Station Road in San Andreas near PAWS that will accommodate approximately 600 students when completed. Mountain Oaks operates with a staff of about 40 teachers and various support staff.

The little people of San Andreas also have several options. The Head Start program has three locations in San Andreas. Early Head Start at 501 Gold Strike Road offers education for children 0-3 years. Early Head start has a current enrollment of 13 students with a waiting list for additional students. Early Head Start has 7 teachers and a support staff of three additional people. Head Start has two full time locations in San Andreas for children 3-5. One facility is located at 598 St. Charles. The other facility is located at 501 Gold Strike Road. Both facilities offer full day childcare and the Gold Strike facility also offers part day care. Each location is currently handling 20 students, which is capacity. Each location has 4 teachers with additional support staff of 3 people at each location.

In the more traditional setting San Andreas Elementary at 255 Lewis Road currently provides K-6 schooling for approximately 320 students. The campus could accommodate about 395 students with existing facilities and there is space available to expand to about 450 students. There are currently 17 teachers on staff, which is a ratio of about 1 teacher for every 20 students. There is an administrative and support staff (secretarial and custodial) of 4 people. Four buses (carrying a total of approximately 100 students) are now in service to transport the children to and from school who do not walk or use private transportation.

Toyon Middle School at 3412 Double Springs Road currently provides 7-8 schooling for approximately 500 students. The campus could accommodate about 625 students with existing facilities and there is space available to expand to about 1200 students. There are currently 24 teachers on staff, which is a ratio of about 1 teacher for every 20 students. There is an administrative and support staff (secretarial and custodial) of 7 people. 18 buses (carrying a total of approximately 425 students) are now in service to transport the children to and from school who do not use private transportation.

Calaveras High School at 350 High School Street currently provides 9-12 schooling for approximately 1000 students, 870 of who live outside the San Andreas Community. The campus could accommodate about 1150 students with existing facilities and there is space available to expand to about 1500 students. There are currently 46 teachers on staff, which is a ratio of about 1 teacher for every 20 students. There is an administrative and support staff (secretarial and custodial) of 16 people. Eighteen buses (carrying a total of approximately 600 students) are now in service to transport the children to and from school who do not walk or use private transportation.

Gold Strike High School at 501 Gold Strike Road currently provides alternative 9-12 schooling for approximately 52 students, 45 of who live outside the San Andreas Community. The campus could accommodate about 80 students with existing facilities and there is space available to expand to about 120 students. There are currently 3 teachers on staff, which is a ratio of about 1 teacher for every 20 students. There is an administrative and support staff (secretarial and custodial) of 3 people. The same buses at Calaveras High (carrying a total of approximately 50 students) are now in service to transport the children to and from school who do not walk or use private transportation.

The district office and transportation department for the Calaveras Unified School District at 3304 Highway 12 are also conveniently located in the San Andreas community.

Comments on Chapter 6- Circulation-Public review Draft Baseline Report- January 2008

Many of the County subdivisions have contained road systems and over utilize State Routes for circulation. Has the adequacy of emergency access and evacuation routes been analyzed?

There is no evidence that an analysis regarding historical trends of traffic accidents in the county has been done.

Privately owned tour bus companies frequent Calaveras County, either traveling through or as their destination. Has there been an examination of private bus company future plans regarding service to/in Calaveras County?

There are un-addressed noise and traffic issues on Silver Rapids Road (to Hogan Quarry) and in the older residential portion of Valley Springs. How will it be determined if changes in truck routes are needed? Will this require new roads to correct this existing problem?

Commercial development in the County is growing and at the same time there is an effort to encourage the use of alternate modes of transportation. One of those alternate modes of transportation is bicycle riding. This creates a new need in Calaveras County for planning for the safe and secure parking of bicycles. Have bicycle parking options been assessed?

The County is becoming more urban in areas and it has become necessary to assess the effects of parking policies on congestion, energy use, air quality, and public transit ridership. Has this assessment been done ?

The following is from a rare Cumulative Impact Analysis for a Calaveras County development project.

Wallace Lake Estates Cumulative Effects Analysis-Section 3.0 Summary of Effects. 3.1 Discussion and Conclusion (Page 11

Wallace Lake Estates will increase traffic on Highway 12 and Camanche Parkway. **The significance of this increase relative to cumulative effects is difficult to assess due to the absence of traffic pattern analysis from other proposed housing developments within the analysis area.** By 2022, Highway 12 west of Valley Springs is predicted to

experience a 3,600 increase in average daily trips (ADT) (Calaveras County Council of Governments, 2001). Wallace Lake Estates will contribute 1,267 ADT on westbound Highway 12, which represents 35% of the total predicted increase. Traffic impacts to westbound 12 from the Wallace Lake Estates development may be considered significant unless appropriate mitigation actions are incorporated into the project.

12/6/07 Planning Commission presentation by MyValleySprings.com re: North Vista Plaza project.

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

The same lack of adequate mitigation and study of cumulative impacts applies to traffic congestion, road capacities, and Level of Service, especially on Highway 26 near Valley Springs.

The Applicant will pay a portion of the cost of a traffic signal at the Vista del Lago/26 intersection and will pay required fees for the Valley Springs Benefit Basin and the County RIM program, but the Benefit Basin program is out of date, has not kept up with needs, and the RIM program is partially unfounded. **Fees will likely not be adequate to mitigate this project's share of those improvements needed.**

According to Caltrans, Highway 26 from Vista del Lago north is LOS D, and it reaches LOS E by the time it gets to the 12/26 intersection. **The intersection of 12/26 is LOS F.** 'Projected 2022 Traffic Volume' for this portion of Highway 26 is 10,800, but *existing* traffic on this section of highway is 11,649 vehicles per day. **We have already exceeded the traffic projection 16 years ahead of schedule.** North Vista Plaza project will add approximately 1500 new trips, and other projects in the area will add thousands more trips.

This project and other current and proposed development projects will have a significant impact to local roads and intersections, and will further degrade the level of service on Highway 26. Our Benefit Basin and RIM programs are not sufficient to mitigate these impacts. Caltrans wrote a letter agreeing cumulative project impacts to Highway 26 would not be sufficiently mitigated with these road programs. **We do not agree with the North Vista Plaza project report conclusion "Less than significant impact".**

Calaveras County General Plan Evaluation, Administrative review Draft

Chapter III: Circulation Element

Evaluation
General

- The reliance on LOS standards is problematic. The County should consider using physical road capacity measures instead.
- The “Transportation Plan (Map 1)”, “Transportation Plan (Map 2)”, and “Transportation Plan (Map 4)” are from the 1985 General Plan. **They are dated, reflecting conditions more than 20 years in the past.**
- “Transportation Plan (Map 2)” and “Transportation Plan (Map 4)” show detailed existing and planned roads for several of the communities in Calaveras County. However, **not all of the circulation maps in the Community/Special Plans are shown (such as the map in the Avery-Hathaway Pines Community Plan).**
- In 2005, County Resolution No. 05-158 (approving General Plan Amendment 2004-174) removed the Circulation Element Appendix from the General Plan and designated the contents of the Appendix as a separate road service classification system to be maintained by the Public Works Department and capable of being updated by resolution. **This was done in an attempt to facilitate the updating of road LOS ratings. To date, no updates have occurred. THE LOS RATINGS APPEARS TO DATE BACK TO THE EARLY 1980’S AND HAVE NOT BEEN UPDATED SINCE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED.**

Where is the necessary data and reports to develop a Baseline Study that will benefit Calaveras County as it plans growth for the next 20 to 30 years? The County has spent tax payers money to hire a consultant to produce a Baseline Study while providing this consultant with limited and/or no data.

Calaveras County General Plan Public Review Baseline Report-January 2008 Chapter 6-Circulation Page 6-1

Major Findings

- A complete picture of existing transportation facilities in Calaveras County can not be determined from the data available. Because of rapid growth and increased transportation complexity, County data collection and analysis has not kept up with the need to provide baseline information on the local road system suitable for long-range planning.

If the previous statements are accurate, the County needs to pause and take the time to produce the needed data to provide baseline information for long-range planning. While developing this data will be costly, it won’t be as costly as proceeding with an indefensible general plan.

- The capacity for goods movement by truck is generally adequate, but has had an increasingly disproportionate effect on roadway maintenance and operations due

to the substantial increase in the volume of truck traffic because of the weight and size of the trucks.

In recent years, Sierra Pacific Industries' (SPI) timber harvesting and companies removing mine tailings have increased dramatically. In addition, truck traffic generated by a high level of residential development (material delivery, grading equipment, etc.) was allowed with negative declarations and/or not thoroughly mitigated. This is another incident where cumulative impacts were needed but not identified.

- The County no longer meets air quality attainment standards. The County will be responsible for implementing programs to reduce emissions and **avoiding impacts** to air quality.

The result of lax mitigation, while allowing a high level of growth, is more frequent gridlock of vehicles that results in worsening air quality. One way to "reduce emissions" is to improve the circulation of our County road system.

- The County is unable to adequately maintain existing transportation facilities with the funding available
- The County is unable to adequately fund all of the transportation improvements necessary to accommodate growth despite establishing a county-wide road impact fee program to address new development impacts to regional roads in the county and a basin fee program for areas with above average growth.

General Plan Guidelines (2003)- Page 56-"The statutory correlation requirement is evidently designed in part to prohibit a general plan from calling for unlimited population growth in its land use element, without providing in its circulation element, 'proposals' for how the transportation needs of the increased population will be met."

If the County would charge appropriate mitigation fees for new development, it would become possible to go to the public and ask the public to fund the rest through a TOT, Sales AND Gas Tax. The voters will never vote to tax themselves if the **County continues to refuse to collect updated development impact fees.**

Sacramento Bee- August 27, 2006-Metro section, page B1 (This news article was referring to another California community.)

"The price tags on new homes in the county will include as much as \$37,000 to help fund roads."

- The private road system comprises an important and substantially unregulated, and under-funded, component of the road system.

What the County actually has is 4 State Highways, some Major and Minor Collector roads and an extensive system of privately funded public roads. **The County continues to permit subdivisions with privately maintained roads and as a result there are no connector roads added to improve the traffic circulation in the county.**

Page 6-3 State Route 12- Additional information.

State Route 12 provides access to Camanche Reservoir , along with indirect access from Highway 26. State Route 12 can accommodate tour buses.

Section 6.2 Streets and Highways

Other Private Roads

An unknown number of miles of private public roads exist that are not County-owned or maintained. Some are built to County standards and are owned and maintained by parties to a private road agreement. However, most are prescriptive easements with few, if any, standard road improvements and maintained minimally by property owners. A large percentage of private roads act as driveways and end in a cul-de-sac or simply stop, creating challenges for emergency response to fire and adding no new network capacity to the road system.

Valley Hills Estates (Access from South Burson Road) and Quail Oaks Subdivision (Access from State Highways 12 and 26) are only two (of many) large subdivisions which are not noted in the discussion about the road system in the County. **It is necessary to have an accurate and complete inventory of existing subdivisions in order for this Baseline Study to be ACCEPTABLE. One of the on-going problems here in the County is the County does not know what it has done, regarding development and building. At least, the documents (maps, assessors parcel numbers, etc.) need to reflect accurate data from which one could develop a Baseline Study. How can this situation be overcome if an accurate and full inventory of structures is never completed? How can planning be done without charting what exists?**

6.3 Road System Condition (page 6-16)

Existing Road Design

To date, the County has not identified a funding source to compensate for existing deficiencies. This situation prevents the County from completing necessary identified projects which creates a continual shortfall of improvements to accommodate additional local traffic and consumes any available surplus capacity on local and regional facilities.

For the last 25 years, Calaveras County has allowed a policy of high growth to occur without planning for, creating or funding an effective traffic circulation system. Citizens have repeatedly taken the County to court to seek relief from this situation. The population has quadrupled in those 25 years, roadways are congested with traffic and the County has STILL “NOT IDENTIFIED A FUNDING SOURCE TO COMPENSATE FOR EXISTING DEFICIENCIES”.

**CALAVERAS COUNTY 2007 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ES-
Page V)**

“Over the 20-year plan period, the total projected expenditures of all proposed financially-constrained projects (not including proposed bicycle projects) in this RTP are \$653 million. Estimated costs to meet major regional transportation needs exceed projected funding available by \$132 million.”

At a recent Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Director announced there were 100 projects “in the Que” and 150 more waiting to get in line.

If we, as a County, are in a hole we want to get out of, shouldn't we stop digging?

72 - 2000 or -
 73 - 2001, cnt
 71 - #N/A

APPENDIX 6

APPENDIX 6-1 CALAVERAS COUNTY AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC-REGIONAL ROADWAYS		
Road Name	Average Daily Traffic	Date of Last Count
Major Collectors		
AVERY SHEEP RANCH ROAD	195	Sep-00
BALDWIN STREET	1926	May-04
BURSON ROAD	588	Jul-07
CAMANCHE PARKWAY SOUTH	651	Mar-98
GOLD STRIKE ROAD	958	Sep-98
JENNY LIND ROAD	452	Nov-00
JESUS MARIA ROAD	479	Oct-00
MILTON ROAD	1200	1993
MURPHYS GRADE ROAD	5497	Jul-07
O'BYRNES FERRY ROAD	3301	Aug-07
PALOMA ROAD	1000	1993
PARROTTS FERRY ROAD	2244	Apr-98
POOL STATION ROAD	979	Oct-00
RAIL ROAD FLAT ROAD	1624	May-98
RIDGE ROAD	834	Oct-00
ROCK CREEK COURT	#N/A	
ROCK CREEK ROAD	72	Dec-00
SHEEP RANCH ROAD	569	Sep-00
SUMMIT LEVEL ROAD	#N/A	
Minor Collectors		
ANSIL DAVIS ROAD	#N/A	
ARMSTRONG ROAD	149	Jun-92
ASSOCIATED OFFICE ROAD	347	May-89
AVERY SHEEP RANCH ROAD	195	Sep-00
BAILEY RIDGE ROAD	#N/A	
BALD MOUNTAIN ROAD	464	Oct-00
BEAL RANCH ROAD	#N/A	
BLACK CREEK DRIVE	#N/A	
BLUE MOUNTAIN ROAD	810	May-98
BLUE MOUNTAIN ROAD	975	Oct-00
BUMMerville ROAD	#N/A	
CALAVERITAS ROAD	256	Oct-00
CAMPO SECO ROAD	102	Dec-00
CANYON VIEW DRIVE	#N/A	
CAVE CITY ROAD	#N/A	
CENTER STREET	#N/A	
CENTRAL HILL ROAD	#N/A	

-	CHILE CAMP ROAD	#N/A	
	DARBY RUSSELL ROAD	#N/A	
	DOGTOWN ROAD	408	Jan-01
-	DOUBLE SPRINGS ROAD	162	Jul-91
	DOWDS LANDING ROAD	#N/A	
	EAST MURRAY CREEK ROAD	56	Jan-01
	EVERGREEN ROAD	215	May-98
	FELIX ROAD	#N/A	
	FOURTH CROSSING ROAD	2597	Jul-98
	FRENCH GULCH ROAD	668	Jun-07
	FRICOT CITY ROAD	#N/A	
	FULLEN ROAD	#N/A	
-	GILLAM ROAD	#N/A	
	GREGORY ROAD	86	Mar-90
-	GWIN MINE ROAD	#N/A	
	HAWVER ROAD	438	Mar-07
	HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD	#N/A	
	HIGDON ROAD	#N/A	
	HIGDON-SPINK CUTOFF ROAD	#N/A	
	HODSON ROAD	#N/A	
-	HOGAN DAM ROAD	1240	Aug-07
-	HOGAN DAM ROAD	#N/A	
	HUNT ROAD	#N/A	
	INDEPENDENCE ROAD	256	Jun-92
	LILY GAP ROAD	#N/A	
-	LIME CREEK ROAD	165	Oct-00
-	LITTLE JOHN ROAD	#N/A	
	LOVE CREEK ROAD	#N/A	
	MEKO DRIVE	#N/A	
	MERCER CAVE ROAD	#N/A	
-	MESSING ROAD	325	Jul-92
	MICHEL ROAD	1176	May-98
	OLD GULCH ROAD	151	Oct-97
-	OLIVE ORCHARD ROAD	1110	Jun-07
-	OSPITAL ROAD	#N/A	
-	PATTISON ROAD	#N/A	
	PENNSYLVANIA GULCH ROAD	1240	Jul-07
-	PETTINGER ROAD	905	Nov-00
	PRUSSIAN HILL ROAD	#N/A	
	RED HILL ACCESS ROAD	369	May-98
	RED HILL ROAD	#N/A	
	ROLLERI BYPASS ROAD	533	Dec-00
	SALT SPRINGS VALLEY ROAD	#N/A	
	SALT SPRINGS VALLEY ROAD	#N/A	

SAN DOMINGO ROAD	94	May-90
SANDY GULCH ROAD	#N/A	
SCHADD ROAD	#N/A	
SCHMAUDER MINE ROAD	#N/A	
SHELTON ROAD	#N/A	
SIX MILE ROAD	453	Jan-01
SKULL FLAT ROAD	#N/A	
SKUNK RANCH ROAD	570	Nov-01
SOUTH PETERSBURG ROAD	389	Mar-90
SOUTHWORTH ROAD	385	Nov-00
STANLEY ROAD	#N/A	
SWISS RANCH ROAD	90	Oct-00
WARREN ROAD	225	Nov-00
WATERTOWN ROAD	644	Apr-98
WEST MURRAY CREEK RD	#N/A	
WHISKEY SLIDE ROAD	452	Nov-00
WINTON ROAD	#N/A	
WOODHOUSE MINE ROAD	#N/A	
Connector Roads		
ALDER STREET	#N/A	
ALGIERS STREET	488	
ARROWHEAD STREET	#N/A	
BIG TREES ROAD	4826	Apr-98
BLAGEN ROAD	2913	May-07
BRET HARTE DRIVE	#N/A	
BROADWAY STREET	1008	Aug-98
CARSON STREET	#N/A	
CEDAR LANE	#N/A	
CEDAR STREET	#N/A	
CHESTNUT STREET	1044	Mar-98
CHURCH HILL ROAD	1283	Jul-98
CHURCH STREET	#N/A	
CHURCH STREET	1020	Feb-07
COPPER COVE DRIVE	2161	Feb-07
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE	631	May-07
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE	1192	Jan-92
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE	#N/A	
CYPRESS POINT DRIVE	#N/A	
DAPHNE STREET	716	Apr-90
EL DORADO DRIVE	#N/A	
FIR DRIVE	#N/A	
HARTVICKSON LANE	2046	Jul-07
HORSESHOE DRIVE	#N/A	
LAFAYETTE STREET	158	Sep-98

LEWIS AVENUE	1200	Nov-99
LIGHTNING LANE	#N/A	
LILAC DRIVE	214	May-07
LITTLE JOHN ROAD	2214	Jul-98
MAIN STREET Douglas Flat	#N/A	
MAIN STREET- West Point	1418	Jun-98
MAIN STREET- Mokelumne Hill	2168	Sep-98
MAIN STREET- White Pines	#N/A	
MANUEL ROAD	631	
MAPLE STREET	#N/A	
MEADOW DRIVE	1533	Aug-98
MEADOWMONT WAY	1264	May-07
MEADOWVIEW ROAD	#N/A	
MEWUK LANE	#N/A	
MITCHLER AVENUE	415	Apr-98
MKL HILL CAMPO SECO TNPK	#N/A	
PINE DRIVE	759	May-07
PINE STREET	473	Jun-98
POPE STREET	1446	Jan-07
REEDS TURNPIKE	2130	Nov-07
ROBERTS AVENUE	443	Nov-99
RUSSELLS ROAD	398	Aug-98
SCOTT STREET	1517	Mar-00
SEQUOIA STREET	#N/A	Sep-98
SIERRA PARKWAY	143	Oct-98
SILVER RAPIDS ROAD	928	Jan-98
TREAT AVENUE	2358	Aug-98
VISTA DEL LAGO	3408	Jan-98
Through Roads		
ANGELS ROAD	1139	May-98
ANGELS ROAD	#N/A	
AVERY HOTEL ROAD	1101	Nov-98
BOARDS CROSSING	906	Nov-97
CALIFORNIA STREET	#N/A	
COURT STREET	1552	Jul-98
DUNBAR ROAD	978	May-07
MAIN STREET- Murphys	#N/A	
MAIN STREET- San Andreas	1443	Nov-99
MAIN STREET Vallecito	517	Apr-98
MAIN STREET- Copperopolis	#N/A	
MORAN ROAD	735	May-07
MOUNTAIN RANCH ROAD	2796	Oct-00
OAK STREET	#N/A	
SPINK ROAD	#N/A	

COMMENTS TO 2007 CALAVERAS COUNTY BASELINE

Submitted by: Wallace Citizens Serving Residents

CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC SERVICES

MAJOR ISSUES: Current data collection, old reference documents, and especially lack of quantification of present and probable “future need” in Public Utilities leaves an inability to cost out the present gap, much less the “Cost and Benefits of Growth- near term and long term environmental impacts” and the alternative of no growth. OPR; Article 1. “General Provisions & Definitions.” LAFCO requirements for a Municipal Review for a boundary change must include this, as well as the present cost and adequacy of all governmental services.

How does a baseline that summarizes the 11 fire districts (page 7-57) merely as under funded quantify current/future needs? How many units of growth equal how much staff, space and fire equipment? Libraries, except for one, need space for publications, people and lack computer based technology. Space needed for county meeting rooms and courts is omitted from the baseline and the growing push for all other public and private organizations to find meeting rooms is a current problem. The OPR Guidelines state that an Urban Water Management Plan must be updated at least every five years. Growth projections based on the 1996 plan can lead to faulty assumptions in future needed connections. In 7.2 “Water Supply and Demand” for Union Public Utility District, it states that the “2040 projection ranges from 1,906 acre feet to 2,210 acre feet annually. UPUD is already supplying 2,100 acre feet”. Law Enforcement, Section 7.7 omits baseline statistics for juvenile detention and future need. In Section 7.4 the state required SWPPP Stormwater Prevention Pollution Plan is promised (pages 7-36 7-40). It acknowledges a rudimentary disconnected system of roadside ditches, but notes there is no overlay map to identify potential improvements or flood zones locations. As cross reference the OPR Legislative Summary, 2007: AB70(Chapter 367) states that a city or county may be required to contribute its fair share of cost for property damaged by flood. Existing Ambulance Services does not describe Response Times by location; Media articles recently show Copperopolis response as inadequate.

The Wallace Community Services District (WCSD) in Table 7-1, “WCSD Water Supply Wells” page 7-6 needs correction. The description of Well #4 as Mokelumne Oaks Annexation is inaccurate since this well is neither owned nor promised and this project is inactive. The well does sit inside the SOI. Again, on page 7-7 under “Water Customers”, a statement that the water treatment plant can support **significant** growth should be quantified to the 185 EDU capacity, or 85 connections available for future growth, as stated in the second paragraph above on the same page. Notice that 62 EDU’s of the 85 are committed to existing Will Serve Agreements.

This baseline report calls for much quantification, with no identified funding sources, before cumulative impacts can be brought to bear on the EIR and a Fiscal Impact Assessment finished.

MAJOR ISSUES: PUBLIC SERVICES- WATER UTILITIES

The second major issue is the ill defined land use designations and tables when an attempt is made to correlate them with public services and infrastructure, safety and conservation. The first draft baseline in Table 3.4, page 3-15 identified 6 “Community Centers” outside the community planning areas in rural agricultural/low density areas. The current baseline in Table 3-4, page 3-12 has lumped Community Centers together and designated 11,032 acres, not identified on a map. The locations of this acreage are not identified. The original Table 3.4 showed Wallace Community Center as 258 acres. This same water service district describes an extended Sphere of Influence (SOI) as 976 acres. Wallace has disappeared from the Tables of Land Use Designation in Chapter 3.

The source of this revised Table 3-4 in 2007 is by CDA. If water utilities are using these revised tables that express Land Use acres for Public Services, future need for capacity, treatment and water storage could be skewed. If current leadership means to create sustainable and cost effective development inside Community Planning areas why are these areas being identified as future developable when the cost of public services in what has been described as “bedroom communities” in Smart Growth journal exceeds revenue brought back to the county? This land use baseline precludes future and proposed goals, ordinances and needs as well as visions described in public participation such as open space, oak tree and timberland preservation, wildlife habitats and gobbles potential conservation easements, and the agricultural and range lands appropriate to these needs.

The baseline under Land Use: Tables:3-4 through 3-13A; pages 3-15 to 3-53 depict 65.9% of the total Development Land Use as Unimproved Private Lands which lead early responders to find many inaccuracies. A preponderance of more than 190,000 acres are low density 5 to 20 acre parcels, with only 580 acres for high density and multi-family use. Any future areas identified for clustered development will cause space and capacity provided for public services to fall short in projected acreage needed.

Continued parcelization after the 1996 General Plan may have contributed to 5 wastewater treatment plants being at or near capacity even though complete build out has not occurred. The baseline included the policies, goals and implementation measures from the 1996 General Plan but little that is quantifiable to define existing gaps can be gathered from this baseline. The first CCWD baseline report stated that a complete county wide assessment that would create a new Urban Water Plan, has not been done since 1970. The OPR requires this to be attached to Land Use as a source document, see OPR Planning & Zoning Law, (Sec. 65352.5, page 54), a cross reference of the LAFCO section of Chapter 3 mentioned a 2005 baseline study of current water and sewer facilities. A call to the LAFCO director on February 28 to question their lack of response to the baseline resulted in being told they never received a copy of the baseline, and needed to respond but could not meet the county’s March 11th deadline. This omission is serious when looking at OPR Guidelines; Sec.65583.2 “Inventory of Land Suitable for Residential Development”, page 72, and the new Environmental Justice SB162 (Chapter

PUBLIC SERVICES (CONT)

428) as amended from Section 1. Sec. 56668 that LAFCO must address for projects being reviewed.

Not integrating the 1996 goals and measures to the existing baseline such that existing gaps in service are measurable could result in a failed EIR and conflicting goals and policies for the GPU.

LAND USE: LACK OF A WATER ELEMENT

After research of the statutory requirements and goals of the listed agencies with authority to review elements in the General Plan Update, this opinion concludes with a rationale for tying the discretionary element of Water to Land Use as an integrating element that allows management of consistent goals. The Baseline Report is inherently fragmented, however water cuts across the Elements of Land Use, Conservation, Open Space, Safety, Circulation and Public Services. A partial list of references is provided below.

Recent forward-looking decisions and study sessions by the county Board of Supervisors likewise begs the question of an inclusive water element. Adoption of the Ahwahnee Water Principles for "Resource-Efficient Land Use; the recent possibility of using the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework, and the new Criteria of an adequate, sustainable water supply available for new development project applications. The Cosgrove Creek flood damage should be prevented with the new Stormwater Management Plan promised in the baseline. Wise land planning policies must now overlap with the Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). This plan can not be left dangling in CCWD documents only without the risk of leadership failure to provide policies and co-ordination between affected agencies. A GPU that urbanizes thousands of acres in unincorporated areas without noting lands that may need designations and zoning for watershed protection and groundwater recharge could spell disaster. Water supply and demand data are current problems that require new grants and assessments before they can be quantified. The Dept. of Water Resources: Goals & Objectives, notes in the Major Issues section that the failure of local jurisdictions is, "a lack of other resource management strategies. Land planning is not conducted on a watershed wide basis". A sustainable water supply is noted in DWR's state goal to reduce the current water usage by 15% in 2030 and 30% by the year 2050 if we are to support a growth population of 12.5 million more people.

Although this opinion goes beyond the baseline requirements, begging for a Water Element, it is in the spirit of arriving at a GPU that protects the quality and safety of all county residents here, and to come.

PUBLIC SERVICES (CONT)

REFERENCES;

- Office of Planning & Research – “Planning, Zoning & Development Law; 2008
“ “ “ - “Legislative Summary of 2007 AB70, AB162, AB382
And SB162. Section 65352.5, page 54. SB610
- “Miscellaneous Planning & Zoning Law:”pages 6,
346,355, 356, 380-385.
- CEQA Document Filers: 2008 Changes
- LAFCO Requirements; Land Use in OPR

State Department of Water Resources (DWR)

- 2005 Goals and Objectives
- Article 5 “Statewide Environmental Goals & Policy”
- Valley Flood Protection Board; Section 8501
- Urban Water Management Plan; Section 65302.2
- Hydrology; Section 65300.2, page 44
- Open Space Safety; Article 10.5, Section 65560
- “Central Valley Flood Protection Act 2008”

State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection

Fire Demand Requirements; Sub.(b), Sec. 51177

Department of Fish & Game

Public Resource Government Codes – various sections

M/A/C Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; October, 2006

- Bureau of Land Management - “Sierra Resources Management Plan”- OPR
Guidelines, page 3-85

EPA: Department of Conversation

Calaveras 1996 General Plan

Calaveras County 2007 Baseline Report

Chapter 7 Public Facilities, Services, and Utilities

Domestic Storage and Treatment Systems (Draft Baseline Report –Jan.2008) Page 7-10

Jenny Lind Service Area.

.....The water is then sent through a water treatment plant having an existing capacity of 5mgd. The treatment plant was upgraded in 1997. There are no current plans to further expand the plant. The Jenny Lind water system serves the subdivision of La Contenta, parts of the Rancho Calaveras subdivision, and parts of SR 26 southwest of Valley Springs.

The following material was submitted in 2006 as part of a project comment letter and contains information pertinent to the discussion regarding CCWD Domestic Water and Wastewater.

WATER AND SEWER

The Applicant notes that CCWD will provide water and sewer hookups for this project.

- A. **Water:** The Project will be supplied through the existing Jenny Lind Water System. This summer the delivery system failed and portions of the service area were *without water* (July 24-25, 2006) due to equipment failure and infrastructure deficiencies. Adding more water hookups to an existing deficient system will have an obvious negative impact to existing customers.
- B. **Sewer:** The project will be supplied through the existing La Contenta Sewage System. Residents of La Contenta have been instructed this year by CCWD to be cautious of the amount of water they use because the septage storage ponds were at capacity early this spring and are still in danger of reaching capacity near the end of August.

In the June 2005 Jenny Lind Water System Master Plan, projections were made using an Average Daily Demand (ADD) of 750 gallons per connection per day (GPD), and Maximum Daily Demand (MDD) of 1500 GPD. According to the Action Plan and Water Use document enclosed provided by CCWD (August 9, 2006--post water outage) the average Maximum Daily Demand has risen from 838 GPD in 1985 to 1333 GPD in 2005, but "Water use in the Rancho Calaveras Subdivision exceeded 1780 Gallons per connection per day on certain days during the weeks of July 16th & 23rd, 2006."

Individual customer usage often exceeds these figures during extremely hot weather, some using between 1500-2000 GPD, and a few using much more--up to 40,000 GPD according to CCWD. In at least one area (Service Zone B), CCWD was not able to supply water fast enough to meet customer demand. "Our customers are using more water than allows us to recharge that tank"--David Andres, CCWD General Manager, July 25, 2006. "Water is flowing into the affected service zone at a rate of 1.7 million gpd; usage is at least that high...Water was being pumped into the tank 24 hrs./day since the heat wave began but was still not keeping up with demand"--Bill Perley, CCWD Operations & Maintenance Supervisor, July 24-25, 2006.

The 2005 Jenny Lind Water System Master Plan states, "Because the existing Maximum Daily Demand (MDD) is nearing the firm capacity of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), an immediate increase of water capacity is necessary." "An aggressive schedule for construction of a new WTP is approximately 3 years to complete the necessary environmental work, permitting, design and construction. The MDD is expected to exceed the firm capacity of the

existing WTP by the end of 2005. For this reason it is not feasible to meet expected demands in the immediate future through construction of a new WTP."

CCWD is having problems disposing of excess treated wastewater from storage ponds in the La Contenta Sewage System. CCWD is using the old, deteriorating, inadequate Jenny Lind water system to meet a deluge of building projects and at the same time has fallen behind needed improvements that will keep the system functioning. In 1985 there were 907 water connections; in 2005 there were 3528 water connections. 150 extra annual connections were added to the planned 120 annual connections because of the high level of growth. The proposed North Vista Plaza project will add to existing inadequacies in service capacity of both the water and the sewage systems, and adversely impact existing CCWD customers.

Mitigation: We believe that no mitigation for water and sewage at North Vista Plaza is possible at this time due to the extent of upgrades and new construction needed. This project should not be approved until CCWD has upgraded their infrastructure, built a new water treatment plant, and expanded their sewage facilities. Before *any* further major development is allowed in this service area, the County should: 1) Require an independent Analysis of Water & Wastewater Service Capacity for the CCWD service area to determine capacity; 2) require a complete Environmental Impact Report to determine the extent of cumulative impacts of all new development in CCWD's service area to the existing water and sewer supply system and to the quality of existing customer service.

Distribution System –from Baseline report-Jan. 2008-Page 7-11

Various water transmission and distribution water lines serve each of CCWD's five water service areas. These distribution systems are generally in good condition. Lines are periodically upgraded and replaced (Calaveras County LAFCO 2003B).

Based on these projected demands and the expected supply, the Jenny Lind/ Valley Springs and Ebbetts Pass service areas may experience shortages.

Water transmission and distribution lines in Rancho Calaveras are old and undersized. CCWD could have had an on-going program to gradually replace and upsize the systems but, instead, chose to repair leaks without using the opportunity to replace a section or more when there was a problem. The cost of service to the water customers was kept low, making it difficult to fund measured improvement for distribution lines. Due to the level of growth that is occurring and planned for the near future, an audit of the system is needed. Specific data needs to be supplied to the consultants to assist in the development of the baseline information for the new General Plan.

The same specificity is needed for CCWD service areas as was presented in the CPUD, UPUD and the VSPUD distribution section of this report.

Calaveras County has an opportunity to utilize the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework (WARMF) model which can be used to prevent further impacts caused by today's planning decisions, and can compare potential impacts of building sprawl on water quality, according to Alyson

Watson , a consultant for RMC Water Environment who made a presentation to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. The board seemed in agreement that the model could be useful, even essential, in protecting the future of the county's water quality.

The Enterprise article quoted Supervisor Merita Callaway, "If we don't know what we have. Then we can't develop solutions."

7.5 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (Baseline Report-Jan. 2008)
Page 7-45

Calaveras County has been working since 1990 to meet the requirements of the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). However, the County has yet to reach the State-mandated diversion rate of 50 percent. The County's diversion rate peaked at 42 percent in 2001 and has since steadily declined. As of 2005, the County had a diversion rate of 29 percent.

Calaveras County has initiated the Calaveras County Ten-Year Diversion Plan program (June 4, 2007) to identify programs with which the County may achieve the 50 percent diversion goal.

The Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB) has been known to penalize jurisdictions that failed to meet the 50 percent diversion goal. The IWMB seems to be giving special consideration to rural jurisdictions, particularly in mountainous areas. If the county fails to meet the stated goals, what actions will the County face?

Environmental concerns are incidental next to the importance of keeping the Rock Creek landfill functioning absolutely as long as possible. If Calaveras County would vigorously attack our diversion goals the taxpayers would reap the benefits.

7.10 Schools (Baseline Report-Jan 2008) Page7-77

Unlike overcrowded districts in other counties within California, the Calaveras Unified School District is poised to accommodate new students and growth in the communities. In fact, the district is concerned about the lack of positive student growth. With the present financial structure, **any stoppage of growth could jeopardize the district's ability to meet financial obligations (Frost 2007).**

From July 25, 2007, Superintendent James Frost, letter to Supervisor Bill Claudino

In the best interest of our school district we need well-planned growth that will bring both more students and ongoing developer fees for our district. We need this for two reasons. First, in order to qualify for state dollars for

facilities renovation and additional facilities we need to slow district growth, as our eligibility is trail to growth calculations. This allows us to bring tax dollars paid by our citizens back to our district instead of directing them to large growth counties in Southern California and Central Valley. Second, in order to build new and replace older facilities that our district desperately needed we passed a general obligation bond, used developer fees and borrowed money in order to build facilities and qualify for state matching funds. We use developer fees to service the debt of our borrowing. The payment is approximately \$690,000 per year. Present revenue from this source has been declining and is in danger of not servicing our debt. There is no way to judge whether this is due to the present moratorium, or the poor real estate market. My guess is both contribute. However, if this present trend continues we must service this debt from the educational bond. This will have grave consequences for our children, district employees and county in general. Employee lay-offs and possible reorganization of schools including closing up country sites will be at the head of the list for economics.

February 29, 2008-Calaveras Enterprise article titled 'We're in a recession,' analyst says---Housing market at a standstill, By Colin Rigley

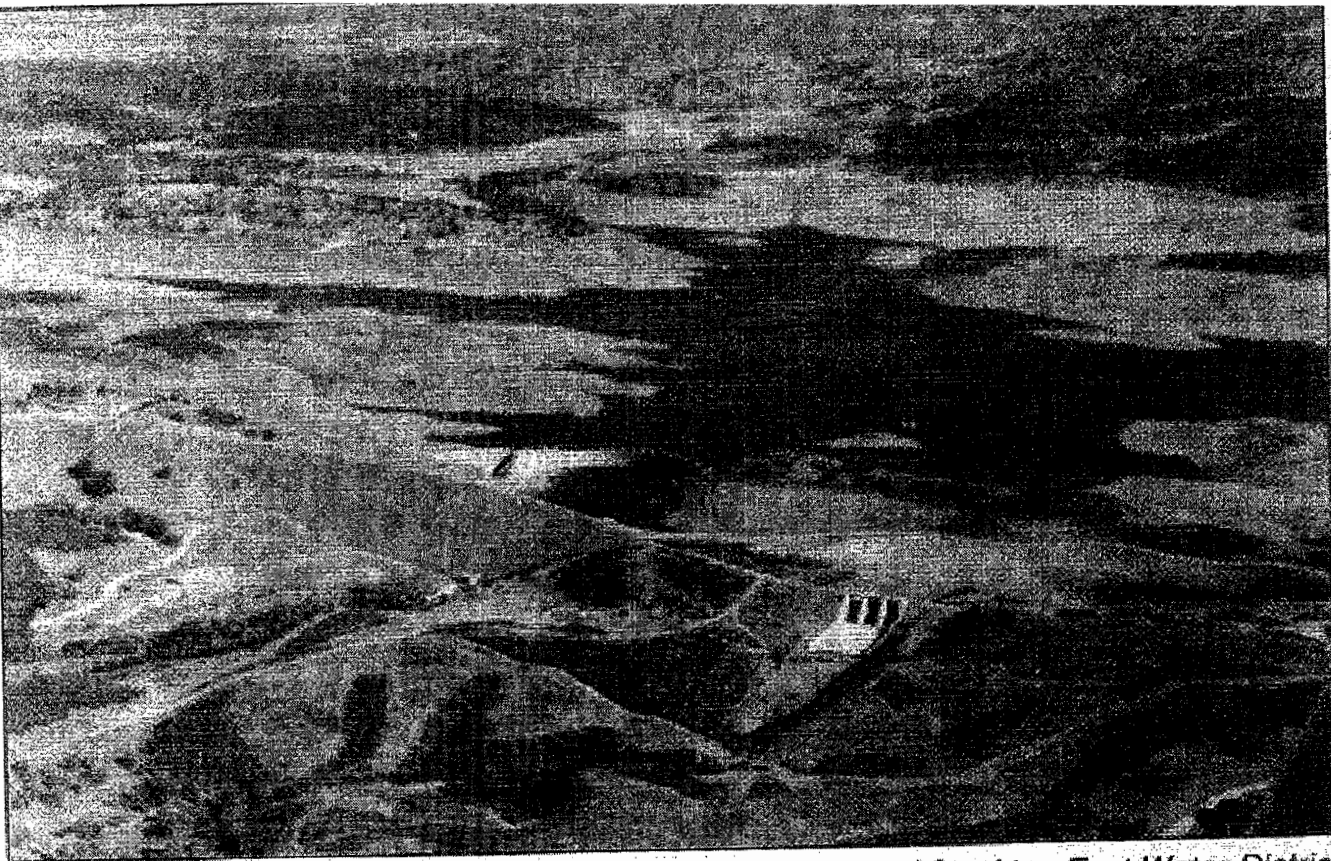
The housing market has come to such a standstill that the Assessor's Office is recommending "zero growth" projection in property taxes for next year's budget. The market is not expected to pick up until 2010, Ryan said. (Principal Administrative Analyst Shirley Ryan)

But the low numbers are actually worse than they appear. Ryan said the estimated revenue took into account an economic slump, and even those estimates were too high.

"We're in a recession," Ryan said. "Whether people want to admit it or not, we're in a recession."

Articles regarding

Water and Sewer Concerns



Courtesy of Stockton East Water District

Aerial views showing New Hogan Reservoir at the height of the drought in 1977 (above) and filled to its capacity in 1997 (below).



Courtesy of United States Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento Division

Water district plans Copper sewer upgrade

2-10-06
By Craig Koscho

Calaveras County Water District Directors will have to increase a deficit in one fund to help pay for upgrades at the Copper sewer plant and they hope future property tax revenue will cover the shortfall.

Directors voted 5-0 at their Wednesday board meeting to install ultraviolet treatment equipment at the Copper Cave sewer plant.

Installation will cost about \$450,000 and that's in addition to \$325,000 already spent on design and equipment purchases.

To cover the latest cost, directors authorized taking part of the money, \$243,000, from the district sewer enterprise fund but that's already expected to end this budget year with a deficit of about \$12,000, Interim General Manager Larry Diamond said.

That latest expense will bring that deficit up to an estimated

\$355,000, Diamond said.

The deficit will be balanced with a loan from the water enterprise fund and that's to be paid with anticipated income from property taxes, Diamond said.

The remaining \$307,000 will come from the Copper Cave Sewer Expansion Fund.

Meanwhile, CCWD officials continue to pursue a special permit from the state that would allow the treated effluent to be used on the Saddle Creek Golf

Course.

The ultraviolet equipment is seen as a crucial element in winning that permit.

The upgrade has been budgeted in phases as it went along, acting District Engineer Steve Hutchings said, and work has been proceeding.

"The project's going really well," Hutchings told the board.

Contact: Craig Koscho at ckoscho@calaveraswater.org

Water runs

dry for

hundreds

of years

in the

desert

area

near

the

city

of

the

Water

continued from A1

rationing during a special Monday morning meeting.

The storage tank, located off Fisher Drive, was already getting dangerously low on Friday, CCWD officials said Monday.

Water was being pumped into the tank 24 hours a day since the heat wave began, but still was not keeping up with the demand. Operations and Maintenance Superintendent Bill Perley said.

Customers were using about 1.7 million gallons a day from the tank, which is the maximum the water can be pumped into it, CCWD General Manager David Andres said.

Water had fallen to a level of 3 feet in a tank that can hold it to a 20-foot level when employees went through the area Saturday and again on Sunday asking residents to restrict their water usage.

Then a Sunday afternoon power surge knocked the area treatment plant off-line, halting the flow of water to the tank for about two hours, Andres said. Crews got the equipment operating again when a second surge hit, forcing the pumps to shut down again.

All systems were functioning again Monday, but it's going to take some time.

"We are feeding from our plant at the maximum we can, but our customers are using more water than allowed us to recharge that tank," Andres said.

Part of the problem is the treatment and distribution system employed to help treat and required levels of treatment byproducts in the water.

The system requires that the water traveling farther from the treatment plant first be stored in one tank, then pumped over to the second tank.

Customers in between the two tanks are apparently using their water as usual, drawing it from the main pipeline sending water to the second tank.

Some of them faced being cut-off as crews refilled the storage tank.

Staff members were again going through the area Monday, telling residents to cut back on use inside the house, and cease all water uses — such as irrigation and car washing — outside the home.

With those measures, Andres said district officials hoped to have the tank at least a third filled by 6 last night.

Meanwhile, a distribution center for drinking water was set up at the Good Samaritan Church, at Baldwin Street and Trench Place.

A hydrant at the water treatment plant on Silver Rapids Road also was available for residents' use.

Senior citizens and other residents who couldn't get out were able to call CCWD at 734-3543 to schedule a delivery.

And a couple of trucks were delivering water for stock and milk.

Not all homes were affected to the same degree, district General Manager Larry Diamond said.

Just how much water they might get out of their tap depend on their distance and elevation relative to the tank.

Some, such as Pam Knaggs, were left high and dry.

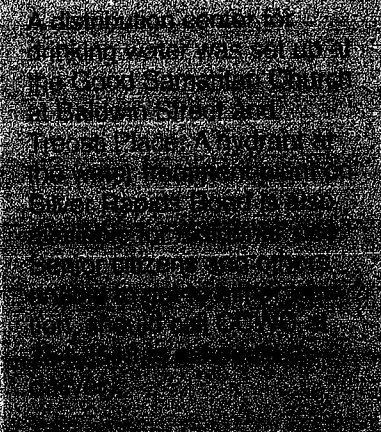
Knaggs was one of about 150 people who attended Monday's meeting.

She asked if water would be made available for uses such as flushing the toilet.

Knaggs said residents would be given about two gallons of emergency water initially. Once that one had been taken care of, they would probably be allowed to come back for a second supply, he said.

The storage tank is being refilled using emergency power generators to minimize the possibility of another power outage interrupting the process, Perley said.

Director Jeff Davidson also raised concerns about expectations that rolling blackouts would be initiated in the state Monday.



He asked if PG&E could be contacted to keep from shutting off the electricity to the people already without water.

"The combination of no electricity and water could be deadly," Davidson said.

Knaggs and the other two residents, Gary and Mary Clough, also questioned the efficiency of CCWD's notification process.

The Cloughs said they were told around 2:30 p.m. Sunday to conserve water, but there was no sense of urgency about the matter.

"We weren't told the tank was running dry," Mary Clough said.

They went fortunate to fill up a tank with 100 gallons of water from a nearby relative whose property is served by a well.

Signs and other notifications were made to let people know about the present situation.

An automatic telephone call to customers in the area was being initiated to provide a recorded message outlining the emergency and what water was being distributed.

The district's public works television station was being contacted and a live suggestion to Channel 10 reporter Tim Dally, who covered the meeting, minutes were going to be sent to the Sacramento television station as well.

District directors also asked Perley to purchase surge protectors that would help shield the equipment from future power spikes.

Editor: Craig Kuchta
craig.kuchta@calaverasenterprise.com

**JENNY LIND WATER TREATMENT PLANT
HISTORICAL WATER USE – AVERAGE DAY DEMAND (ADD)
PER CONNECTION**

<u>YEAR*</u>	<u>AVERAGE WATER USE</u>
1985	405 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
1990	442 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
1995	457 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
2000	524 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
2005	583 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY

Average water use increased by 178 gallons per connection per day from 1985 to 2005, or by 44%.

Current System Design Standards: Average Day Demand (ADD) as adopted is 750 gallons per day (GPD) per connection and Maximum Day Demand (MDD) is 1500 GPD per connection.

* 1985 data is used as the base year with 1990, 1995, 2000 & 2005 data reflecting the 5-year average for use.

Connections to Jenny Lind WTP: 1985 – 907; 2005 – 3528.

**JENNY LIND WATER TREATMENT PLANT
HISTORICAL WATER USE – MAXIMUM DAY DEMAND (MDD)
PER CONNECTION**

<u>YEAR*</u>	<u>AVERAGE WATER USE</u>
1985	838 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
1990	936 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
1995	973 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
2000	1322 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY
2005	1333 GALLONS PER CONNECTION PER DAY

Average maximum day water use increased by 495 gallons per connection per day from 1985 to 2005, or by 59%.

Current System Design Standards: Average Day Demand (ADD) as adopted is 750 gallons per day (GPD) per connection and Maximum Day Demand (MDD) is 1500 GPD per connection.

* 1985 data is used as the base year with 1990, 1995, 2000 & 2005 data reflecting the 5-year average for use.

Note: Water use in the Rancho Calaveras subdivision exceeded 1780 gallons per connection per day on certain days during the weeks of July 16th & 23rd, 2006.

Connections to Jenny Lind WTP: 1985 – 907; 2005 – 3528.

October 10th, 2006

CCWD Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan: Comments and concerns

A. Jenny Lind Water Treatment Plant: Supply Line to “B Tank” in Rancho Calaveras; concern re. Wildfire Hazard and Public Safety

July’s water outage in Rancho served to bring attention to the fact that “B-Tank” cannot be supplied fast enough to meet periods of extreme heat and high customer demand (without enacting water conservation measures).

Despite pumps running 24 hours a day during the extended heat wave, the water level in the 1 million gallon “B” storage tank had already dropped to 3’ (15% of capacity) the day **before** the power surge that knocked pumps out. This level is dangerously low and may not be meeting emergency storage requirements (pg. 29 of Jenny Lind Water System Master Plan).

CCWD proposes to move some B zone customers to other zones, and add piping loops to connect systems. This should help reduce demand somewhat and even out flows downstream. But these measures do not address the underlying problem: the existing transmission line to B-Tank. It is undersized and also used as a distribution line (200 people draw off that line while it is trying to fill the B tank).

The deficiency will get worse as infill continues in Rancho (even if some customers are moved to other zones). A rough count of empty lots in the B Service Zone shows around 300 lots with potential added hookups. Shouldn’t CCWD do a design capacity study for the B zone to determine what the transmission and distribution pipe sizing and tank storage capacities should be? Since these periods of high demand coincide with peak fire season, this causes concerns whether adequate fire flow standards are being met with the existing line and tank.

B. Jenny Lind Water Plant: Capacity and connections; concern re. Drought and Wildfire Hazards

The current number of Jenny Lind water connections has exceeded the existing plant's Maximum Daily Demand capacity (by 339 connections). We have 3672 existing connections as of July 2006, as per CCWD records. At 1500 GPD (MDD) this equals 5.5 million gallons a day. Our plant's rated capacity is 5.0 million gallons; "firm" (sustained) capacity is 4.6 million gallons. Actual 24-hr. peak use at the treatment plant has come close to 5.0 million gallons a day in previous years, according to CCWD.

Periods of peak demand can be met for short periods of time using "storage in the system" (in tanks and piping). But this cannot be sustained for long periods of time, and is not a reliable way to ensure adequate water for customers while at the same time having enough water to cover emergency firefighting and backwash events due to low water quality during drought.

Water quality in New Hogan Reservoir was greatly diminished as it fell below the minimum pool levels in the 1976-77 drought and in the 1987-94 drought.

CCWD is pursuing expansion of the Jenny Lind treatment plant to 6.0 million gallons a day. When completed, this should be enough to cover existing customers and some new connections, but at the current rate of building this could also reach capacity soon. How many new connections has CCWD already promised to supply in the next 3-5 years (or more) that it will take to build a new water treatment plant? This causes concern that peak water demands may exceed plant capacity if emergency fire flows and backwash needs during drought are taken into account.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan.

Sincerely,

Colleen Platt, ratepayer
MyValleySprings.com, P.O. Box 1501
Valley Springs, CA 95252
cplatt1@comcast.net

October 21, 2006

To: Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department

**Re: Valley Creek Estates 2005-15 proposed subdivision (64 a., 12 lots):
Impact of development on flooding downstream in Cosgrove
Creek**

The Planning Commission approved this project early last January, before the severe flooding that occurred in April on Cosgrove Creek. Dozens of homes were damaged by these floodwaters, people were evacuated, and the highway and local roads flooded.

Since then, there has been even more awareness of the impacts of development on flooding in this area. Calaveras County Water District states "The potential for flooding can change and increase through various land use changes and changes to land surface, resulting in a change to the floodplain." Public Works Dept. states that "development...changes are widening the flood plain."

This project lies in the Cosgrove Creek watershed. Two creeks are on the property; both lie in a 'Dept. of Water Resources Awareness Flood Plain'. Both creeks, including Spring Valley Creek, drain into Cosgrove Creek in the vicinity of Hogan Dam Road, where flooding already occurs. Adding 12 new homes is *likely* to increase water runoff into this area, unless low-impact development techniques are incorporated into Conditions of Approval.

I would ask the Board and Planning Department to encourage and require low-impact development measures for this project (and others in the Cosgrove Creek watershed), such as the use of porous types of pavements, maximum preservation of existing vegetation, and on-site water detention and storage ponds. These types of Conditions to prevent increased water runoff should be incorporated before this project is approved.

I would also hope that extra attention and oversight will be given to any grading that occurs during development, to prevent soil erosion and additional siltation of the creeks.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Colleen Platt
MyValleySprings.com
P.O. Box 1501
Valley Springs, CA 95252
cplatt1@comcast.net

October 10th, 2006

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The deficiency will get worse as infill continues in Rancho (even if some customers are moved to other zones). A rough count of empty lots in the B Service Zone shows around 300 lots with potential added hookups. Shouldn’t CCWD do a design capacity study for the B zone to determine what the transmission and distribution pipe sizing and tank storage capacities should be? Since these periods of high demand coincide with peak fire season, this causes concerns whether adequate fire flow standards are being met with the existing line and tank.

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Periods of peak demand can be met for short periods of time using "storage in the system" (in tanks and piping). But this cannot be sustained for long periods of time, and is not a reliable way to ensure adequate water for customers while at the same time having enough water to cover emergency firefighting and backwash events due to low water quality during drought.

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Sincerely,

Colleen Platt, ratepayer
MyValleySprings.com, P.O. Box 1501
Valley Springs, CA 95252
cplatt1@comcast.net

Mitigation Action #4: Promote best management practices, such as low impact development techniques, in new development to reduce runoff and urban flooding

Issue/Background:

CCWD infrastructure is at risk to flooding. The areas of flooding (i.e., Cosgrove Creek) have experienced heavier flows during rain events due to new

construction near the creek's channel. In all areas of the county where development is

occurring, the increased runoff results in more frequent and extensive urban flooding

due to the reduced ability of the surrounding terrain to buffer and absorb rainfall. The

implementation of best management practices and other requirements for reducing

runoff in the development planning phase prior to construction will be significantly more

cost-effective than regularly repairing and expanding facilities to accommodate larger

and more frequent flooding.

Other Alternatives:

No action

Responsible Office:

CCWD Administrative and Engineering Departments

Priority (H, M, L):

High

Cost Estimate:

The cost is unknown but will be based upon the amount of CCWD staff time necessary to attend meetings, review documents, and communicate recommendations to the County.

Benefits (Losses Avoided):

Reduce incidence of urban flooding

Reduce risk of damage to CCWD infrastructure

Potential Funding

: General CCWD budget

Schedule:

Initiate within in six months; then participate on an ongoing basis in the Calaveras County General Plan update process

Neighbors mad over misting

Published: October 26, 2006

By SUNNY LOCKWOOD

An emergency measure taken by Calaveras County Water District to lower an especially full effluent pond in preparation for winter rains has some Copperopolis residents complaining.

In June, CCWD installed a Turbomister, which pumps water from the district's Copper Cove Service Area effluent pond and blows it through a fine nozzle at high velocity. A second machine was added in July.

"The water blows about 150 feet in the air and it's supposed to evaporate before it hits the ground," said Fred Burnett, district director of operations and regulatory compliance. He estimated the Turbomisters are handling about 100 gallons a minute.

But at Wednesday's CCWD board meeting, Director Ed Rich said he'd received a number of complaints about the sound the Turbomisters make.

"And two homeowners filed complaints with the DA and the Water Resources Board about the constant humming," he said.

During the meeting, two Copperopolis residents asked that the machines be turned off at least on the weekends, but Chairwoman Bertha Underhill said that will not happen.

"We've put sound modifiers on them and I know they're noisy, but they are absolutely necessary to reduce the level of our pond there," she said.

Burnett said the Turbomisters are strictly an emergency measure.

"I don't see us operating them next year," he said. "They aren't easy to operate and maintain, they're a huge power draw and cost a lot in terms of electricity. And they're making some of the customers unhappy because of their sound."

He said last winter crews raised the height of the 250-acre-foot pond's rim by 4 feet in a struggle to keep the effluent and rainwater from overflowing.

The district's normal processes of emptying the pond – using district spray fields and sending treated wastewater to the Saddle Creek Golf Course to keep its turf green – have not reduced the pond level enough, he said.

"We've been asked by the Regional Water Quality

Control Board to do everything in our power to get that pond low so that we don't spill this winter," Burnett said. He said the pond serves about 1,600 hookups in the Copperopolis area.

"If we happen to have a spill this winter, it will be to our benefit to report that we've done absolutely everything possible to reduce the pond level," he said.

Contact Sunny Lockwood at stockwood@uniondemocrat.com or at 736-1234.

Water district trying to beat winter rains

Published: November 9, 2006

By SUNNY LOCKWOOD

Union Democrat

Calaveras County Water District officials are urging Copperopolis area residents to conserve water as the district struggles to lower an effluent storage pond near town.

The storage pond is nine feet lower than it was a couple of months ago, but it's "not even close to where we need to be," Bill Perley, CCWD operations and maintenance superintendent, told district directors Wednesday.

With rain falling outside the boardroom, Perley said he hoped the board would tell people in the Copper Cove service area to conserve water.

"Throw a brick in the toilet," he said.

Following the meeting, Fred Burnett, district director of operations and regulatory compliance, underscored Perley's comments.

"We'd encourage people to restrict their use of water inside their homes. That's what affects the sewer plant," he said. "We want people to help."

During the winter of 1999, the Copper Cove pond spilled over and the Regional Water Quality Control Board fined CCWD \$80,000.

Burnett said the minimum Water Quality Control Board penalty for a spill is \$3,000 a day.

"The maximum they could fine us is \$10 a gallon, in addition to the daily fine. It could add up to a lot fast," he said.

Burnett said the board would take up the topic of conservation in a more formal way in the near future.

In the meantime, crews are dealing with rain and the threat of rain.

The district was able to send about 720,000 gallons a day of treated wastewater to the Saddle Creek golf course during the dry summer season, to keep the turf green and help reduce the pond level. But when it rains, the golf course cannot use CCWD's effluent.

Feds: County needs to look at habitat

Published: August 29, 2007

By HOYT ELKINS

The Union Democrat

Concern over western Calaveras County housing developments and their effect on endangered and threatened species has resulted in a nudge from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the county to step up its habitat conservation efforts.

In response, county supervisors Tuesday told Community Development Director Stephanie Moreno to meet with the Wildlife Service in search of ways to resolve the problem.

Federal officials have expressed specific concerns about development projects, including Wallace Lake Estates, Crestview Estates, and the county's proposed cleanup of Cosgrove Creek.

Public hearings on the Wallace Lake Estates project were pulled from the board of supervisors' agenda earlier this month and continued to Sept. 25. The delay was requested by the Calaveras Community Development Agency to "allow an independent peer review" of water issues.

Tuesday's action opens the way for Moreno to

discuss preparation of a habitat conservation plan and adopt interim development measures for western Calaveras County in consultation with the Wildlife Service.

The conservation plan could, ultimately, be incorporated in the county's ongoing General Plan update.

On another front, Calaveras Agricultural Commissioner Mary Mutz has asked the board to study possible non-renewal of Williamson Act contracts with owners who do not comply with its provisions. The act is intended to preserve farm land and open space by providing tax breaks to landowners who agree to keep their property in open space agricultural use.

Over the years, some developers around the state have purchased land, placed it under land conservation contract and reaped the tax benefits until financing was secured for housing projects. The land, in some cases, was then withdrawn from the contract and whatever penalties were assessed were paid by the developers in a lump sum.

Taxes under the Williamson Act are not levied on the potential value of the land. Instead, tax breaks are contingent on agricultural use. Some individuals, according to Mutz, don't submit required annual production reports. Others submit reports indicating

no production.

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San Andreas Under Sewer Moratorium

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 - 01:55 PM

Vanessa Turner

MML Calaveras Bureau

San Andreas, CA -- Directors of the San Andreas Sanitary District have essentially halted new development by passing a moratorium on new sewer connections.

This has Calaveras County officials in a frenzy trying to figure out how it will process proposed developments, like the new justice center, without sewer availability.

Sanitary District Manager Steve Schimp says the moratorium was passed in August because the district is at capacity. At this week's Wednesday board meeting, sanitary district directors will consider extending the moratorium indefinitely.

Schimp says expansion plans that could accommodate the new development will likely be put on hold since developers haven't put any money into the pot.

County Administrative Officer Tom Mitchell says the county is challenging the required \$15,000 hook up fee by conducting a peer review of the district's engineering studies.

In the meantime, the Board of Supervisors has called for a study session to determine how the county should process new developments while the moratorium is in place.

There is talk that developers, such as the county with its justice center, can pay their sewer fees up front to fund the expansion.

Written by vanessa.turner@mlode.com.

Supervisors to study sewer plan

By The Record

September 12, 2007 6:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - Fears that a sewer capacity crisis will stop virtually all growth in San Andreas prompted Calaveras County supervisors Tuesday to schedule a session later this month to study possible solutions.

Large developers, including the proponent of the 130-home Saddleback Hills project proposed at the south end of town, are willing to front the money for a sewer plant expansion but won't send a check to the San Andreas Sanitary District until their projects are approved by the county. And at least at the moment, the Calaveras County Community Development Agency is unwilling to put projects up for approval when sewer capacity isn't yet built for them.

"We do not believe that is prudent," Community Development Agency Director Stephanie Moreno said.

Saddleback Hills developer Bill Rodriguez said the problem could be solved by requiring that his project have sewer service available before lots or homes are sold. "It's very simple language," Rodriguez said.

Supervisors scheduled a study session for Sept. 25.

[HOME](#)

Water quality studies point to land-use issues

By Krissi Krob

Published in the Calaveras Enterprise (Feb.29 ,2008)

A program that has worked to identify and predict water quality issues in the Mokelumne River watershed could possibly be extended to cover all of Calaveras County.

The county Board of Supervisors held a study session last week to discuss the possibility of using the Watershed Analysis Risk Management Framework model on Calaveras and Stanislaus watersheds.

“We’re really excited about this tool,” for use in current projects and long-term planning, said Community Development Director Stephanie Moreno.

The WARMF model is a result of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority. The authority, comprised of representatives from Alpine, Amador and Calaveras counties, was formed to enhance a broader understanding of water quality issues and concerns.

The WARMF model is a software program that is in the public domain. The authority compiled and reviewed water quality data and calibrated the model specifically for the Mokelumne River watershed. The three-year project cost \$1.3 million, with \$800,000 coming from Proposition 84 and 50 grants from the state. The rest came from the authority.

Eileen White, manager of water operations of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and Alyson Watson, a consultant for RMC Water Environment, a company that works to deliver “innovative solutions” to California’s water resource challenges, both worked on the WARMF project and gave a presentation about it to the Supervisors.

The WARMF model takes data from 21 areas, such as land use, air quality, topography and meteorology, and simulates how water quality would be affected if those aspects were changed. One of the findings of the WARMF model was the growing presence of fecal coliform in the watershed, bacteria that could cause infections and environmental hazards. The primary source of the bacteria is failing septic tanks, Watson said, and the WARMF model could be used to identify areas at the greatest risk of increased contamination. The policies for septic systems in those areas could be revised to offset contamination.

“WARMF can be used to...prevent further impacts caused by today’s planning decisions,” Watson said, and can compare potential impacts of building sprawl on water quality.

If the WARMF model were expanded to include the rest of the county, Watson said, the model could be used in the county’s general plan update to consider the impacts of land

use on water quality, and could possibly be used on a project-by-project basis to determine what mitigations developers would be required to perform.

The study session was held to determine if the model should continue to only be used in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed; if funding should be sought to extend the model into the Calaveras River watershed; or if the county should look for funding to extend the model into both the Calaveras and the Stanislaus watersheds.

The cost of expanding the model to the Calaveras and Stanislaus rivers will depend on the extent of stakeholder involvement, according to White and Watson, but is estimated between \$200,000 and \$250,000. The cost would be absorbed into the current operations budget, and the agencies involved would seek grant funding for the project.

“Where can we today get the biggest impact and the biggest bang for our buck?” asked Brian Moss, Environment Management Agency administrator.

While Supervisor Russ Thomas expressed some doubts about the model, saying it is logical to assume that development will impact water quality and a model may not be necessary, the board seemed to be in agreement that the model could be useful, even essential, in protecting the future of the county’s water quality.

“If we don’t know what we have. Then we can’t develop solutions,” Supervisor Merita Callaway said.

Existing Challenges in Calaveras County

‘We’re in a recession’, analyst says

Housing market at a standstill

Published in Calaveras Enterprise 2/29/08

By Colin Rigley

The budget forecast does not look good.

Principle Administrative Analyst Shirley Ryan presented Calaveras County’s mid-year financial report Tuesday. At the halfway point for the 2007-08 fiscal year, many of the projected revenues have come in low.

Calaveras is taking its largest hit from a slowdown in housing sales. Just 35 percent of the anticipated property transfer tax has been received so far in 2007-08, and construction development revenue-building, sewage and planning fees- are at 34 percent of what was projected. Planning fees came in the lowest, with the county collecting only 23 percent of what was expected. Fifty percent of anticipated revenues are usually expected to be in by midyear.

The housing market has come to such a standstill that the Assessor’s Office is recommending “zero growth” projection in property taxes for next year’s budget. The market is not expected to pick up until 2010, Ryan said.

But the low numbers are actually worse than they appear. Ryan said the estimated revenue took into account an economic slump, and even those estimates were too high.

“We’re in a recession,” Ryan said. “Whether people want to admit it or not, we’re in a recession.”

The housing problems have started to trickle down into other economic sectors. Only 43 percent of the anticipated consumer-spending revenue has come in so far. Of that, the county received 37 percent of the anticipated sales and use tax. Ryan also noted that Calaveras lags behind neighboring counties in per-capita sales tax: Calaveras with \$50.33, Amador with \$61.20 and Tuolumne with \$63.80.

Most county departments have spent less or close to 50 percent of their anticipated revenues, but some departments have spent more than they’re taking in. Public Works has spent 42 percent of its budget-administration, development services, equipment services and road fund- but has only received 29 percent of its anticipated revenue and is about \$2.9 million in the red.

The county also renegotiated employee contracts, reorganized some departments and reclassified positions, which increased budgeted salaries and benefits by \$1.28 million this year.

Stephanie Moreno, Community Development Agency director, said she might have to cancel a \$151,760 contract with Vali Cooper & Associates, which is supposed to help CDA staff through June 30. In another effort to balance her department’s budget, Moreno said she has also “targeted non-essential positions,” but hopes to avoid layoffs.

“It’s a tough moment for us,” she said.

And while the county is struggling with its own budgetary problems, there will probably be no help from the state.

Ryan gave an overview of the governor’s proposed budget, which comes with across-the-board cuts in order to eliminate an anticipated \$14.5 billion deficit; the California Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates as much as \$16 billion deficit. The governor’s proposal would cut all costs by 10 percent, with additional program cuts primarily to social services, schools and law enforcement.

"There are going to be cuts and they are going to impact counties," Ryan said.

With the problems ahead, the Administrative Department asked all county department heads to meet with their staff to come up with cost-saving solutions.

"This is our problem to solve," County Administrative Officer Bob Lawton said. "We have to be the masters of our own fate."

Lawton recommended that departments not fill vacant positions as one way to save money. The Administrative Department estimated that keeping budgeted positions empty would save \$422,000 for the remainder of 2007-08 and \$1.4 million in 2008-09.

"Every dollar that's saved through salary savings, that's money we really get to put in the bank," he said.

Lawton will also meet with the department heads regularly to discuss the budget and other cost-saving solutions.

Supervisor Wilensky took the opportunity to urge departments to work together and help pull the county out of the budget crisis.

"I'm begging you to take this moment to inspire your staff," he said.

Several ideas did come out of the study session. Supervisor Russ Thomas suggested raising the county's hotel tax (transient occupancy tax) from 6 percent to 10 percent. If the county decided to raise the tax it would have to go to voters, and previous attempts have failed three times, Supervisor Merita Callaway said.

Callaway said if the county tries to get voter approval again, it will require better outreach and should be spearheaded by local economic groups.

There was also concern that Calaveras does not have an economic development plan. Moreno said her department does not know how to guide new commercial developments without a firm county policy, and others also wondered why the county has no strategy to bring in business. The board scheduled an economic development study session for March 18.



Calaveras revises ag zoning to address economic challenges

By Holly Mines

In recent years, as development pressures have increased on local agricultural lands, several large ranch properties in western Calaveras County have been converted to subdivisions. At the same time, ranchers and farmers throughout the foothills are seeking new ways to keep their lands profitable.

These factors formed the backdrop for comprehensive agricultural zoning changes enacted by the Calaveras County board of supervisors November 2 on a 4-1 vote.

The revised zoning ordinance affects nearly 478,000 acres in the county. It will help farmers and ranchers stay on their land while protecting open space, habitat, viewsheds and threatened agricultural lands.

In explaining the need for the zoning code revisions, Bob Garamendi of the Calaveras Cattlemen's Association said, "We [farmers and ranchers] need to go beyond agriculture because it's difficult to compete without other ways to generate income. Agritourism is another vital part of the agricultural economy. I think the board understood this need. This is just part of a long process of looking into our future."

The principal authors of the new code were a group of Calaveras ranchers and farmers, including representatives of the Calaveras Wine Grape Alliance, Calaveras Cattlemen's Association, Calaveras Grown and Calaveras Farm Bureau, with assistance from county staff.

Garamendi said the most significant aspect of the new code is the broadened and more clearly defined definition of "Agricultural Operations," which includes "customary uses clearly incidental and secondary to the agricultural operation....(which) shall be broadly construed...."

This will allow landowners to expand into enterprises such as agritourism, wineries, hunting clubs, tasting rooms, produce stands and hosting public and private parties for up to 299 guests with few restrictions.

The zoning revision process began back in January 2004, when the Calaveras supervisors agreed to suspend a comprehensive zoning code revision and focus first on agricultural concerns.

The resulting zoning change allows agriculture-related uses in four zoning districts: General Agriculture (A-1), Agricultural Preserve (AP - lands under Williamson Act contracts), Residential Agriculture (RA) and Rural Residential (RR).

The changes were not without controversy. Residents of several subdivisions zoned RR objected to the expansion of permitted agri-

cultural and "incidental ag support uses" in their residential districts, concerned that ag-related commercial activities would rob them of the tranquility they sought in coming to the county.

Roads, always a touchy issue in the country, were also a concern. Residents in subdivisions with privately maintained roads feared the impacts of increased traffic. The new zoning ordinance requires mitigation of road impacts by assessing user fees proportional to those paid by homeowners.

It also limits noise and hours of operations for events and requires shielded lighting. And soon after the ordinance passed, the county moved to take 80 miles of private subdivision roads into the county system, to ensure better road maintenance.

Some subdivisions tried to negotiate an "opt out" clause in the zoning that would allow residents to vote to prohibit all agricultural activity within the subdivision boundaries except small-scale gardens and animal husbandry. Since that was not successful, they may seek rezoning to ward off commercial-scale agricultural activity.

In the meantime, "the horse is out of the barn," said Bob Leitzell of Golden Hills, a former county public works director and independent traffic consultant.

"Until we resolve this problem, someone in our neighborhood may decide to put in a winery, which will of course remain even if rezoning happens. Any new activities begun during the interim period will fall under existing non-conforming use."

Supervisor Steve Wilensky of Glencoe, an apple farmer who strongly supported the changes, hopes the county will put in place a mediation system to resolve future ag-neighbor conflicts. Wilensky is proposing a body made up of farmers, ranchers and residents of areas that adjoin farms and ranches.

Ag zoning in Calaveras

Types of Calaveras County rural land with the potential for use by farms and/or housing (other than forest lands, public land, and cities):

- Rural residential zone (primarily residential, hobby farming allowed): 43,603 acres
- Residential agriculture (farming with home allowed): 15,717 acres
- General agriculture: 101,114 acres
- Agricultural preserve: 129,109 acres
- Unclassified: 88,377 acres

Source: *The Record* in Stockton, from Calaveras County data

The group would be able to conduct fact-finding, mediation and fair hearings in order to recommend agreements for resolving specific conflicts.

And it would have authority to enforce breaches of the voluntary agreements that result from its work. All of the members would receive training in mediation.

"We need a reciprocal system that works for everyone," Wilensky said. "While agricultural practices can affect neighbors, suburban habits can hurt farmers and ranchers, too."

Holly Mines is a member of the Calaveras County Planning Commission.

County looks to mitigate growth issues

The county is meeting with consultants to discuss the possibility of a public facilities fee, District One Supervisor Bill Claudino told an audience at last Wednesday's meeting of the Valley Springs Area Business Association.

Growth impacts the area in a variety of ways and the county needs to develop a plan to facilitate and maintain all of the public services and facilities required to accommodate an expanding population, he said.

Such a fee could cover parks and recreation, the library, government buildings, the jail, sheriff's substations and include a fire component, he said.

"All of these are being impacted when you have growth and they're not being mitigated now," he added.

In other West Calaveras matters, Claudino reported Caltrans has a \$10 million project in the works for 2008 to straighten out curves, rehabilitate the asphalt and provide an eight-foot paved and two-foot gravel shoulder on Highway 26 from Savage Way to Ospital Road.

In addition, Caltrans has a \$9 million project planned for Highway 12 from Southworth Road to three-tenths of a mile west of the intersection with Highway 26 in Valley Springs.

Valley Springs News Nov. 23, 2005

Calaveras County to study \$5M flood plan

Dana M. Nichols

Record Staff Writer

Published Wednesday, Jan 4, 2006

SAN ANDREAS - Valley Springs residents would find it easier to keep their feet dry under a proposed \$5 million plan to control flooding and build a parkway with trails through the sprawling unincorporated town.

Calaveras County Supervisors said Tuesday that they would cooperate with the Calaveras County Water District to study a proposed project along Cosgrove Creek.

The workshop on the issue came after weekend storms again submerged part of Hogan Dam Road and other areas along the creek.

According to the Army Corps of Engineers, 400 residents and 100 buildings are at risk in the so-called 100-year flood plain along Cosgrove Creek.

Some of the properties flood every three or four years. And the risk is growing as more houses and businesses get built there.

That risk is why the federal government is willing to fund 65 percent of the roughly \$5million construction cost of the project. The rest of the cost would have to come from local sources, although part of it could be in noncash contributions, such as the land along the creek next to Hogan Dam Road that Calaveras County Water District owns.

Creating huge catch basins on that land and elsewhere could greatly reduce the intensity of floods and the damage they do downstream along the Calaveras River - including areas where that river flows through Stockton and eastern San Joaquin County.

Jeff Davidson, a director for Calaveras County Water District, said the manicured greens of La Contenta Golf Course are among areas that get inundated.

"When the water comes up and recedes, it takes all those (turf) chemicals down the river with it," Davidson said.

Davidson asked county supervisors to share the \$600,000 to \$700,000 cost of the feasibility study necessary to design the project. He said federal officials would pay half, and local agencies would have to come up with the rest. Some of the match could be in in-kind services by planners and analysts.

County supervisors generally praised the project and agreed to work with CCWD on the study. But supervisors also said they were uneasy with dumping extra work on the county's Planning Department and asked why county planners hadn't prevented people from building homes in the flood plain in the first place.

"I'm very disappointed to see we've allowed so much building to go on in the flood plain," Supervisor Tom Tryon said.

The Army Corps estimated it would cost \$13.5million to relocate 150 homes and other structures from the Cosgrove flood plain. Lifting all those buildings above the flood level would cost \$8.4million.

The Corps concluded that digging basins to hold floodwater in combination with restoration of

flood-plain habitat along the creek is the alternative that has the greatest payback, saving more in future damage than the cost of the project.

Such a project could and probably should include habitat restoration and trails that would allow walkers and cyclists access from downtown Valley Springs to the outlying La Contenta and Rancho Calaveras subdivisions, according to a Corps report.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com

Mother Lode Transit alliance in crisis

By Dana M. Nichols

Record Staff Writer

January 05, 2007 6:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - Money squabbles are threatening to tear apart the three-county alliance that has cooperated to pool state transportation dollars needed for major highway projects, including the not-yet-built \$60.2 million Highway 4 bypass around Angels Camp.

Merita Callaway, chairwoman of both the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors and the Calaveras Council of Governments, says the 1998 agreement under which the counties have cooperated is "in a bit of a crisis."

The crisis is rooted in the California Department of Transportation's repeated requests for price increases on projects. The most recent increase - a \$12.8 million jump in the cost of the Angels Camp bypass because of increased costs in acquiring rights of ways - won reluctant approval last month from the Calaveras Council of Governments.

But the boards overseeing transportation spending in Amador and Alpine counties balked, refusing to approve the increase. Officials in those counties said Caltrans failed to convince them that the increase was justified. Also, approving the increase would mortgage state highway dollars for those counties additional years into the future, preventing them from completing urgently needed work on their county roads.

"We need to maintain our roads before they get so bad we end up having to turn them into dirt roads," said Dennis Cardoza, public works director for Alpine County.

When the three counties signed a cooperation deal in 1998, they expected that completing four planned projects - passing lanes on portions of Highway 88 and Highway 4, and highway bypasses for Sutter Creek and Angels Camp - might take a decade. They calculated they could keep county roads passable for that time.

But cost increases already approved - including an earlier \$15 million hike last year for the Angels Camp bypass - mean that state road dollars to the three counties are now committed through at least 2012 and possibly 2015.

Cardoza says his county needs an immediate \$3 million in the next year or two to fix roads so they will last until 2020, when he can be sure the current round of projects will be paid off.

In Amador County, in addition to the general cost overrun problem, officials say they are being shorted about \$1 million for the cost to repair a section of Highway 49 that is supposed to be relinquished to the county when the Amador-Sutter bypass opens sometime in early February.

"We can't just let Caltrans run wild with the money," said Richard Forster, a member of the Amador County Transportation Commission and the Amador County Board of Supervisors. "We are very concerned about the processes (Caltrans) used in their initial estimates."

A Caltrans representative declined to discuss the repeated cost increases. Caltrans has, in the past, cited increased construction costs for its requested increases.

"We look forward to finding a solution to this problem," said Troy Bowers, a spokesman for Caltrans District 10, based in Stockton. "I really don't want to negotiate this thing in the paper."

If the crisis is not resolved by Jan. 16, then the Angels Camp bypass project won't make a deadline to appear on the March agenda for the California Transportation Commission. That, in turn, will delay the start of the project, which was supposed to begin construction this summer.

"If we delay it a year, costs just continue to skyrocket," Cardoza said. He said that although the Highway 4 bypass project is in Calaveras County, it benefits Alpine County by improving access to the popular Bear Valley ski resort.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com.

Calaveras ordered to create stormwater plan

By Dana M. Nichols

Record Staff Writer

January 29, 2007 6:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - Drive along Latrobe Road in El Dorado County, where bulldozers are clearing the way for development, and you will see a patchwork of woven mats, loose straw, netting and artificial berms arranged to keep rain from washing the loose dirt into creeks and rivers.

You won't see that as often in Calaveras County. And that is why the county is in trouble with state water-pollution cops.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has ordered Calaveras County to come up with a stormwater control plan within six months or face fines. Builders are the biggest culprits, and county building inspectors have not forced them to curb pollution from runoff, the regional board said.

A Dec. 27 letter from the board said inspections of construction sites in Calaveras County by board staff had revealed that "the county lacked an effective construction oversight program."

The letter also said storm runoff from Calaveras County construction sites is a significant source of water pollution. The board gave the county until June 25 to come up with a plan.

County Public Works Director Rob Houghton, to whom the letter was addressed, bristled at the state's suggestion that county employees should have been policing stormwater pollution.

"It's their program," Houghton said of the state board. "What they were saying is that they weren't able to administer it at their level, so they are asking us to step in and administer it on their behalf.

"The way it was previously structured, the burden was on the discharger, which is a euphemism for the contractor or the property owner."

Houghton said Calaveras County is nearing the 50,000-population level at which such local-government-run stormwater control programs are mandatory anyway.

"We've been working on a grading ordinance in anticipation of this happening," Houghton said. "We knew this was coming. I think it got here a year sooner than we expected."

Houghton said county staff will hold a study session Feb. 20 with the county Board of Supervisors on stormwater issues. Direction supervisors give then will provide the basis for responding to the state letter.

Bill Marshall, chief engineer for the water-quality board's stormwater division, said the December letter is only his agency's latest effort to encourage Calaveras County to crack down on construction-site pollution. He said county officials have not responded either to the December letter or to earlier communications.

And he said private-sector builders in the county also have been unresponsive in some cases.

"We've had a couple of fines that we've issued down there," Marshall said. "Sometimes you issue some fines, and all the developers kind of straighten out. ... But in the case of Calaveras County, it has been business as usual."

The Copperopolis area in particular has been under scrutiny for its storm runoff practices in the past few months. Calaveras County Water District has put several builders - at the La Cobre Mina and Copper Hills subdivisions - on notice that it, too, objected to failures to manage storm runoff properly.

But a representative of at least one major developer that has been inspected by the regional board staff said the developer is going to great lengths to comply fully with state-required runoff control measures.

Artificial berms, erosion-control netting and straw are visible where bulldozers have been working on the Copperopolis Town Square development, just off Highway 4 at Little John Road.

"If you come out and look at our project, we've got the stuff all over the place," said Paul Stein, vice president of land planning for Castle & Cooke Calaveras Inc., the developer behind the project. "We try to make sure that we are complying 100 percent."

Marshall said all cities and counties in the region with populations of more than 100,000 already have stormwater plans, and most smaller local governments in San Joaquin County also have put a stop to the worst abuses at construction sites.

Ripon, for example, has less than one-third the population as Calaveras County but has a stormwater pollution prevention program in place.

"It was not real costly, but (it required) a quarter of an employee. That's a fair amount of time," said Matt Machado, a spokesman for Ripon's engineering department.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com.

Joyce Techel

From: "Joyce Techel" <jaytee@caltel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2007 8:05 AM
Subject: Calaveras courts in size bind

Calaveras courts in size bind

Published: February 6, 2007

By CAT SIEH

The Union Democrat

Like its jail, Calaveras County's aging courthouse is also overcrowded, but relief from the state this year is unlikely.

Of the courthouse's three court rooms, just two are big enough to accommodate a jury trial. One of those rooms is shared by the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, which meets there each Tuesday.

The county is one of seven on the state's high-priority list for a new courthouse, but funding for the Calaveras County project was denied by the California Department of Finance this year.

A private consulting firm hired by the county has proposed a \$52 million six-room courthouse that would adjoin a new jail.

The county is reapplying for the funding this month in hopes the project will be approved during the state budget's May revision.

In the meantime, the court scheduling is a challenge — for example, three high-profile criminal jury trials are set to begin on the same day next month.

The trial roster for March 22 includes: Daniel Hawkins, 18, charged with the 2005 attempted robbery of El Dorado Savings in San Andreas; Anthony Mann, 20, charged with

vehicular manslaughter in a 2004 double-fatality White Pines car crash; and Donald Pinon, 22, and Daniel Rocha, 21, both accused of the 2005 slaying of a Mokelumne Hill teenager.

Attorneys expect the trials to last about one, two and three weeks respectively.

If all cases proceeded without delays, settlement or further motion hearings, the court would be booked far over capacity.

"This court can't handle three major trials at the same time," said Judge Duane Martin, during a pretrial hearing for Hawkins on Wednesday.

The March 22 conflict poses a particular problem, as Pinon and Rocha are set to be tried in the same courtroom, by two separate juries.

State guidelines outlined in 2002 require a room with 100- to 150-seat capacity for multi-litigant trials.

Court Executive Officer Mary Beth Todd, who oversees all non-judicial aspects of the court, said she dodges scheduling hang-ups every day, though a conflict involving several high-profile criminal trials is unusual.

Todd said the last time she can remember a similar situation was in 1988, when two capitol murder cases took place during the same period, in side-by-side courtrooms.

"For the most part, these things do resolve, and it works out," she said. "They so often have new motions and new information that comes up that requires us to move the trial date."

In this case, each defendant exercised his right to a speedy trial, leaving the court no option to push any of the trials back. However, attorneys are still discussing a possible settlement in Hawkins' case.

"It is a real problem," said Calaveras County District Attorney Jeff Tuttle. "The defendants have a right to have their trial in a certain period of time, and when push comes to shove (the

Meth plague draws crowd in Moke Hill- Residents say they've had it

Calaveras Enterprise-March 23, 2007

By Maveric Vu

Mokelumne Hill resident Pamela Hill had her purse stolen from inside her home.

"I thought, 'This is just what kids do,'" she said.

"I wonder how many of us just take it?"

Now small town residents are banding together to stop possible methamphetamine-related crimes, as more than 80 people showed up at a town hall meeting Tuesday night in Mokelumne Hill.

"There have been a lot of what I consider minor thefts," said Hill, who didn't report the crime to law enforcement.

One resident had the battery stolen from her car parked in her driveway. Another described a line of cars coming and going to her neighbor's house at all hours of the night.

These reports, as well as accounts of drug trafficking at nearby Protestant cemetery, fueled a gathering of residents, county officials and the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department.

"We can see it, observe it, we can hear it," said cemetery chair Jane Canty of the area's theft, destruction of property and drug abuse.

According to Calaveras County Sheriff Dennis Downum, 17 calls were received in proximity to the cemetery in the past 14 months. Mokelumne Hill has had 818 calls total.

However, this is dwarfed by huge spikes in Valley Springs and Copperopolis, which had 5,297 and 2,442 calls respectively.

"People I assign up here are constantly getting sucked out to take care of something in Valley Springs," Downum said.

Downum said it's a constant balancing act to deploy his total 57 deputies to the areas that require the most attention.

Now the Sheriff's Department hopes to increase its presence in Mokelumne Hill by establishing a substation at the Mokelumne Hill Fire Station.

Residents said response times and crime prevention were better back when there was an office at the Hotel Leger.

Methamphetamine use has been steadily climbing in rural counties across the nation and small communities are starting to feel the pressure.

court has) to find a way."

In the past, when conflicts have occurred, the county has used the old courthouse, in downtown San Andreas, to hear cases, although hearings for defendants in custody cannot be held there.

Todd said she doesn't know why the proposed new courthouse wasn't funded this year, but noted that the original proposal didn't include an analysis of what it would cost to renovate the current courthouse.

The state generally wants those figures, Todd said, to be sure a new building is required.

"To some extent, we look at our courthouse and we say 'well that's kind of a no-brainer,' " Todd said.

If the state did approve courthouse funding this year, Todd said it will likely be five more years before construction begins.

"I just need space!" she laughed. "We are at maximum capacity."

Contact Cat Sieh at csieh@uniondemocrat.com or 736-8097.

Calaveras saw 60 arrests related to methamphetamine in 2005, according to past reports.

To curb the problem, the county received \$295,000 for 18 months from a state grant and established the new California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team, which helps protect kids exposed to the drug.

Downum said that the cemetery has always been tagged as a teenage hangout, even back when he was growing up, but the methamphetamine was "changing the whole dynamic."

According to deputies, the last methamphetamine bust in Mokelumne Hill took place in December.

While many residents understood the limitations of law enforcement, some were concerned about how to stop drug trafficking from sullyng their community.

According to Health Services Director Jeanne Boyce, violence, erratic behavior and odd sleeping patterns are key signs of drug abuse.

"There is help out there for you," she said during the meeting.

She emphasized that there was hope, and that it takes a community to rebuild a person's life.

Health Services provides a number of programs to help addicts and their families, such as counseling and group meetings.

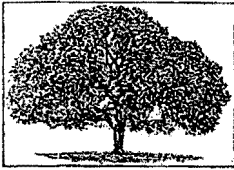
The devastating effects of the drug use rang true for Mokelumne Hill resident Melinda Ervin, whose daughter is a recovering addict.

Ervin told the room that her daughter's son had to be taken away through the courts.

"We're not going to be quiet until something is done in this town," she said.

The meeting ended on a positive note. District 2 Supervisor Steve Wilensky invited each attendee with personal issues to talk with Downum, Boyce and Suzie Coe, a Neighborhood Watch specialist who could help start groups in Mokelumne Hill.

"This is the place where you never had to lock your door," Wilensky said. "And I think people feel that this is a place worth defending."



CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

3304-B Highway 12

P.O. Box 788

San Andreas, CA 95249

RECEIVED (209) 754-3504

www.Calaveras.k12.Ca.us

July 25, 2007

JUL 27 2007
CALAVERAS COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Supervisor Claudino,

Since everyone seems to be commenting on issues of growth and development in our county I felt it was time that I made the Board of Supervisors aware of the needs of the Calaveras Unified School District as many of the proposed developments are within our district boundaries. First, I want to go on record that we do not promote or protest any particular project. We are confident that the wisdom of the Board of Supervisors and their processes will prevail for the best future for our county.

In the best interest of our school district we need well-planned growth that will bring both more students and ongoing developer fees for our district. We need this for two reasons. First, in order to qualify for state dollars for facilities renovation and additional facilities we need to slow district growth, as our eligibility is tied to growth calculations. This allows us to bring tax dollars paid by our citizens back to our district instead of directing them to large growth counties in Southern California and Central Valley. Second, in order to build new and replace older facilities that our district desperately needed we passed a general obligation bond, used developer fees and borrowed money in order to build facilities and qualify for state matching funds. We use developer fees to service the debt of our borrowing. The payment is approximately \$690,000 per year. Present revenue from this source has been declining and is in danger of not servicing our debt. There is no way to judge whether this is due to the present moratorium, or the poor real estate market. My guess is both contribute. However, if this present trend continues we must service this debt from the educational bond. This will have grave consequences for our children, district employees and county in general. Employee lay-offs and possible reorganization of schools including closing up country sites will be at the head of the list for economics. These both would be devastating and areas we have fought to maintain.

Thank you for considering our needs. If you have questions please call 754-2102 work, 795-5665 home.

Sincerely,

James L. Frost
Superintendent
Calaveras Unified School District

JF:jd

'Valley Springs area growth outpaces its electricity'

Quotes from: Calaveras Enterprise, 9-14-07

"Calaveras County Water District officials are blaming residential growth in the Valley Springs area and a lack of planning for such growth by PG&E for a recent "severe low-voltage imbalance" affecting the Jenny Lind water treatment plant and distribution system that supplies Rancho Calaveras and La Contenta subdivision."

"Fred Burnett, regulatory affairs manager with CCWD...said, "The wires are a problem," indicating that electrical lines can't carry the loads required to service new residential developments in the western part of the county."

"The affected facilities include the sewage pump station on Huckleberry Lane; the water pump station on Hartvickson Lane and Heinemann Drive; and the water treatment plant on Silver Rapids Road, which supplies the whole area with water."

"PG&E has caused a lot of problems for us down there," said Davidson..."Because of their lack of planning, those people down there could be without water and sewage."

"[Perley] reported to the Board that the backup emergency system was presently operating the water system in Jenny Lind."

"We could be in a situation where we could only produce 1 million gallons of water per day."

"We've been without power for three weeks now..."

Valley Springs area growth outpaces its electricity

By Phillip Gomez

Calaveras County Water District officials are blaming residential growth in the Valley Springs area and a lack of planning for such growth by PG&E for a recent "severe low-voltage imbalance" affecting the Jenny Lind water treatment plant and distribution system that supplies Rancho Calaveras and La Contenta subdivision. The power fluctuation has cost the Calaveras County Water District some \$250,000 in fuel costs to run backup electric generators, overtime wages for electricians and mechanics as well as damages to equipment over the past three weeks. The problem – and its costs – is expected to continue for another week or two. The generator fuel costs alone come to \$1,000 per day, every day from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. Neighbors have been complaining of the noise it makes. Other costs include: — A UPS power regulator for the ozone system, costing \$50,000, to deal with the problem of dielectrics and blown fuses from the low voltage, which dipped as low as 12 volts, according to PG&E's own monitoring. CCWD's monitoring showed 23 volts as the low. — Three "soft starts," costing \$20,000, are needed to convert AC to DC, in order to take voltage spikes out of the system. — Several motors, for a total of \$20,000, are needed to

replace damaged ones. "Nobody's denying there's a problem," said Bill Perley, director of utilities for CCWD. Perley said he's had nothing but cooperative relations with PG&E field employees and doesn't blame them at all. It's PG&E's management that he and other CCWD staffers criticized for cutting PG&E service and field employees in Angels Camp – which is the sole service provider for the whole county – during a time of conspicuous population growth. Fred Burnett, regulatory affairs manager with CCWD, but previously in Perley's job, said, "The wires are a problem," indicating that electrical lines can't carry the loads required to service new residential developments in the western part of the county. Burnett was sympathetic to PG&E for the staggering costs it faces. "They spent \$2.4 million in Copperopolis (for new development last year)," he said. "They still need to do more. They need to bring more power." The affected facilities include the sewage pump station on Huckleberry Lane; the water pump station on Hartvickson Lane and Heinemann Drive; and the water treatment plant on Silver Rapids Road, which supplies the whole area with water. Perley said that two years ago CCWD spent \$150,000 on a new standby generator of 750 kW for the Jenny Lind area. "We'd be dead without it," he said Wednesday. The pump is currently supplying water to both the A and the B service zones of the Jenny Lind area. By luck, Mozingo Construction recently completed work installing 2,700 feet of 12-inch pipeline along Highway 26 and Jenny Lind Road in the Rancho Calaveras area. The extension,

completed last month, connected the two service zones in the area, facilitating water distribution systemwide.

"It appears the new pipeline has taken the load off the B zone tank," Perley told the board.

Also completed last month was an 85-foot water tank in Valley Springs, the replacement for the redwood water tank destroyed in the 2004 Pattison fire that burned 17 homes in the area. The \$1.8 million project was paid for mostly through the state Office of Emergency Services. The new tank only this month became operational when the required laboratory testing was completed. Together with a new pump station on Dennis Court, they provide increased water pressure for residential and commercial customers and for firefighters in suppressing fires.

During the issue's discussion at Wednesday's CCWD board meeting, Richard DeRivi, vice president of the board of directors for the Jenny Lind Fire District, spoke first on holding PG&E liable for damage claims. CCWD Director Robert Dean seconded his recommendation, telling General Manager David Andres, "Inform PG&E we're going to file some claims." "It's going to take them some time to work on it," Andres said.

But Director Jeff Davidson, recently reelected to the board, was less forgiving. He said repeatedly that PG&E should have planned better. "I mean, gosh, they had to know (what is happening with the growth). "They know what they need to do," said Perley. "It's just not happening fast enough." "PG&E has caused a lot of problems for us down there," said Davidson, who represents CCWD's District 5, the greater

Valley Springs sub-district. "It's ridiculous. We have to hold PG&E accountable for our overtime (and other costs). They're a company. ... If they're negligent, we need to go after them. ... Because of their lack of planning, those people down there could be without water and sewage." Davidson continued: "They're the worst agency around. Their lack of planning is causing us a lot of expense. We can't let these people dictate what we do."

Earlier, Director Ed Rich had commented on the dysfunctionality of government agencies in accomplishing things. Rich named the federal, state and local county governments as dysfunctional entities. Director Charlie Hebrard, who represents District 1 and was recently defeated in his bid for reelection against Phil McCartney, had then said of PG&E, "They're not a government agency, but they act like one." An unidentified longtime union employee of PG&E happened to be in the room, it turned out. Speaking sheepishly at first, he recommended the board file a complaint with the Public Utility Commission, saying it was the normal process for settling such claims. Later, the PG&E man, who didn't want to be identified, said the utility has steadily cut service field staff over the past couple of decades to reduce operational costs. Perley said, "The cost of fixing this problem is \$250,000," an estimate he said derived from a PG&E engineer in Stockton. "They are responding." When he reported to the board that the backup emergency system was presently operating the water system in Jenny Lind, Hebrard asked him, "Are we at the bottom of

our barrel, so to speak?" Perley replied, "I do have a couple of portables (water pumps) out there." Hebrard wanted more assurance: "We still have some depth left, right?" "We could be in a situation where we could only produce 1 million gallons of water per day." He then said he planned to contact some rental companies to rent portable water pumps for standby operations. "We have a prime responsibility to keep the water flowing," Rich said. "You have got to look at a backup to the backup system." Perley, in an interview afterward, said he started to complain about the PG&E situation a year ago. He said the utility had worked well with him on the lack of infrastructure in Copperopolis. On Thursday Perley reported that PG&E had contacted him to say that engineers were taking corrective measures for the voltage problem in the area. "Isn't this amazing?" he said, focusing on the positive. "Think about it. We've been without power for three weeks now, and nobody knows it. All you get is a couple of noise complaints. That shows what a good job we're doing. From my perspective that's the most mind-boggling of all." In the past two years CCWD has spent heavily on infrastructure improvements in the Jenny Lind area, Perley said. Off the top of his head, he recounted those improvements: — \$1 million in maintenance costs — \$500,000 in new pipeline construction — \$4.2 million in upgrades of the water plant. — \$400,000 for the Dennis Court pump station. — \$1.5 million for the Valley Springs water storage

tank replacement — \$60,000 for electrical upgrades at the tank in the A service zone "The board approved all this stuff," Perley said. "I have to give the board credit. We haven't had any interrupted service in water and sewer in that whole area. ... The main thing they did right is they approved all this stuff. They don't argue with me."

Contact Phillip Gomez at pgomez@calaverasenterprise.com.



Enterprise photo by Phillip Gomez.

Bill Perley, with 33 years experience in water, wastewater treatment and electrical, is director of utility services for the Calaveras County Water District. Perley runs the water district's complex grid of pump stations from his desktop computer in San Andreas.

Incentives offered to fill empty county positions

By Colin Rigley

Calaveras Enterprise-(8-31-07)

Calaveras County is throwing more money at new hires in an attempt to fill crucial county positions that have been vacant for over a year in hopes of getting the Planning Department and Public Works back on track.

Planner III positions will now get a 12 percent boost in salary to \$33,612. In addition, Humane Resources is creating recruitment, relocation and retention incentives for planners, as well as engineers in Public Works.

Recruitment incentives are bonuses for new hires that can range from \$50 to \$6,000; said Francine Osborn, Humane Resources director. A \$3,500 bonus has proven most successful in other counties.

Relocation incentives, which are bonuses for department heads that have to move to the county, are also being raised from \$3,500 to \$4,500.

Finally, Humane Resources will start offering yearly bonuses to new hires to keep them in the county. The county is offering planners and engineers a \$1,000 bonus after the first year, another \$500 a year for four years and \$3,000 for the fifth year.

"We need to do something," Supervisor Tom Tryon said. "It's absolutely critical that these positions get filled."

The Planning Department has three vacancies for high-level planners that the county has been unable to fill for over a year in some cases. Community Development Director Stephanie Moreno said one of the positions has been empty since before she was hired last May.

Senior-level planners are crucial to county operations. The Community Development Agency is understaffed and struggling with its daily operations, which include processing more than 200 applications before the county moratorium on new developments ends this December.

Additionally, planners are needed during the general plan update process to oversee community plans. Calaveras County supervisors decided that communities can develop their own plans, but a senior planner must have final say to make sure they are legal and consistent with the General Plan.

Supervisor Steve Wilensky noted that the county is still trying to update the General Plan on a two-year timeline, something nearly everyone in the room laughed at. Wilensky said the two-year update was overly optimistic in the first place, but "it was made ludicrous by the lack of personnel to do it.

The Public Works Department is also trying to entice people to fill openings for a senior engineer and deputy director of engineering. The deputy director position

has been open for about six months and the senior engineer for about a year, Public Works Director Rob Houghton said.

Without a senior engineer, Public Works is unable to make improvements to county roads and bridges that the county has identified as deficient, Houghton said. The department has funding for the improvements, but is unable to make them without the necessary personnel.

The deputy director plays a large roll in the county and is responsible for project oversight, which Houghton said is becoming crucial to the county with the increased level of development.

"With significant growth going on...I think the board (of supervisors) has seen that (position) as one of their top priorities," Houghton said.

Hiring problems are not limited to the Planning and Public Works departments. Randy Metzger, county assessor, recently cut back some of the department's services because of staffing shortages and an inability to provide sufficient salaries.

The Sheriff's Department is also approaching critical shortages, according to Sheriff Dennis Downum. Citing money issues, Downum said his department is down seven deputies and about to lose two more after two of his sergeants announced they were leaving to work in another county.

"What is terrifying to me is...these are people that were born and raised in this county that we absolutely believed we would hold on to forever, Downum said, adding that the department has poured years of training and resources into the sergeants.

Downum said it is typical to have about four open positions but the seven vacancies crept up on him.

"(If) we get around 10 openings, we're going to be at a critical stage," he said.

Although other departments were not included in Osborn's proposal, it was recommended that empty positions throughout the county be given similar incentives in the future.

SUE A. SCHULLER
Fire Prevention Specialist

Cell Phone/Voice Mail - 209-604-8045
P.O. Box 911, Murphys, CA 95247

December 31, 2007

As I prepare to leave my post as Fire Prevention Planner for this County I wanted to share some thoughts with all of you regarding the future of this County and how it relates to it's fire prevention needs.

I believe that I accomplished what I set out to do 10 years ago, which was to meet the needs of this County to maintain and enforce minimum fire and life safety standards for all new projects coming across my desk. However, I may have done this County a disservice by not asserting myself effectively in the political arena to ensure that my efforts would continue long after my departure. I believe the "gap" between the local fire agencies and the Building and Planning Departments have been bridged, which was one of my most rewarding challenges during my tenure, but there is so much more that can be done. Many of you have never met me but just knew that whatever fire prevention responsibilities were required in this County were satisfactorily addressed.

In these days of dwindling resources and lack of funding we must all become creative and cultivate new and additional sources of help to assist us in protecting our citizens of this County. For the past 23 years it has been my passion and my responsibility as a certified California Fire Prevention Officer to educate the public and create an awareness of fire safety whether it be in their homes, in public places or in the businesses they work.

It is my hope that you will make an effort to recognize the importance of finding and creating the required funding to provide a full-time certified Fire Prevention Officer for this County. Further, I believe it is imperative that you support this position and recognize that it is not only necessary, but also a State requirement that this County meet and enforce minimum fire and life safety standards. As I wind down on my final day it disappoints me to know that the County still does not have a plan in place to carry on all that has been established in the area of fire prevention, or in working towards creating a multi-agency organization to ensure that the County is at least meeting the minimum fire and life safety standards.

I encourage all of you to step up to the plate and take the necessary action to meet the needs of our schools, educate our children about safety awareness, teach our working professionals as well as the average citizen off the street and promise them a continued safe environment in which they can all live in. The term that is so frequently used "we are working on that" just isn't enough. I urge you to set a deadline that an actual plan is being created and implemented, time is of the essence.

An ounce of prevention can go a long way, I have proven that. I do hope that my efforts and passion will continue to move Calaveras County forward in the world of public fire safety.

Thank you for your time and may you find peace in the New Year to come.

SAS

Joyce Techel

From: "Joyce Techel" <jaytee@caltel.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2008 3:30 AM
Subject: State audit slams Calaveras error-County may have to return \$314,543-fyi-jt

State audit slams Calaveras error
County may have to return \$314,543

By Dana M. Nichols
Record Staff Writer
February 21, 2008 6:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - California officials say Calaveras County should return \$313,543.44 in state money the county took by inappropriately classifying grazing land in agricultural preserves as prime farmland.

The grazing land error is just one of a number of problems discovered during a California Department of Conservation audit of Calaveras County's administration of the Williamson Act, a program that gives ranchers tax breaks if they promise not to carve up their land for development.

The audit, released this month, also found that some property owners got tax breaks for preserving farmland even as they were building houses or, in one case, a golf course on agricultural preserve land.

VIOLATIONS

A state Department of Conservation audit found that since 2004, at least five projects in Calaveras County violated the Williamson Act because they were built in agricultural preserves:

- A \$400,000 home built on Pony Way just west of Angels Camp
- A \$43,000 home next door to the Pony Way lot
- A \$700,000 home on Shelton Road west of Jenny Lind
- A \$700,000 home on Mountain Ranch Road just west of Mountain Ranch
- The Trinitas Golf Course on Ospital Road south of Wallace

Department of Conservation officials have also ordered the county to respond to the audit and to propose remedies for the projects built in agricultural preserves, including the Trinitas Golf Course near Wallace, which was completed before an agricultural preserve and the related tax break on the property expired in 2006.

At least four different county departments have a hand in administering the Williamson Act and its tax breaks.

Calaveras County Agricultural Commissioner Mary Mutz and Tax Assessor Randy Metzger said Wednesday they believe the audit is accurate. They said several factors, including poor communication among departments and a misunderstanding of state law, caused the problems in administering the Williamson Act.

"We read the rules differently," Metzger said of the misclassification of grazing land.

The state pays counties \$5 per year per acre of prime farmland to make up for money lost due to Williamson Act tax breaks. The state only pays counties \$1 per year per acre if the land is not prime.

For more than a decade, Calaveras County has claimed that more than 15,000 acres of grazing land was prime. Now the state says it is not, and Calaveras has to give back the extra state money it got over the past five years. The county is still ahead over all, however, because the state is only going back five years, and Calaveras received the extra money for more than a decade, Metzger said.

The grazing land mistake won't affect property owners directly. But other county errors could.

The audit found four homes and the Trinitas golf course likely violated the Williamson Act and that county officials allowed property owners to carve up lots and receive building permits despite the law's ban on such activities.

That could mean hefty penalties of 25 percent of the value of properties where construction violates the law.

In the case of Ron Truman, that means he could get hit with a \$250,000 fine for the 3,300-square-foot home he completed last year on agricultural preserve land near Mountain Ranch.

Truman said Wednesday that he had not yet heard of the state's audit or its order that county officials should remedy violations.

Mike Nemea, owner and builder of Trinitas Golf Course, said he also was only just learning of the audit.

Work is now under way on an environmental review of the Trinitas project that could be used to determine how and whether Nemea could make up for environmental problems caused by the course.

Stephanie Moreno, head of the Calaveras County Community Development Agency, did not respond to calls Wednesday asking for her comment. Her agency oversees the departments that allowed Nemea to build his golf course.

Kathy Mayhew is a member of Keep It Rural Calaveras, a group that formed to oppose the Trinitas Golf Course. She said the logical remedy is for county officials to deny Nemea a permit to open the course for business.

"They can stop him now," Mayhew said. "They could have stopped him then," she said of the years when county officials allowed construction to proceed.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com.

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Possible Solutions From Other Communities

Modesto Bee

Posted on Sat, Feb. 23, 2008

Court ruling is a victory for valley group's decision to charge developers fees

By KEN CARLSON kcarlson@modbee.com

last updated: February 23, 2008 06:45:54 AM

FRESNO -- A judge ruled Thursday that it is legal for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to charge air pollution fees on builders of housing subdivisions and commercial developments.

In 2006, the building industry, a taxpayer group and the Modesto Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit in Fresno County Superior Court challenging the fees. Those groups contend the fees are illegal because they are not directly related to air pollution emissions.

The district imposes the fees on developments with more than 50 housing units and commercial projects in the eight counties within its regulatory reach of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern.

The valley air district's rule was the first of its kind in the state when adopted in late 2005 and holds developers accountable for air pollution resulting from urban sprawl.

District officials Friday applauded Judge Donald Black's decision upholding the policy.

"We now hope the state Building Industry Association joins our many local developers, who have embraced this rule and are working with us to improve the valley's air quality," said Seyed Sadredin, the district's executive director. "We sincerely hope that we can work collaboratively for the valley's benefit."

A building industry official said he expected the plaintiffs will appeal.

"We knew this was going to be a long process," said Steve Madison, executive officer of the Building Industry Association of Central California. "Regardless of what occurred in the first round, we knew it is going to an appeal."

Among the plaintiffs were the California Building Industry Association, the Valley Taxpayers Coalition, the Coalition of Urban Renewal Excellence and the Modesto chamber.

Builders have questioned the fairness of imposing air cleanup costs that are passed on to home buyers and business owners in new developments, when others aren't required to pay.

Madison said increasing tail- pipe fees would be more equitable, but the district doesn't have the authority, so it is imposing the requirements on new developments as a condition of local government approvals.

He said some builders are being charged \$1,000 to nearly \$2,000 per house. Along with their payments, many builders are submitting letters saying they are paying under protest pending the outcome of the litigation.

The district policy aims to reduce motor vehicle tailpipe emissions as traffic circulates among new homes, shopping centers and schools in newly developed areas of cities.

Developers are given credit for designing their projects to offset pollution, by including sidewalks and bike lanes and putting retail outlets near homes, so people are walking to the store instead of driving. Philip Jay, the air district's legal counsel, said Friday the fees average \$400 to \$500 per house for developers that make an effort to reduce pollution. In 2006, air district officials estimated the fees would generate more than \$100 million from new construction over three years.

The money pays for efforts to reduce pollution, such as retrofitting school buses and diesel trucks with cleaner engines.

The building industry has noted that a significant portion of the fees has gone to reduce pollution caused by agricultural equipment, instead of having farmers pay to reduce pollution.

If the court decision is appealed, the case would go to the 5th District Court of Appeal in Fresno.

Bee staff writer Ken Carlson can be reached at kcarlson@modbee.com or 578-2321.

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:06 AM

Subject: Another community resolves a development impact issue-FYI-JT

New tax weighed for water project

By Jeff Hood

Lodi Bureau Chief

November 15, 2006 6:00 AM

LODI - A water project costing nearly \$30 million could be paid entirely by new Lodi residents through a future special tax district, a consultant told the City Council on Tuesday.

The annual bill for homeowners would range from an estimated \$283 a year for high-density dwellings to \$993 a year for homes on larger lots, according to Susan Goodwin, head of a company that administers about 50 special districts throughout California.

Lodi officials requested Goodwin's study as part of its decision whether to build a plant to treat Mokelumne River water it buys each year from the Woodbridge Irrigation District to bolster drinking supplies, or whether it should use the water to recharge aquifers. The City Council could decide in January which option it prefers, City Manager Blair King said Tuesday.

"If the council wants to insulate existing ratepayers for that cost, the chance for that is now," King said.

"The premise is new development should not affect the quality of life or service of existing residents."

The City Council agreed in 2003 to pay the irrigation district \$1.2million a year for 40 years to buy 6,000 acre-feet of water - roughly a third of the city's current annual demand - but has yet to capture a drop from the Mokelumne.

Existing ratepayers' water bills were raised in May 2004, before King's arrival, so the city could make the payment to WID.

City officials say Lodi can continue to meet its ongoing water needs through its series of wells, but it needs the irrigation district water to supply future

developments such as Reynolds Ranch and the proposed Westside and Southwest Gateway annexations, which eventually would add more than 3,000 homes to the city.

Lodi developers Tom Doucette of FCB Homes, which proposed the Southwest Gateway and Westside projects, and Dale Gillespie of San Joaquin Valley Land Co., which is building Reynolds Ranch, declined to say after the meeting whether they supported Goodwin's findings. Their developments together would use an estimated 1,400 acre-feet of water per year, according to a study approved by the City Council in July.

Councilman John Beckman asked King if it was fair that the new development pay the entire bill when it wouldn't be using all the water.

"You can't buy a sixth seat for a five-seat sedan," King responded. "You've got to buy the whole new car."

Contact Lodi Bureau Chief Jeff Hood at (209) 367-7427 or jhood@recordnet.com

VI. ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

This report identifies a significant funding responsibility for the County in the form of regional-roadway and state-highway improvements and improvements to local roads of regional significance. These include improvements that are related to demand generated by existing development, the costs for which cannot be passed on to new development based on the restrictions of Government Code sections 66000 *et al.* (AB1600). As discussed in this chapter, the total cost of all improvements, including improvements required support new development, is estimated at \$156.5 million.

Some of the estimated cost may be funded using the County's share of identified STIP dollars, if the project in the proposed RIM Program is eligible for STIP funding as well. Other portions of selected project costs may be funded by State RIP dollars. However, a large share, most probably more than \$85 million, of the \$156.5 million in total roadway improvement costs remains unfunded.

The following funding sources are recommended for further consideration by the County to assemble this required funding.

- **District Gasoline Tax.** The County should consider trying to establish an additional quarter-cent, half-cent, or full-cent tax on gasoline sales in unincorporated Calaveras County. Fuel sales taxes require a two-thirds vote of the electorate and are difficult to pass. Based on Caltrans consumption models, nearly 874 million gallons of gasoline is projected to be sold in the County (limitations in data reporting include consumption for the City of Angels in this total) between 2004 and 2025. As shown in Table 11, a quarter-cent increase in per-gallon sales taxes on gasoline would yield \$2.2 million, a half cent would yield \$4.4 million, and a full cent would yield \$8.7 million in revenues for the RIM Program. An advantage of this tax is that visitors purchasing fuel in the County would assist in paying for roadway improvements.
- **District Sales Tax.** The County should consider trying to establish an additional quarter-cent or half-cent sales tax on all taxable goods sold in unincorporated Calaveras County. District sales taxes require a two-thirds vote of the electorate and are difficult to pass. Based on Board of Equalization data that estimates a yearly increase of 6.13 percent in nominal taxable sales, taxable sales between 2004 and 2025 are projected to total \$6.7 billion in unincorporated Calaveras County. As shown in Table 12, a quarter-cent increase in the sales tax rate would yield \$16.8 million over that period, and a half cent would yield \$33.7 million in revenues for the RIM Program. San Joaquin County currently levies a half-cent Measure K sales tax that is dedicated to transportation funding.

- **Parcel Tax.** The County should consider trying to establish a parcel tax or non-ad valorem property tax for landowners in unincorporated Calaveras County. Parcel taxes require two-thirds of the electorate and are difficult to pass. As shown in Table 13, a \$25-per-parcel annual tax would yield \$22.7 million between 2004 and 2025, a \$50-per-parcel tax would yield \$45.4 million, and a \$75-per-parcel tax would yield \$68.1 million in revenues for the RIM Program. An advantage of this tax is that the median per capita charge is small (less than \$100 per year), because the tax is spread across a large land base.
- **Transient Occupancy Tax.** The County should consider trying to increase the 6-percent TOT currently levied on short-term lodging receipts in unincorporated Calaveras County. TOT increases require a two-thirds vote of the electorate and are difficult to pass. Based on County Auditor data, unincorporated Calaveras County is projected to bring in \$146.8 million in lodging receipts between 2004 and 2025. As shown in Table 14, an additional 2-percent tax on lodging revenues would yield \$2.9 million over the same period, an additional 4-percent tax on lodging would yield \$5.9 million, and an additional 6-percent tax on lodging would yield \$8.8 million in revenues for the RIM Program through 2025. An advantage of this option is that visitors who purchase nights of hotel, motel, or B&B rooms and drive in unincorporated Calaveras County would assist in funding roadway improvements.

If new funding sources are not established, the County will have only fee revenue and the County's share of identified STIP or RIP dollars with which to pay for these improvements. Without additional local funding sources, the County will need to remove some of the improvements from the RIM Program's project list during a periodic program review and update. In that case, fewer road improvements will be made using RIM Program dollars by 2025.

Counties OK \$150 million for transit projects

March 02, 2008 6:00 AM- Stockton Record

SAN ANDREAS - Calaveras, Amador and Alpine counties appear ready for a long-term commitment.

After a five-year trial marriage whose achievements included getting funding for the \$61 million Highway 4 bypass around Angels Camp, the transit planning agencies for the counties approved last month a new list of projects that will cost more than \$150 million over the next 20 years.

Top priorities include straightening the "Wagon Trail" portion of Highway 4 between Copperopolis and Angels Camp and improving the now narrow and cluttered section of Highway 88 through Pine Grove.

The three counties cooperate by pooling their state highway construction dollars. Without such cooperation, officials say it would take much longer to accumulate the necessary funds. Planners say fixing the region's many highway bottlenecks is crucial to the regional economy, both to speed commuters to jobs in the Central Valley and to allow tourists from Stockton and elsewhere to reach historic Gold Rush towns and mountain resorts.

The Calaveras Council of Governments also approved a work plan for the coming year that includes funding to design a signal light at the four-way stop sign intersection that now often causes traffic jams where Highways 12 and 26 meet in Valley Springs.

"I probably won't be able to sleep tonight with how much money I've spent here," Paul Raggio, an alternate member of the Calaveras Council of Governments, said after voting on the project lists.

[HOME](#)

Chapter 8 Recreation and Historical Resources

8.2 Tourism

Travel Statistics

This section estimates that tourism and travel-related businesses represented 13.6 percent of total county jobs. Calaveras is a four-season destination and this figure may be significantly understated, depending upon how travel-related businesses are defined. The Sequoia Wild Heritage Project estimates that "over 34% of the workforce in Calaveras County is tourism related."

There is passing references to Calaveras' forest in Chapter 8, but the County's forest are a key attraction for scenic beauty, hiking, biking, camping, hunting, and snowshowing. The following article describes the importance of forests to recreation in more detail.

Importance of Forests to Recreation

--Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project

Most discussions about the economics in the Sierra Nevada focus on the timber and forest product industries as the primary source of wealth in the region. This situation is changing. According to the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP), in most Sierra Nevada counties over the past twenty-five years, earnings from resource extraction industries have declined or remained flat while earnings in the economy as a whole have grown substantially. The primary areas of growth in the counties of the Sierra Nevada are from the recreation and tourism industries. These sectors of the economy continue to grow and on a range-wide basis provide more jobs and roughly the same total amount of wages as all the commodity-based sectors combined. In order to promote this emerging source of economic growth, the forests that support them need to be protected.

Recreation, for example, is the fastest growing use of the nation's forests according to the Forest Service. Recreation opportunities in the forests of the Sierra Nevada offer every type of outdoor recreation from camping to snowshoeing, hunting to bird watching, and rock climbing to fishing plus everything in between. The Forest Service estimates that the Sierra Nevada Framework protects recreation that will produce wages of \$2.66 billion, with annual wages from recreation on the Inyo National Forest alone at more than \$447 million and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit at more than \$866 million.

The Sierra Nevada Framework provides protection of the areas on which tourism and recreation rely. Protecting the forests, however, not only promotes recreation and tourism. There are many other economic benefits connected with truly "healthy forests." Clean water and biodiversity are other important functions the forest provides from which humans benefit.

COMMENTS ON CHAPTER 9, "NATURAL RESOURCES" OF BASELINE DRAFT REPORT

Water Resources

This section mainly inventories water sources in the county, naming the rivers and reservoirs. The issue of adequacy of supply for domestic uses is addressed in Chapter 7 on Public Facilities, where the assessment is given that: "Currently, there are adequate supplies of water to meet the needs of existing and near future domestic water needs....(p.7-2)

It is important to add to both the natural resources inventory and the consideration of water supply the likely impacts of climate change. The Sierra Climate Change Toolkit, published by the Sierra Nevada Alliance and drawing upon recent scientific studies of temperature and precipitation patterns in the Sierra, notes that:

- Winter and Spring temperatures have become warmer in the central Sierra. By mid-century, Spring snowpack in the Sierra Nevada is projected to decline by about 25 to 40 percent. Toward the end of the century, losses could reach 30 to 70 percent.
- In most cases, total annual streamflow into major Sierra Nevada reservoirs is projected to drop about 10 to 20 percent before mid-century and 25 to 30 percent before the end of the century.
- As the runoff season begins earlier, Spring and Summer streamflow is projected to decline about 10 to 20 percent before 2050. By the end of the century, Spring and Summer streamflow could be reduced by as much as 40 percent. (pp. 8-9)

Moreover, the study notes:

- The collapse of the usual winter storm systems and expansion of summer by two months will lead to drier soils, which in turn, will lead to decreased summer flows, more stress on vegetation, and a decrease in groundwater recharge. (p. 19)

These projections point to a reduction of overall water supply and a change in precipitation patterns – from a reliable, heavy snowpack that melts through the summer and fall, to a reduced snowpack, heavier rain events in the winter and early spring with increased chance of flooding, and drier weather with lower streamflows in the late summer and autumn. The change in pattern has implications for the consistency of the water supply overall, and certainly for agricultural activity. The lower amounts projected to be available need to be at least considered, given that the population of the County is projected to grow by 47% between 2000 and 2020. (From the California Statistical Abstract, 2004, cited in Planning for the Future, published by the Sierra Nevada Alliance, 2005, p. 7)

Biological Resources

The first "Major Finding" states: The Planning Area is comprised mostly of natural habitat areas. The majority of these areas consist of annual grassland or tree-dominated habitats.... (p.9-1)

It is important to note here that much of this natural habitat is unprotected and probably at risk. The document, Planning for the Future, notes that throughout the Sierra counties there has been a significant shift from agricultural and open land to residential land. The report goes on to say of another county what is also true for Calaveras: "Many of the impacts of this transition in land use are invisible at this time because many of the currently vacant parcels are in a natural state yet zoned and intended for development." (p. 12)

In fact, in Calaveras County, over 17,000 parcels have already been approved for development. Moreover, 75% of the land in the County is privately owned. This is especially relevant for the issue of protection of critical habitats. As the Baseline Report notes: "A critical habitat designation...applies only when federal funding, permits, or projects are involved. Critical habitat requirements do not apply to citizens engaged in activities on private land that do not involve a federal agency."

In other words, that the "Planning Area is comprised mostly of natural habitat areas" may be a very temporary state without conservation measures and incentives being put in place. A striking example is the lack, still, of an enforceable Oak Ordinance. Most of the rolling, oak-studded hills are still at risk of being cleared without penalty or mitigation.

Timber Resources

The Baseline Report states that "The eastern higher elevations of the County primarily consist of Sierran mixed conifer and large swathes of Ponderosa pine, red fir, and lodgepole pine." (p. 9-39) What the report does not mention is that almost half of the upper country forest – 74,000 acres – is owned by a single company, and that its stated management plan is to convert 80% of its forestland into even-aged stands. That is, well over 50,000 acres of the mixed conifer and other species mentioned are to be replaced with single-species plantations. This process is already well underway, and is dramatically altering the profile of forest resources in the County.

Chapter 9 Natural Resources

These comments (9.1 through 9.57) are by Steve Stocking, retired Professor of Biology, Delta College; officer of the Sierra Foothills chapter of the California Native Plant Society. He has commented extensively on General Plans, Environmental Impact Reports and mitigation studies.

9-1. Planning Area. The most common habitats are not annual grassland or montane hardwood. This inaccurately portrays the vegetation of the County. A review of Table 9-1 shows that oak woodland, chaparral and various types of coniferous forests are most common. Splitting some of these habitats makes it appear that they are not common. If these percentages are based on the "habitat type map" they are even more suspect as the map is very inaccurate.

9-2 The Red-legged frog could be mentioned here in discussion of critical habitat and special status species as it has caused the largest amount of consternation.

9-3 It is stated here that "Sierra Mixed Conifer" habitat is dominated by Jeffery pine and white fir. Also that "The eastern, higher elevations of the county primarily consist of Sierra mixed conifer and large swaths of Ponderosa pine, red fir and lodgepole pine". This is confused as Jeffy, not ponderosa is found with red fir and lodgepole pine and ponderosa pine is most commonly found in the lower elevation mixed conifer areas to the west.

Table 9.1 Blue-oak woodland and blue-oak Foothill Pine habitat here combine as 8.66% of the habitat area of the County in this Table. This total of 57,380 acres is half as much as is given in other sources. The Oak Foundation publication Oaks 2040 gives 112,449 acres as the amount of blue-oak woodland in Calaveras County. This % could also be inaccurate due to much of the blue-oak woodland erroneously considered to be "Montane Hardwood" as it is on the Habitat Types Map.

Chamise-Redshank Chaparral is listed with 21,580 acres in the County. There is NO Redshank in the County so this number is suspect. Mixed chaparral is given as having 44,860 acres. Together chaparral is then over 66,000 acres, 10.13% of the County.

Montane Riparian is said to cover 20 acres. How many miles of river and stream are there in the County? This estimate must use a very narrow definition of "riparian".

Where is the discussion of other wetlands and the importance of wetlands?

When Ponderosa pine 53,380 (8.05%), Sierra Mixed Conifer 94,140 acres (14.20%) and Montane-hardwood Conifer 90,130 acres (13.60%) are combined as "mixed conifer" as is done in many references it becomes more obvious that this forested area is an important part of the County (35.85%).

9.6 Blue Oak Woodlands.

These woodlands are important as habitat to many wildlife species in the planning area. Deer, turkeys and rattlesnakes and gophers are some of the more common species which could be mentioned here.

9.7 The Habitat Types Maps.

These are both very colorful and confusing. Are the acreage's given for habitat types above based on these maps?

- a) The area of grassland appears to be overestimated. How many trees must be present to classify an area as woodland rather than grassland?
- b) Have areas which have been developed recently and have had their vegetation removed been reclassified? (Rancho Calaveras for example. Do these areas become "unclassified"?)
- c) Is grazing land classified as agricultural or as grassland or somehow as both?
- d) There is much area shown in deep green color on the map and so therefore as Montane-Hardwood and Montane Hardwood Conifer". This "habitat" covers much area on the map west of Salt Springs Reservoir and north to Highway 26. This area is neither montane nor conifer and more accurately should be shown as blue oak woodland. (foothill woodland)

The area west of New Melones and Highway 49 all the way north to the Bear Mountain Range and in some areas north to the Amador County boundary is also shown as "Mountain Hardwood". These areas hardly support the same habitat type as is shown in the same dark green color near Murphys and Mt. Ranch.

9.8 There is no Redshank Chaparral in Calaveras County or for that matter in northern California. This type of habitat is found in areas of southern California.

9.11 Blue-Oak Foothill Pine

Lupinus argenteus (silver lupine) does not occur in this area. It is found in the high Sierra and in areas to the east of the Sierra. Perhaps this was meant to be Lupinus albifrons (silver bush lupine) which is rather common in our area. "Blue elder" should rather be called blue elderberry. Elderberry has some importance in relation to an endangered species which MAY occur in the county.

Varied Thrush is mentioned as a "Common Species." The Varied Thrush has recently been listed on the "Yellow Watch List" as a species with a declining population. To my knowledge it has never been a "common species" in Calaveras County.

Douglas Fir

Port Orford Cedar is listed here as an associate of Douglas Fir but Port-Orford Cedar is found only in far north-west California and on into Oregon. Salal, Pacific Rhododendron and whipplea are also coastal species not found here.

The fisher is listed as a typical animal here but is rare and is found at higher elevations.

There are questions about varied thrush and other birds which are characterized as common.

Jeffry Pine.

It is mentioned that "Coulter Pine" is associated with Jeffry Pine here. Coulter Pine is not found in the Sierra and is an uncommon species found in the coast ranges. The "Mentha peulegium" called pennyroyal here is found at lower elevation as a "weed". I have not seen it here. The "pennyroyal" of the Jeffry pine forest is perhaps Monardella odoratissima.

Montane-Hardwood Conifer

White alder and big leaf maple are listed here but are usually considered to be common riparian species. They are not listed under Montane Riparian but "thinleaf alder" is Thinleaf alder. Alnus incanum is not found here.

Table 9.2 Regarding "Special Status Species"

A few of these species have not been found in Calaveras County and others occur in habitats which we do not (or no-longer) have in the County.

The numbers on the species list and map in figure 9.2 are too small for me to read so I can't be too specific in my comments here.

But if it is still true that Chinese Camp *Brodiaea* is found only at two locations in Tuolumne County then it hasn't been found in the "planning area". But I believe that it has been found in additional locations although I do not know their locations.

Brodiaea pallida is mentioned as a special status species but the locations given are in only Tuolumne County. This State Listed Endangered species has also been found in Calaveras County adjacent to Black Creek at Tulloch Lake. This was discovered in 2006 and reported in the Vegetation Management Plan, Tulloch Reservoir. Tri-Dam Project 2006 Longhorn Elderberry Beetle was also studied in that plan but I would need to go back and check to see if it was actually located during the survey.

9-13. The characterizations of the Ponderosa pine, Red Fir and Sierran Mixed Conifer habitats appear accurate.

9-14 Chamise-"Redshank" Chaparral.

As mentioned before *Adenostoma sparsifolium* is a south coastal species. California thrasher, if found here, would be a rare species.

Where is the silk-tassel and California *Fremontia* found in Calaveras County? (not common)

9-15 Wet Meadow

Yellow-headed blackbirds are mentioned here. They are very unusual if really present. A lost tule elk (*Cervus canadensis*) may have wandered into the County 150 years ago but they are no longer here.

9-49

Inset C. Figure 9-7.

I believe that the cherry orchard on Highway 26 has died?

9-57

Table 9-10

There is no "UOP" Research Area in the County. I have checked with the Biology Department at UOP regarding this designation. They own no land here.

This "factoid" was probably copied from the old County Plan. Probably someone mistook "Delta College" for "UOP". Delta College has a property on East Murray Creek Road near Mt. Ranch which they have used for educational activities in past years.

Chapter 9 - Natural Resources

These comments (9-19 through 9-62) are by Bruce Castle, past president of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch, who has studied and commented extensively on timber issues in Calaveras County.

9-3 - The last bullet under Major Findings -Timber Resources states that "The timber industry has played an important role in the agricultural sector of the county's economy..." It cites Christmas trees as an example. The timber industry has low impact on the County's sources of revenue generation - no more than about 1-2 percent. This bullet needs to be reworded. A similar quote is recorded on Page 9-40.

9-28 - Stanislaus River - Two statements in this section need to be corrected. The text states "the . . . western slope of the San Joaquin River . . ." It is actually the western slope of the Sierra. Later in the paragraph it states the North Fork is located within Calaveras County . . ." Actually, the North Fork of the Stanislaus River forms the County's southeastern boundary with neighboring Tuolumne County.

9-35 - The Methods section needs, at a minimum to footnote or refer to an Appendix that cites the specific documents, data, and the page numbers that are relevant to discussion of Timber Resources. For example, the GIS Data is not specifically sourced nor what timber resources data was gleaned from this Data.

9-40 - Table 9-3 - The middle column amount is expressed in (Million Board Feet). It needs to be changed to (Thousand Board Feet). MBF is often mistaken as million board feet. It is actually thousand board feet. A million board feet is symbolically represented as mmbf.

9-45 - Reference in Table 9-5 within Number: Implementation IV-3A-1 is to ". . . one dwelling per 20 acres . . ." This statement should apply only to small (<100 acre) non-industrial timber operators. For commercial operators, no dwellings on land zoned as TPZ should be allowed because, as it says later on this page under Chapter 17.14 Timber Production (TP) Zone, "No development deemed incompatible with the purposes of timber production may be permitted with the TP zone . . ." Placing dwellings on commercial TPZ land is incompatible with the purposes of timber production.

9-48 - Table 9-7 - I don't have baseline data to assess the accuracy of these numbers nor the discussion of habitats on Pages 9-22 through 9-26.

9-67 - "There are currently two THPs in Calaveras County . . ." submitted to CDF for review. The actual number of THPs between 2005 and 2007 is eight SPI THPs and 24 non-SPI THPs/NTMPs. (see following chart)

Calaveras County THPs

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)

Year	# of THPs	Comm. Thin	Selection	Group Select.	Visual Retention	Clear-Cut	Seed-Tree	Shelter-Wood	Sanitation Salvage	Fuelbreak Defens.Sp.	Other	TOTAL Acres
1996	21	0	0	7112	269	112	50	123	0		3213	10879
1997	16	0	1866	2457	75	734	241	174	30		891	6468
1998	16	0	4691	0	0	1583	0	211	10		540	7035
1999	10	0	183	0	0	2051	34	83	0		266	2617
2000	2	0	51	0	13	379	0	0	0		0	443
2001	8	88	193	0	1553	90	16	52	0		286	2278
2002	12	23	2118	839	1434	646	610	360	37	35	17	6119
2003	5	71	349	0	735	656	0	373	0	384	0	2568
2004	2	2	20	0	0	383	3	3	0	0	7	418
2005	1	0	810	0	0	0	0	8	0	47	11	876
2006	2*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007**	5***	0	296	1198	0	802	0	142	93	634	76	3241
		184	10577	11606	4079	7436	954	1529	170	1100	5307	42942

* = Two submitted but returned for re-work

** = Approved plus pending

*** = Includes one Amendment, (no change in acres, therefore, not included in acreage)

Notes:

- 1 According to the 2006 tax rolls, SPI owned **280** parcels covering **72,845** acres. The USFS owned **135** parcels covering **78,046** acres.
- 2 SPI has harvested trees from **58.9%** of its forest land in 12 years. Of this amount **32.6%** was by harvest methods leading directly to tree plantations.
- 3 During the past 9 years **61.6%** of SPI's cut was by methods leading directly to tree plantations.
- 4 Beginning in 1999, SPI established their **Option A 100-year business plan** to convert 2/3 of its land to tree plantations. This is the blueprint SPI follows today. Across California, this conversion to plantations will amount to more than **one million acres**; In Calaveras County this conversion to plantations will amount to nearly **49,000 acres**. CDF approved this plan in July 2002.

Non-SPI THPS

Year	# of THPs	Comm. Thin	Selection	Group Select.	Visual Retention	Clear-Cut	Seed-Tree	Shelter-Wood	Sanitation Salvage	Fuelbreak Defens.Sp.	Other	TOTAL Acres
2002	11*	0	534	0	0	4	0	253	0	30	90	911
2003	11*	22	292	0	3	0	12	696	667	0	360	2052
2004	4	0	602	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	279	1006
2005	10*	0	403	549	0	0	75	80	0	0	168	1275
2006	9***	0	65	40	0	20	0	37	0	44	25	231
2007	5****	0	2	289	0	0	6	33	0	9	98	437
		22	1898	1003	3	24	93	1099	667	83	1020	5912

* = Includes one NTMP

** = Includes two NTMPs

*** = Includes one NTMP and two Amendments

**** = Includes one NTMP and one Amendment which adds 9 acres

9.6 Oaks

Page 9.6 states: "Oak woodlands are important to many wildlife species in the Planning Area. Acorns are an important food source for acorn woodpeckers, western scrub jays, yellow-billed magpies, western grey squirrels and California ground squirrels."

The California Oaks Foundation report, Oaks 2040: The Status and Future of Oaks in California (excerpt following) details the threat to California's oak woodlands. Concerning Calaveras, the report states: "Oaks are present on 40% of Calaveras County land, of which thirty-thousand acres are developed. Another 35,000 acres of oak woodlands are at risk around San Andreas and Angel's Camp. Almost 90% of Calaveras' oak woodland is privately owned. Steps must be taken to mitigate development in the short term and provide easements for the long term."

See the following map for the location of Oak Habitat Types

An example of Goal, Policy, Implementation for the General Plan concerning oaks and deer might be:

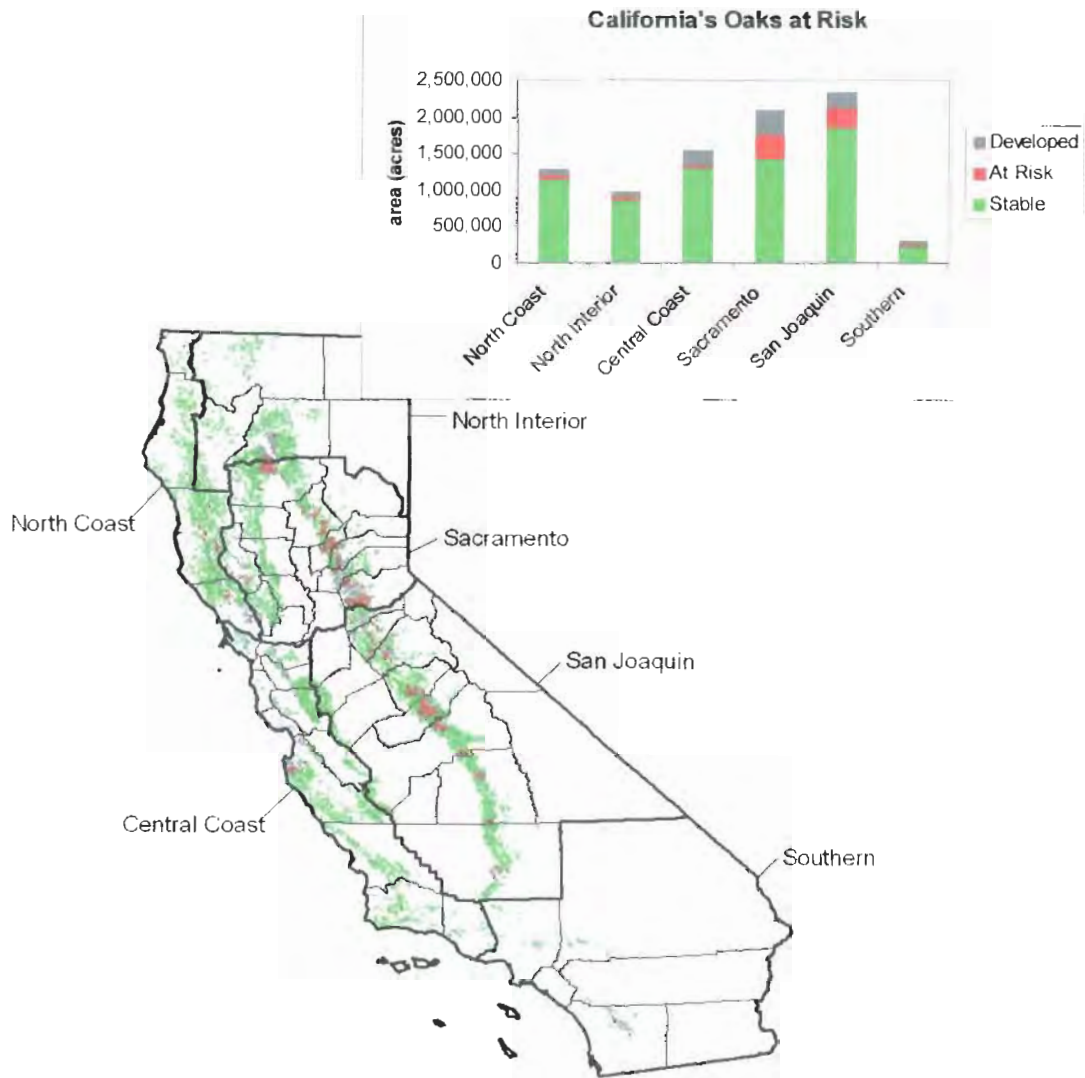
Goal: the county's deer herds must be protected for the future health of the resources.

Policy: Oak timberlands must be protected for their deer food producing oak acorns (mast) as requested by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Implementation: Develop and implement county rules for Timber Harvest Plans to require that mature oaks be retained in all requests for permits from the board of Forestry. (The CDF&G puts this request into most if not all THP reviews.)

Oaks 2040: Future Prospects for California's Oaks

- Approximately 750,000 acres of California's oak woodlands are at risk of development before 2040.
- More than one million acres of California's oak woodlands have already been developed.
- In total, 20% of California's oak woodlands will be facing rapid urbanization by 2040.
- The oak woodlands of the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills face the most immediate threats.
- Eighty percent (80%) of California's oak woodlands that are at risk of development are in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Region.





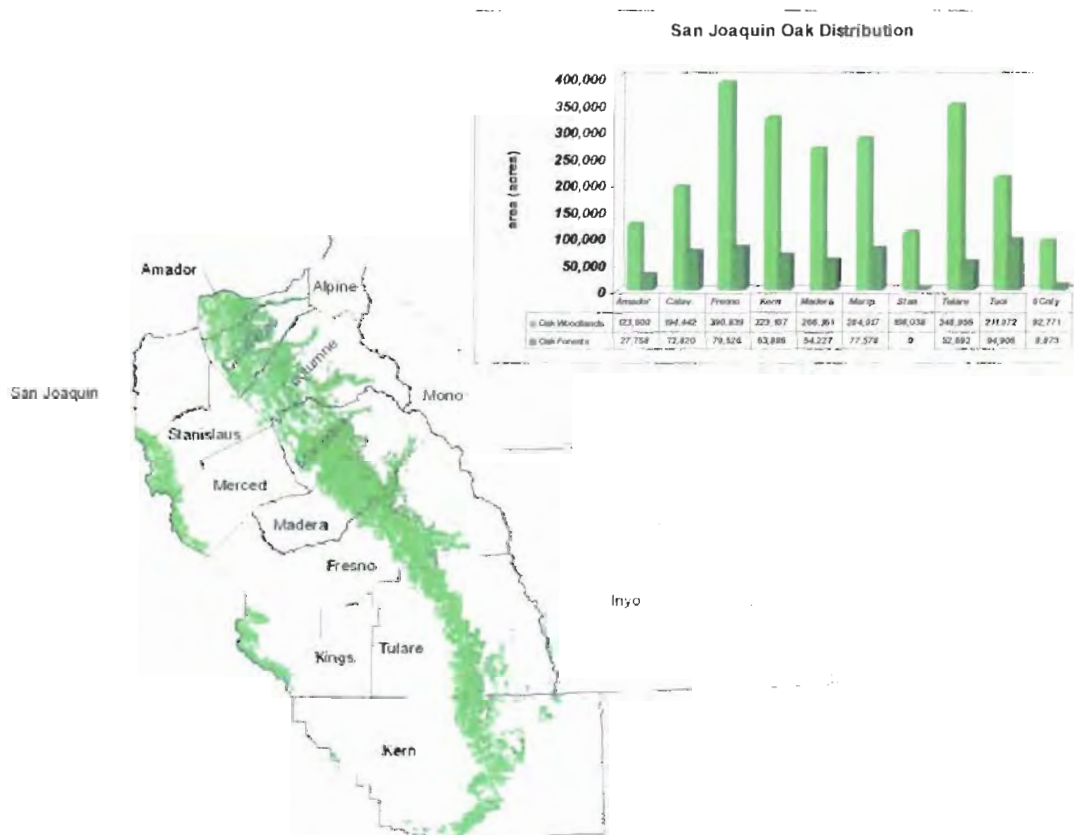
The San Joaquin Region

Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne

Data Availability: The FRAP maps combined with the US Bureau of Reclamation map covers most of this region. The Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park map covers the gaps in Tulare and Fresno Counties. The only other data gap is in the desert, where little or no oak woodland is present.

Oak Mapping

- The San Joaquin region has more than 2.3 million acres of oak woodlands and 500,000 acres of oak forests.
- Oaks are present on only 10% of the region's land. However, certain portions of the region have far greater oak woodland density than others.
- Overall, 27% of the state's oak woodland falls within these 15 counties.
- The San Joaquin region currently has more than 450 million oak trees. More than one-third of these oaks are larger than 5" DBH.



San Joaquin Oak Diversity

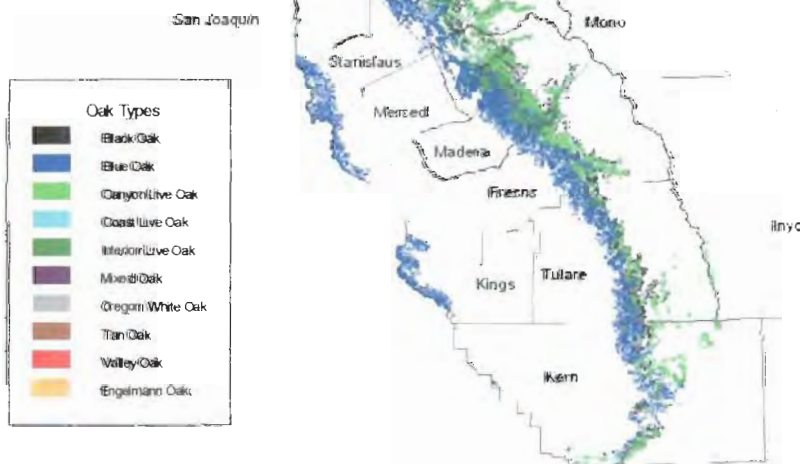
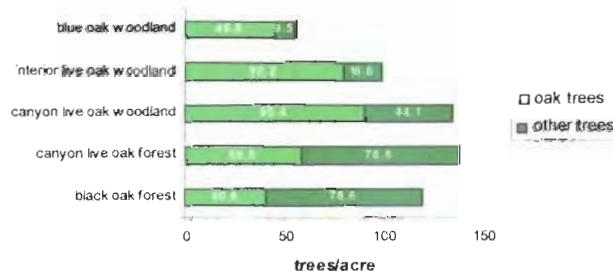
Oak Woodlands

- More than half of the region's oak woodlands are blue oak and another 25% are interior live oak.
- Associated species include gray pine and buckeye, as well as valley oak, blue oak and canyon and interior live oaks.
- The San Joaquin region has more blue oak woodlands and interior live oak woodlands than any other region.
- In blue oak woodlands, oaks account for 70% of the trees and 80% of the basal area and trees greater than 5" DBH.
- In interior live oak woodlands, oaks provide 70% of the tree basal area and more than 80% of the trees.
- In canyon live oak woodlands, oaks comprise 55% of the basal area, 62% of all trees, and 67% of trees greater than 5" DBH.

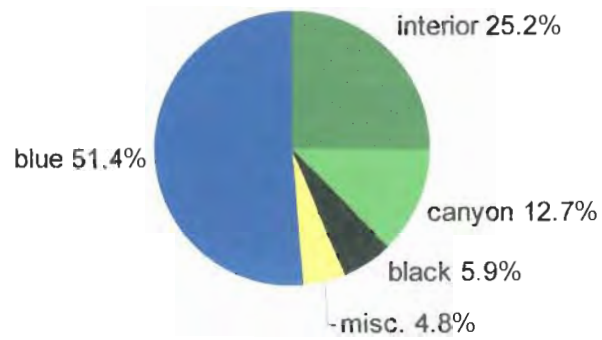
Oak Forests

- Canyon live oak and black oak comprise almost 90% of the oak forests.
- Associated species in San Joaquin oak forests include incense cedar, ponderosa pine, sugar pine and white fir.
- In canyon live oak forests, oaks provide one-third of the basal area and nearly one-half of the trees.
- In black oak forest, oaks comprise more than half of the trees, but only one-third of the trees greater than 5" DBH and only one-quarter of the tree basal area.

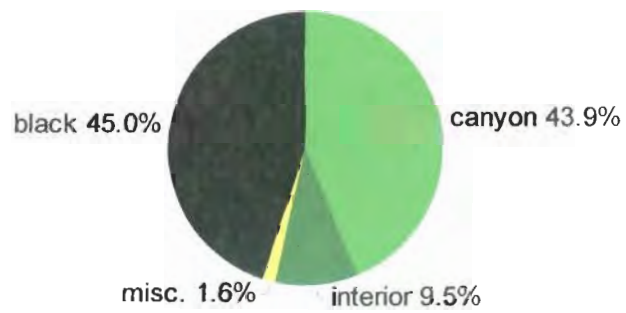
San Joaquin Oak Composition



San Joaquin Oak Woodland Diversity



San Joaquin Oak Forest Diversity



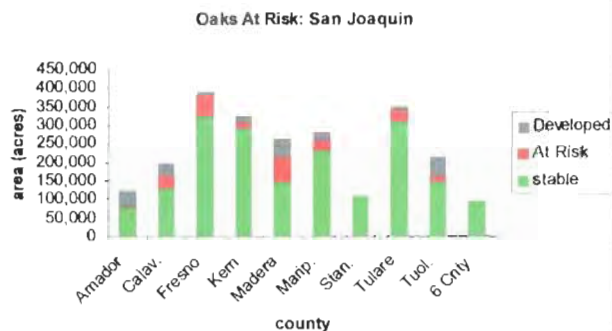
Oaks at Risk in the San Joaquin Region

Ownership

- Seventy-three percent of the San Joaquin region's oak woodlands are privately owned.
- The USFS owns 18% and the BLM owns five percent.

Development

- Ten percent of the oak woodlands in the region have already been developed. Ten percent are at high risk of development by 2040. Eighty percent are currently stable, however targeted planning could ensure that a greater number of acres are conserved for the long-term.



- Nearly 250,000 acres of oak woodlands in the San Joaquin region are at risk of development by 2040. Only the Sacramento region contains more oak woodlands at risk.

- In Madera, Amador, and Calaveras Counties combined, more than one-third of all oak woodland may be developed before 2040.

- In Madera, Amador, and Calaveras Counties combined, more than one-third of all oak woodland may be developed before 2040.



Critical Oak Conservation Issues: San Joaquin Region

The **San Joaquin** region has more than one-quarter of California's oak woodlands, more than one-third of California's blue oak woodlands and more than two-thirds of California's interior live oak woodlands. While oaks are present on only 10% of the acreage region-wide, oak woodlands are densely distributed throughout the Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills. More than 70% of this critical and sizeable chunk of oak woodlands is privately owned, but the USFS, BLM, and the National Park Service have major holdings as well. Nearly a quarter million oak woodland acres in this region have already been developed and another quarter million acres are at risk by 2040. One third of the state's oak woodland at risk is found within the San Joaquin Region. The South Yosemite areas around Oakhurst and Mariposa are most at risk, but the development axis spreads up Highway 49 through Sonora, Angel's Camp and Jackson. Additional pockets are found further south by the entrances to Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park and by Tehachapi. Vast oak woodland resources are found within the San Joaquin region. In an area so vast and with so much diversity, a variety of conservation tools are necessary. Management of public oak woodlands is a crucial issue. Development also needs to be managed to provide sustainability. Perhaps most importantly, efforts must be made to legally protect huge acreages of private land through easements and/or in fee acquisitions.

Twenty-five percent of **Madera County's** quarter million oak woodland acres are at risk of development by 2040. Only El Dorado and Tehama counties have more acres at risk. The foothill bands of blue and interior live oak woodland pass through Madera where they face developmental pressures radiating out from Oakhurst and Yosemite's South Entrance. Recreation and tourism are key factors here, as well as the typical expansion outward from Fresno and the other valley cities.

Mariposa County has more oak woodlands than Madera County. In fact, oaks cover more than a third of the county. Mariposa's oak woodlands face less immediate threat of development than those in Madera. Nonetheless, 30,000 acres of oak woodland are at risk by 2040. In both Madera and Mariposa, public land management is a crucial issue. Smart growth is essential to manage development but still retain natural oak woodland resources.

Tuolumne County has the highest rate of oak woodland development in the region. Management of significant public land holdings, protection of the remaining private oak woodlands and application of smart growth principles around Sonora and Standard are essential in order to avoid degradation of scenic and wildlife values. Oaks are present on 40% of Calaveras County land, of which thirty-thousand acres are developed. Another 35,000 of oak woodlands are at risk around San Andreas and Angel's Camp. Almost 90% of Calaveras' oak woodland is privately owned. Steps must be taken to mitigate development in the short term and provide easements for the long term.

In **Amador County**, more than one-third of the oak woodlands have already been developed and over 90% of remaining oak woodlands are privately owned. Conservation and management of oak woodlands around Amador City, Lone, Jackson, Plymouth and Sutter Creek is critical. Additionally, steps should be taken to provide more long-term protections for oak woodlands in this county.

Critical Oak Conservation Issues: San Joaquin Region (continued)

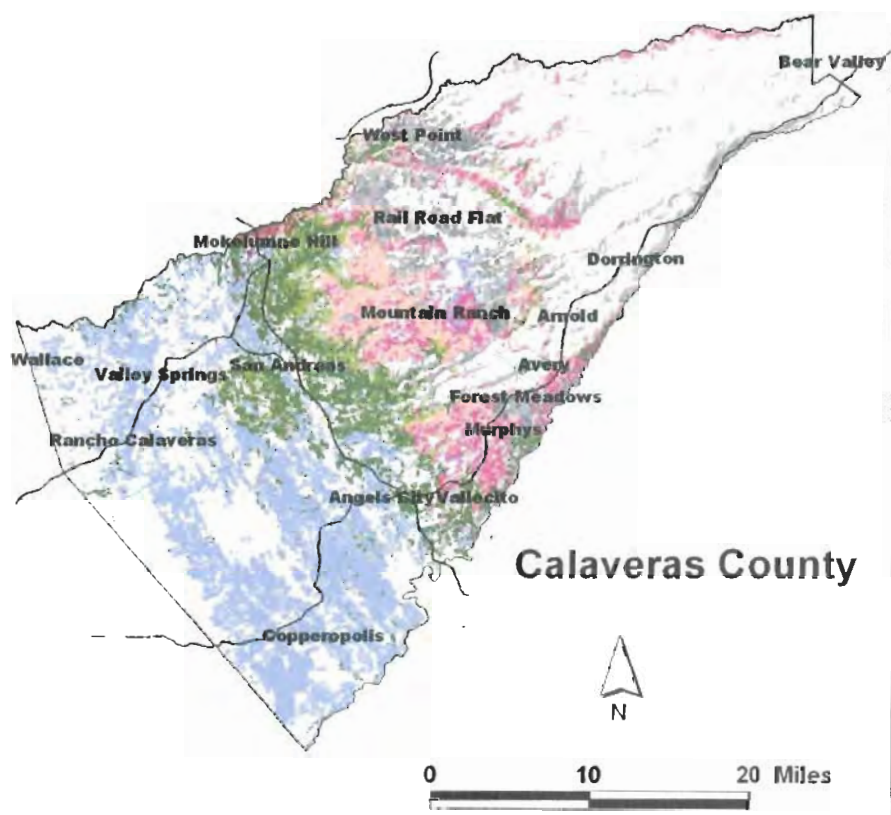
Fresno County tops the San Joaquin region with nearly 400,000 acres of oak woodland. Fresno is one of four counties in the state with more than 200,000 acres of blue oak woodland (Tehama, Shasta, and Monterey are the other three). Despite high public ownership by the USFS and the BLM, more than 50,000 acres of oak woodland in Fresno are at risk of development before 2040. The most vulnerable areas are those that are commutable to the City of Fresno. The southern portion of the county near the National Park is also at high risk. Fresno has oak woodlands on its western side, much like Stanislaus and Merced. Fresno also has some oaks in the Central Valley, which are typically scattered around existing developed and agricultural areas. These areas are often covered by the USBR map, but not by the FRAP map. Nonetheless, the majority of the region's oak woodlands and oak forests are found in the Sierra Foothills to the east. With the great diversity of environments found in Fresno County comes a diversity of problems and solution options. Development must be managed towards sustainability. Oak woodlands in residential areas must be protected through education and public incentives and regulations. Protections must be put in place in order to conserve rural private oak woodlands in perpetuity. Public lands must be appropriately managed.

Tulare County's situation is similar to Fresno County, but with a less severe threat. Tulare has over 300,000 acres of oak woodland, nearly 30,000 of which are at risk for development by 2040. Tulare maintains more than half of the region's valley oak woodlands and considerable acreage of blue oak woodland as well. Development pressures include valley towns expanding into the foothills and pressures from recreation and tourism. One-third of Tulare's oak woodlands are owned by the government, so proper management of public oak woodlands is important. Additionally, growth and development should be carefully monitored and limited where possible. Finally, long term protections are needed for wild private woodlands.

Kern County also has over 300,000 acres of oak woodland. Roughly five percent has already been developed and another five percent are at risk of development before 2040. As in many other parts of the San Joaquin region, blue oak woodlands and interior live oak woodlands abound. Oak woodland development is concentrated around the City of Tehachapi. Kern is experiencing problems similar to those faced in Fresno and Tulare. In particular, the issue of private land stewardship is critical to protect vast acreages of oak woodlands.

Stanislaus, Merced, San Joaquin, and Kings Counties have a total of 200,000 acres of mapped oak woodland. The majority of these oak woodlands are found in Stanislaus and Merced Counties. Most of this is in the western portions of the counties and while most of it is privately owned, very little is expected to be developed before 2040. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation map shows some additional acreage in the county, but mostly in agricultural or developed areas. Permanent protection should be sought for oak woodlands before large-scale development eliminates this option.

Alpine, Mono, and Inyo Counties combined have less than 5,000 acres of oak woodland, owned and managed almost entirely by USFS.



Oak Habitat Types

Forest Types

- black oak
- blue oak
- canyon live oak
- interior live oak
- mixed oak
- valley oak

Woodland Types

- black oak
- blue oak
- canyon live oak
- coast live oak
- interior live oak
- mixed oak
- valley oak

9.67 State Regulations

Under State Regulations The Baseline Report does not include the **California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006**. AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulations and market mechanisms that will ultimately reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020. Mandatory caps will begin in 2012 for significant sources and ratchet down to meet the 2020 goals. Specifically, the Act requires the California Air Resources Board to:

- Establish a statewide greenhouse gas emissions cap for 2020, based on 1990 emissions by January 1, 2008.
- Adopt mandatory reporting rules for significant sources of greenhouse gases by January 1, 2009.
- Adopt a plan by January 1, 2009 indicating how emission reductions will be achieved from significant greenhouse gas sources via regulations, market mechanisms and other actions.
- Adopt regulations by January 1, 2011 to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas, including provisions for using both market mechanisms and alternative compliance mechanisms.

Not taking into account global warming in the County's General Plan might expose the County to legal action. In April of last year, the California Attorney General's office sued **San Bernardino County** because its recently-updated **General Plan did not properly address global warming**. See the accompanying article from the San Bernardino Press Enterprise.

For papers on the relationship between forest practices and global warming see the following articles.



San Bernardino Co.

Environmental suit hangs over San Bernardino County

 [Download story podcast](#)

10:00 PM PDT on Tuesday, May 22, 2007

By IMRAN GHORI
The Press-Enterprise

San Bernardino County has had early talks with the state attorney general's office and conservation groups over a challenge to its general plan, but all sides say it's too soon to know if a resolution is in the cards.

The settlement meetings are mandatory under state law for any lawsuits involving the California Environmental Quality Act, the statute under which the county is being sued, according to attorneys involved.

State Attorney General Jerry Brown brought the suit against the county last month, accusing it of not analyzing the impact of increased greenhouse gases from future growth in its recently adopted general plan.

The document, a blueprint for growth through 2030, projects more homes and increased traffic as the county's population, now 1.7 million, climbs to 2.6 million.

It is the first time the state has sued a public agency for not taking into account global warming.

The state action came only days after the Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club and the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society sued over the same issues.

Those involved in the settlement talks -- May 9 with the state and May 16 with the conservation groups -- say it's too early to know whether the case can be settled.

"The county hasn't really determined where all this is going to lead at this point," county spokesman David Wert said.

Adam Keats, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, said he hopes a trial can be avoided.

"I would say that we're hopeful that we can settle this case," Keats said. "We think it's the kind of case the county should settle."

Susan Durbin, a state deputy attorney general, said she could not comment on settlement talks.

No further settlement talks have been scheduled, according to attorneys involved.

A pretrial status conference is scheduled this morning in San Bernardino County Superior Court, but it is expected to be continued to June 26, Keats and Durbin said.

Last week, the Board of Supervisors agreed to boost the amount of money it is spending on legal fees defending the plan to \$325,000.

The county has hired Michael Zischke, a partner with the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle and Nicholson, whom County Counsel Ruth Stringer described in a memo to the board as "one of the pre-eminent environmental and land use attorneys in the

state of California."

Wert said the board took the action to seek expert advice as the case continues.

Both the state and the environmental groups say they want to see the county revisit its general plan to look at how its growth policies will affect global warming.

"We're not asking for the county of San Bernardino to solve global warming," Keats said. "That's not what we're trying to accomplish with this lawsuit. What we do think is the county can take some very reasonable, feasible steps to deal with that issue."

County planners have said they were a victim of timing, approving their general plan update in March, only months after the state adopted a law aimed at reducing greenhouse gases by 25 percent by 2020.

Brown said timing was a factor in the state's decision. He said the county isn't being singled out as being behind other counties in addressing global warming in their general plans.

"They were first in line," Brown said during an interview Monday in Washington, D.C.

He said many counties now experiencing fast growth are failing to plan for the increase in emissions that inevitably comes with population increases.

"Cars are arriving faster than the humans," Brown said.

He stopped short of saying that local governments should restrict growth in their communities.

But he suggested that they need to do more to "shape the growth" with population density, topography and other factors in mind, so as to reduce the environmental impact of burgeoning communities like those in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

County planners have said that the plan includes policies that will help counter the effects of growth, but they also say the state provides no standards for measuring or reducing greenhouse gases.

"The county believes the general plan complies with the law," Wert said.

Staff writer Ben Goad contributed to this report.

Reach Imran Ghori at 909-806-3061 or ighori@PE.com

Western Warming Warning

Climate change will worsen droughts, wildfires and die-offs in the region, a report says.

By Robert Lee Hotz, Times Staff Writer
October 6, 2006

Rising temperatures in the 11 Western states due to global warming will cause more prolonged droughts, more widespread wildfires, and extensive die-offs in regional plant, fish and game habitats, according to a report Thursday from the National Wildlife Federation.

"The American West is truly on the front line," said Patty Glick, the federation's global warming specialist. "The latest science is painting a bleak picture."

To address climate change, the organization urged national limits on the greenhouse gases responsible for rising temperatures, such as carbon dioxide and methane. California recently adopted such limits.

The national appetite for energy, fed by carbon-rich coal, oil and natural gas, imposes a double penalty on the ecological well-being of the West, said the group, which has 1 million members. The search for more fossil fuels — drilling permits on public lands have tripled in six years — disrupts fragile habitats even as increasing carbon dioxide alters the regional climate in ways that will make it impossible for many species to survive.

The federation report, called "Fueling the Fire," brings a regional focus to climate research findings from federal agencies, academia and science journals.

The researchers cited growing evidence that rising regional temperatures had already caused warmer winters, earlier springs and less snow — increasing the likelihood of winter flooding and of diminished summer water supplies.

All told, the winter snowpack, which is the source of 75% of the West's water, has declined by up to a third in the northern Rocky Mountain region and more than 50% in parts of the Cascades since 1950, the federation reported.

Indeed, the West is in the middle of a prolonged drought that may be the worst since record-keeping began more than a century ago — the direct consequence of altered weather patterns caused by warmer temperatures in the Pacific and Indian oceans, other research groups have reported.

As the Western landscape becomes more desiccated, wildfires become more common, more widespread and harder to control, experts said.

This past wildfire season was the most severe on record, said ecologist Steven W. Running at the University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation.

More than 9.6 million acres burned over the summer — twice the seasonal average — and at \$1.5 billion, the expense to fight them was the greatest ever.

"The warming trend we are under is clearly accelerating and expanding the wildfire activity," Running said.

"There is no reason we can see that it will reverse anytime soon."

lee.holtz@latimes.com

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON FOREST RESOURCES WHITE PAPER

A report from California Climate Change Center

Prepared By: John J. Battles,^{1,2} Timothy Robards,^{1,3} Adrian Das,¹ Kristen Waring,² J. Keith Gilles,¹ Frieder Schurr,² John LeBlanc,² Gregory Biging,¹ and Clara Simon¹

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U.C. Berkeley

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Forestry and Fire Protection

March 2006

CEC-500-2005-193-SF

DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared as the result of work sponsored by the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). It does not necessarily represent the views of the Energy Commission, Cal/EPA, their employees, or the State of California. The Energy Commission, Cal/EPA, the State of California, their employees, contractors, and subcontractors make no warrant, express or implied, and assume no legal liability for the information in this report; nor does any party represent that the uses of this information will not infringe upon privately owned rights. This report has not been approved or disapproved by the California Energy Commission or Cal/EPA, nor has the California Energy Commission or Cal/EPA passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of the information in this report.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor*

March 2006

CEC-500-2005-193-SF

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-193/CEC-500-2005-193-SF.PDF>

p 6: In other words, the projections may underestimate the severity of growth reductions.

p. 9:

3.0 Results

3.1. Climate Change Impact on Forest Growth and Yield

<p>All four downscaled climate realizations for the site in El Dorado county predicted climatic conditions that lead to reduced conifer growth during the next century. Increased summer temperature was the primary driver of these changes. For this specific site, there was no trend in winter precipitation for any of climate scenarios (Figures 2 and 3). The relative impact of climate change was greater for white fir, incense cedar, and Douglas fir compared to ponderosa pine and sugar pine (Figures 4 and 5). The most severe reductions occurred under the GFDL A2 scenario (high greenhouse gas emissions). For all climate realizations, growth reductions increased with time (Figures 4 and 5).</p>	<p>Based on the CACTOS_{clim} modeling, tree growth and timber yield for the reserve stand and pine plantation declined under all four climate projections. Declines were more severe for the pine plantation; growth under the GFDL projections was consistently lower; and the A2 emission scenario always reduced growth more than the B1 scenario (Tables 2-5). By the end of the century (i.e., 2066-2100), the severity of the declines ranged from a minimum of 4% relative to baseline (reserve stand, PCM B1) to a maximum of 31% (pine plantation, GFDL A2).</p>	<p>These growth declines translated into substantial absolute losses of wood volume in both management regimes. Relative to 1971-2000, average timber growth in the reserve stand declined by 18%, representing a loss of 0.33 MBF acre⁻¹ yr⁻¹ of timber in 2171-2100 (Figure 6). Relative to 1971-2000, average timber growth in the pine plantation declined by 31%, representing a loss of 0.18 MBF acre⁻¹ yr⁻¹ of timber in 2171-2100 (Figure 7). As noted above, decreases in growth and yield were less under the lower-emission scenario. For example, timber growth was reduced by 11% under GFDL B1 scenarios in the reserve stands and by 19% in the pine plantations (Figures 6 and 7; Tables 4 and 5).</p>
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4.2. Adaptations for Timber Management

All climate scenarios considered here were associated with decreasing volume growth and timber yield. The responses available to offset declining yields in any specific region fall into three categories. Cutting more acreage is an obvious way to maintain constant total yields. Obviously, increased harvests is a short-term solution that does not address the fundamental problem of lost production. Furthermore, there are policy and regulatory restrictions to harvest plans that cut more than can be replaced. Another response is to reduce investment in timber management in order to increase net financial return. This strategy results in less-intensive forest management (e.g., reductions in shrub

control, longer intervals between non-commercial thinning) that has implications for both forest health and fire risk. Alternatively, silvicultural treatments could be designed to compensate growth losses to climate change with improvements in stand conditions. Planting mixtures of species, maintaining several age classes, reducing tree density, and pruning trees at strategic intervals are examples of cultural practices that could improve timber yields.

4.3. Adaptations for Forest Health

The projected changes in climate exacerbate ongoing forest health concerns. The predicted reductions in growth increased the number of susceptible trees in the forest. Weak trees are less able to resist pathogen infections and insect attacks, regardless of whether the pests are native or recently arrived. Our model only considered non-catastrophic mortality, yet there are clear linkages to fire risk, disease eruptions, and insect outbreaks. One preventative response is to retain a mixture of species and ages in the mixed conifer forests. Monodominant stands are at most risk. Designing diverse forest structures with multiple species where appropriate alleviates some risk associated with even-aged, single-species stands. A spatially mixed forests limits the spread of both pathogens and insects. Another effective adaptation would be to maintain lower tree densities. By reducing fuel loads and reducing competition, lower-density stands provide structures that are more resilient to catastrophic events like fire and epidemics.

Mark Harmon is a professor of Forest Science at Oregon State University who has studied carbon stores in forests for over 20 years. Below is his statement to the California Air Resources Board October 17, 2007.

Comments on Forest Protocols

CARB Consideration of the California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols

Dear Chair Nichols and other members of the Air Resources Board:

I am writing your board to clarify some of the scientific and technical issues related to the proposed California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols that appear to have been raised in discussions leading up to the California Air Resources Board's deliberations on endorsement of the Forest Protocols. I do so as a scientist that has been involved in studying the issue of carbon stores in forests for over 20 years. During this time I have published scores of peer-reviewed papers on this subject, developed models of the processes involved, taught undergraduate and graduate level classes, presented findings in national and international scientific conferences and symposia as well as public and government briefings, and been involved in the development of national level research plans to study carbon dynamics. I am considered to be an expert in this arena and my advice has been sought out by fellow scientists, government agencies (state and federal), private land owners, consultants, NGO's and many others. In fact I was asked to provide guidance on the Forest Protocols when they were initially being developed.

Below I list some important points regarding specific issues that appear to have been raised.

Carbon Sequestration by Younger versus Older Forests

It is very disappointing to find that arguments are still being made that younger forests are better for climate mitigation than older ones. The mistaken basis for this argument is that younger forests store carbon at faster rates than older forests. There is a grain of truth to the assertion that forests at a relatively young age do have the potential to take up more carbon than older forests. But it is also true that forests younger than this optimum age also take up less carbon. Indeed immediately after disturbance very young forests are releasing carbon as the dead material caused by the disturbance (including timber harvests) decomposes. Averaged over the entire period between disturbances, the average flow into a forest equals the amount going out as long

as the same type of disturbance is repeated. This finding has been repeatedly demonstrated in scientific examinations of this issue. The key is therefore not the rate of carbon uptake or release at any particular time, but the average amount stored over time. I am not aware of a single scientific study in which the average carbon store of a forest disturbed by clear cut harvesting at a long interval is smaller than one disturbed at a shorter interval. Not a single study, and I just performed a literature search on this very issue. In addition to the interval between disturbances, another important factor is the amount of carbon removed by each disturbance. Timber harvest, clear cutting in particular, removes more carbon from the forest than any other disturbance (including fire). The result is that harvesting forests generally reduces carbon stores and results in a net release of carbon to the atmosphere.

Another mistaken notion is that the Forest Protocols should focus on rates of uptake and not changes in stores or stock changes. Scientists refer to these rates of carbon uptake and release as fluxes. One must measure all the positive and negative fluxes to understand the overall balance (much like in a bank balance in which one must account for all the sources of income and expenses for it to make sense). Simple mathematics tells us that as long as all the relevant fluxes in and out of the forest are measured the answer will be the same as if the changes in stocks are measured. The only difference is that measuring changes in stocks is far easier and cheaper than accounting for all the fluxes. Scientists measure fluxes to understand the mechanisms, but there is no need to do this to determine the net change in carbon stores. A net increase in stores is related to a positive flux into the forest, a net decrease a negative flow out to the atmosphere, and no change means the flows in and out are equal. Both methods are scientifically valid.

Accounting for Wood Products

In the Forest Protocols wood products are treated as an optional carbon store. I believe this is completely appropriate for several reasons. While it is true that some of the carbon harvested from a forest is stored for a period of time it is not the case that this material is stored forever. Similar to other forest-related pools, it is the balance of inputs versus outputs that determines whether the wood products pool is increasing or decreasing. Not all harvested carbon results in storage into longer term pools. A considerable amount, estimated by the guidelines to be 40%, is released to the atmosphere during manufacturing and initial use. The remaining amount suffers losses during use from fires, decomposition, and other factors. We know this because about half the wood products that are produced today

are used to replace the ones that have been in use. I believe the Forest Protocols addresses these issues adequately by providing reasonable conversion factors, manufacturing losses, and product life-spans that are based on previous peer-reviewed scientific studies.

Setting aside the specifics of how forest products could be tracked, there are several reasons to make forest products optional at this time. First, is that even when this store is included it only comprises a small fraction of the total forest system stock of carbon. Again, based on a recent literature review, less than 20% of the total forest system carbon story is held in forest products. The average fraction is likely less than 10%. Second, unlike carbon in the forest itself, it is impossible to specifically account for where forest products end up. Therefore there is no way to confirm the carbon stores are actually present. At least with a forest one can visit the actual site of storage. Third, it is difficult to demonstrate the new forest products meet additionality requirements: some of the new material replaces old material and hence there is no real additionality. Granted the new harvest may help to maintain current stores in forest products and that is accounted for under the proposed Forest Protocols. Fourth, the project supplying the raw material has a limited ability to control the various products that are produced and how and where they are used, which means that the exact contribution to forest products pools is highly uncertain. At best the average storage rates can be computed until a better way (probably incurring a great deal of expense) to track the actual uses and life-span of products is developed.

Use of default biomass coefficients

While it would be ideal if one could directly measure all the carbon in a forest this is not practical at this time. Instead one must relate the size of the trees and other items to the amount of carbon they store. By making very detailed measures of dimensions of each object (e.g., each tree) one can compute volumes and coupling that with measurements of carbon content per unit volume of each object one can very precisely determine carbon stores in many kinds of forest pools. Unfortunately that would be a very expensive process. A more economical approach is to develop biomass equations from a subsampling of trees or other objects. However, this too is has considerable expense and requires technical training. For those unable to develop or afford project specific biomass equations, the Forest Protocols provide default biomass regression equations that are reasonable and sound. These default equations were developed by respected and leading scientists in the field of forest inventory (Richard Birdsey, Linda Heath, Jennifer Jenkins and David Chojnacky) and were based

on a nationwide literature search using many thousands of diameter measurements from a wide selection of many North American tree species. The equations were peer-reviewed, published by the USDA Forest Service, and have become a national standard for scientific study.

I see benefits other than economic ones in using the standardized default equations. It places everyone on equal footing and allows for standardized checking of results. While the absolute carbon store may be systematically over- or underestimated by these equations, these biases are greatly reduced when the net change in stocks is considered. I see nothing whatsoever preventing landowners from developing site specific biomass equations that are more accurate than the default ones. The only restriction is that the equations are approved by a third-party certifier, a step that is essential to assure a credible program.

Use of growth and yield models

At the start of any project, it is logical to project the potential increases in carbon stocks. Projects unable to at least predict a positive increase in carbon stores should not be considered viable. Projections are ideally based on results from similar kinds of projects, but given the early stages of forest carbon management, these data rarely exist. A viable alternative is use models to estimate potential project benefits. The Forest Protocols specify a number of timber growth and yield models including CACTOS (California Conifer Timber Output Simulator), CRYPTOS (California Conifer Timber Output Simulator), FVS (Forest Vegetation Simulator), SPS (Stand Projection System), VFP (Visual Forester Professional), and FREIGHTS (Forest Resource Inventory Growth, and Harvest Tracking System). I will not comment on the merits of these specific models, however, I do note they were pre-approved by the California Climate Action Registry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection which would seem to be the appropriate institutions to conduct a model evaluation and approval. If the models have a shortcoming it is that they are largely focused on the live part of the forests and do not include the other forest carbon pools. Still it is unlikely that forests will increase overall carbon stores if the tree stores are decreasing; therefore these models are a logical starting point.

As with other aspects of the Forest Protocols, projects are given flexibility to develop their own projection models so long as they have been reviewed by technically competent peers, are parameterized for the specific conditions of the project, are used within the scope for which they were developed and evaluated, and are clearly documented. Frankly I do not understand why anyone

would trust a model that was not reviewed, was parameterized for a different set of conditions, and used for purposes it was not developed for or was not documented. That would be completely illogical. The Protocols also correctly point out that a sensitivity analysis should be performed and that the models should be periodically reviewed. Clearly it would be impossible to understand any model unless one understands the various uncertainties associated with it. Periodic review is required because models change as does the science they are based upon. The Forest Protocol requirements of annual reporting and direct sampling of forest carbon (over ten year intervals) ensure that the model projections are compared with ground-level data. By coupling models and data one can more accurately forecast future changes in carbon stores. Besides, the measured changes in carbon stores are what actually happened, projections just what might have happened.

Requiring Confidence Level be Determined

While it is true carbon is carbon, not all carbon stores projects are equally credible. There are two facets to this issue. The first is whether the project plan itself is viable. The Forest Protocols deal with this issue by requiring information on the location, climate, likely disturbances, longevity, proposed activity and other factors that might influence the storage of carbon. Projects failing to meet these requirements should not be considered viable. The second is that those potentially viable projects demonstrating actual increases in carbon stocks should have more value than ones that do not. As projects are likely to use a range of sampling methods, the Forest Protocols correctly uses the degree of statistical confidence to modify the estimate of carbon stocks. These are used as deductions to provide a conservative estimate of the most likely carbon store in a project.

This is entirely appropriate given underestimating stores causes less potential environmental damage than overestimating the stores. While this approach emphasizes the effect of sampling errors (there are other kinds that are not considered), it is a completely rigorous and technically sound way to factor in the quality of the carbon store estimate. Given the sliding scale of deductions the managers of a project can decide if the gains in carbon related to reducing uncertainty outweigh the costs of increased sampling. Therefore this sliding scale discount approach provides flexibility to landowners while ensuring a high level of confidence in forest carbon estimates.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments

concerning several scientific and technical aspects of the California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols. I hope my input clarifies several potential misunderstanding and leads you toward the logical decision of endorsing the Forest Protocols as a voluntary early action measure.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Harmon
Richardson Chair and Professor
Forest Science

http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bccomdisp.php?listname=forestghg07&comment_num=22&virt_num=22

Attachment: www.arb.ca.gov/lists/forestghg07/22-ca_air_quality_board-forest_products_protocols-harmon-letterhead.doc

Original File Name: CA air Quality Board-forest products protocols-harmon-letterhead.DOC

Date and Time Comment Was Submitted: 2007-10-17 15:40:02

These comments are submitted on behalf of Forest Ethics and Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch to the Forestry Protocol Stakeholder Meeting on February 22, 2008.

Description:

Any analysis of the role forestry plays in carbon sequestration and emissions must look at management practices, avoiding credit for clearcutting forests and plantation conversion. Studies show that while trees do indeed absorb carbon, only about half of the carbon in a forest is in the trees. The rest is in the woody material and soils that has been built up over time (See the studies of Professors Olga Krankina and Mark Harmon for more information on this). This means that when converting a mature forest into a plantation, all the stored carbon in the soils and dead material begins to be released. Even after the area is replanted, it takes years for the plantation to become carbon neutral because of the decaying dead material.

Since 1990, at least 1,100,000 acres have been clearcut or converted to plantations on California's private forestlands. This means a significant carbon sequestration resource has been lost while carbon emissions have been higher than for any other forest disturbance, including fires.

Plantations are at risk from climate change. However, creating or preserving forests that are naturally diverse is a means to increase resiliency to cope with repercussions from climate change and associated impacts. The California Energy Commission says in their *Climate Change Impact on Forest Resources White Paper*¹, "One preventative response is to retain a mixture of species and ages in the mixed conifer forests. Monodominant stands are at most risk. Designing diverse forest structures with multiple species where appropriate alleviates some risk associated with even-aged, single-species stands."

Harvesting mature forests and replacing them with young forests, which is being done in about a third of all California timber harvest is a forest management strategy counterproductive to the goals of AB32.

There is a widespread and misguided belief that logging or clearing mature forests and replacing them with fast-growing younger trees will benefit the climate by sequestering atmospheric CO₂. While younger trees grow and sequester carbon quickly, the fate of stored carbon when mature forests are logged must also be considered. When a forest is logged, some of its carbon may be stored for years or decades in wood products. But large quantities of CO₂ are also released to the atmosphere - immediately through the disturbance of forest soils, and over time through the decomposition of leaves, branches, and other detritus of timber production. One study found that even when storage of carbon in timber products is considered, the conversion of 5 million hectares of mature forest to plantations

¹

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-193/CEC-500-2005-193-SF.PDF>

in the Pacific Northwest over the last 100 years resulted in a net increase of over 1.5 billion tons of carbon to the atmosphere.²

Clearcutting is creating a huge, long-lasting emissions source across the state. Professor Mark Harmon discussed the emissions of clearcuts in a comment letter to the Air Resources Board in October 2007.³ In it, he said "Timber harvest, clear cutting in particular, removes more carbon from the forest than any other disturbance (including fire). The result is that harvesting forests generally reduces carbon stores and results in a net release of carbon to the atmosphere." These emissions are not a short-lived, one-time event, but are ongoing and lasting.

Research by CarboEurope, a European program that has pioneered research into the carbon budget, reveals that soils in forests release more carbon than their trees will absorb in the first 10 years. Forest soils and the organic matter within them generally contain three to four times as much carbon as does vegetation on the ground. CarboEurope's researchers contend that, when ground is cleared for forest planting, rotting organic matter in the soil releases a surge of carbon dioxide into the air that will exceed the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by growing trees for at least the first 10 years of forest growth; only later will the uptake of carbon by the trees begin to offset the release of carbon dioxide from the soil. In fact, their research indicates that some new forests planted on wet, peaty soils may never absorb as much carbon as they release.⁴

The IPCC has also addressed this issue and potential mistakes which could occur in accounting and protocol systems:

Some definitions of reforestation include the activity of regeneration after disturbance or harvesting, while disturbance or harvesting are not defined as deforestation. In these circumstances credits could be accounted for the regeneration, without debits for disturbance or harvesting, this would lead to an accounting system where the changes in terrestrial carbon do not reflect the real changes in the atmosphere.⁵

² Harmon, M.E., W.K. Ferrell and J.K. Franklin. 1990. Effects on carbon storage of conversion of old-growth forests to young forests. *Science* 247: 699-702. Union of Concerned Scientists. "Recognizing Forests' Role in Climate Change" http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/recognizing-forests-role-in-climate-change.html

3

http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/comm/bccomdisp.php?listname=forestghg07&comment_num=22&virt_num=22

⁴ F. Pearce, "Tree Farms Won't Halt Climate Change," *New Scientist*, Print Edition (October 28, 2002), web site <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn2958-tree-farms-wont-halt-climate-change.html>. Energy Information Administration: "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2003: Land Use Issues." <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/gg04rpt/land.html>

⁵ "A Report on the Key Findings from the IPCC Special Report on Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry." Robert T. Watson, Chair of the IPCC. 12th Session of SBSTA. Bonn, Germany. June 13, 2000. <http://www.ipcc.ch/press/sp-lulucf.htm>

Statistics from California timber harvest on private lands from 1995-2006 show that on average over 69,000 acres per year of clearcuts and other evenaged methods have been approved for harvest. Each of these, harvested within five years of approval, continue to produce net CO2 emission for years. When AB32 goes into effect the lingering effects of clearcutting will need to be factored into AB32 Protocols and implementation measures.

Other considerations for Forestry Protocol development:

Any carbon accreditation system should encourage - through a combination of regulation, incentives, and government purchasing preferences - policies which create forests with longer rotation cycles and a focus on unevenaged management. The only possible instance when evenaged plantation creation could be credited for carbon storage is when land is truly afforested, such as when transitioning from agriculture.

Salvage logging and replanting an area is of questionable carbon benefit. Fires do release carbon, but it is not all released immediately. Studies have shown that 30 years after a fire about half of the carbon of the dead trees will be released, but the other half will be intact. As the carbon remaining after a fire slowly decomposes and is released, it is offset by the sequestration and carbon capture from new growth within the forest. However, if the burned forest is immediately logged, remaining intact carbon is lost and soil disruption increases immediate carbon release.

Counting carbon in wood products is another highly speculative endeavor. Carbon is simply not stored in wood products forever, since wood products can easily burn or decompose. The process of making wood products also requires the release of carbon. Studies have shown that the amount of carbon sequestered in wood-based products is less than 20% of the total carbon sequestered in the original forest system.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these comments.

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9.68 Local Regulations

The State of California has general jurisdiction over timber practices. However, where there are local needs of a county, the county may recommend additional rules and regulations concerning timber operations. This is outlined in the **Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act:**

4515.5. County recommendation of rules and regulations; timber operations; board rules and regulations; limitation on enforcement and validity of local ordinances, rules and regulations; applicability of section.

- (a) Individual counties may recommend that the board adopt additional rules and regulations for the content of timber harvesting plans and the conduct of timber operations to take account of local needs. For purposes of this section, "Timber operations" Includes, but is not limited to, soil erosion control, protection of stream character and water quality, water distribution systems, flood control, stand density control, reforestation methods, mass soil movements, location and grade of roads and skid trails, excavation and fill requirements, slash and debris disposal, haul routes and schedules, hours and dates of logging, and performance bond or other reasonable surety requirements for onsite timber operations and for protection of publicly and privately owned roads that are part of the haul route. Were a bond or other surety has been required, the director shall not issue a work completion report without first ascertaining whether the county in which the timber operations were conducted has knowledge of any claims intended to be made on the bond or surety.

County rules concerning forest practices have been implemented in San Mateo County, Lake County, Monterey County, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, and Marin County,

9.70 Table 9-15

Goal IV from the 1996 Calaveras County General Plan is "Preserve and encourage the expansion of high capability timber lands for timber protection and harvest."

However, this goal of preserving timberlands is threatened by increasing development in the County. (See following articles, "State county see timber harvest decline" and "New Strategy Aims to Ensure Future of Forests.") To protect timberlands another goal should be added:

Goal: Limit intrusion of new development into timberland areas by avoiding the conversion of timberlands to residential, non-timber commercial, or industrial uses except those that are determined to be timberland support uses.

Policies

1.A.1 Avoid the conversion of lands either designated timberland in the General Plan or which have compatible zonings.

1.A. 2 Allow exceptions to this policy regarding conversion of timberland only where the locational relationship of the land together with the use proposed would provide a public benefit of such magnitude to justify the exception.

1.A.3 Development adjacent to timberland should demonstrate that the use proposed would not be substantially detrimental to adjacent timberland operations.

1.A.4 New commercial timberland facilities such as mills or other processing operations shall be sited where such units will not conflict significantly with residential uses, scenic tourism values, or water resources.

Implementation Programs

1.A.a Encourage the siting of new urban residential development only on lands where it will not be adjacent to commercial timberland.

1.A.b Discourage the development of incompatible land uses on lands adjacent to commercial timberland.

1.A.c Continue to provide tax incentives for the conservation timberlands, such as Timberland Production (TPZ) zoning, Williamson Act land conservation contracts, and other State or Federal incentive

programs that may be offered for timberland conservation.

1.A.d Site new commercial timber processing facilities or other timberland support operations in locations most appropriate for such facilities, considering traffic, water, air emissions, and the proximity of residential properties.

Also see the Z'Berg-Nejedly forest Practice Act of 1973 Board of Forestry Regarding Conversion of Timberlands. (See following excerpt.)

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE
PART 2. Protection Of Forest, Range And Forage Lands
CHAPTER 8. Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act Of 1973
Board of Forestry Regarding Conversion of Timberlands

4621.

(a) Any person who owns timberlands which are to be devoted to uses other than the growing of timber shall file an application for conversion with the board. The board shall, by regulation, prescribe the procedures for, form, and content of, the application. An application for a timberland conversion permit shall be accompanied by an application fee, payable to the department, in an amount determined by the board pursuant to subdivision (b).

(b) The board shall establish, by regulation, a system of graduated timberland conversion permit fees to finance the cost of administering this article.

4621.2.

(a) If the timberlands which are to be devoted to uses other than the growing of timber are zoned as timberland production zones under Section 51112 or 51113 of the Government Code, the application shall specify the proposed alternate use and shall include information the board determines necessary to evaluate the proposed alternate use. *The board shall approve the application for conversion only if the board makes written findings that all of the following exist:*

(1) The conversion would be in the public interest.

(2) The conversion would not have a substantial and unmitigated adverse effect upon the continued timber-growing use or open-space use of other land zoned as timberland preserve and situated within one mile of the exterior boundary of the land upon which immediate rezoning is proposed.

(3) The soils, slopes, and watershed conditions would be suitable for the uses proposed if the conversion were approved.

(b) The existence of an opportunity for an alternative use of the land shall not alone be sufficient reason for conditionally approving an application for conversion. Conversion shall be considered only if there is no proximate and suitable land which is not zoned as timberland production for the alternate use not permitted within a timberland production zone.

(c) The uneconomic character of the existing use shall not be sufficient reason for the conditional approval of conversion. The uneconomic character of the existing use may be considered only if there is no other reasonable or comparable timber-growing use to which the land may be put.

(d) In the event that the board delegates its responsibilities under this section to the director pursuant to Section 4627, the director shall make the written findings required by subdivision (a). In the event that the director denies a conversion, the applicant may request a hearing before the board within 15 days of the denial. The hearing shall be scheduled within 60 days from the filing of the appeal.

From: Joyce Techel
To: Undisclosed-Recipient:
Date: 6/28/2007 10:44:03 AM
Subject: State, county see timber harvest declinefyi-jt

State, county see timber harvest decline

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

By [Raheem Hosseini](#)

California's timber industry is in a statewide production decline, with Amador County experiencing one of the steepest drops, according to a recent study by an industry-funded commission.

The California Forests Product Commission's "State of the Industry" report found California lagging behind both Oregon and Washington in wood harvesting, even though those states have fewer acres of harvestable forest lands.

Between 2005 and 2006, California saw its numbers dip from 1.6 billion to 1.5 billion board feet of wood harvested, a decline of 5.4 percent, while Oregon and Washington each produced more than 3.5 billion. Comparatively, Amador's drop was more severe, as the county went from producing 87,852 board feet in 2005 to 27,274 in 2006, a decrease of 69 percent.

Mark Palicki, a spokesman for Sierra Pacific Industries, the largest industrial owner in Amador County, said his own company's harvesting numbers have remained relatively stable, but that the state as a whole has experienced significant decreases over the past 20 years. Most of the drop has been relegated to federal lands, he added, but private owners are losing out as well.

"The cost of permitting has gone up so much that many landowners, especially small landowners, have gone out of business," Palicki said.

The average cost to put together a state-mandated timber harvest plan, which must be updated every three years, is \$40,000, Palicki said, money the average small landowner doesn't have. "It's too much," he said. "It's overkill."

A 2003 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, study found that California's environmental laws are some of the strictest in the nation, with multiple layers of federal, state, county and local regulations ensuring sustainable management of forest lands. The study also called the state regulatory process, with its unique upfront review process, "a one-size-fits-all approach that cannot accommodate all the variables of California's landscapes."

Recent declines have cast doubt on the future of California's logging industry. The commission report shows there's "no certainty forestry will be profitable in the long run," said Commission President Donn Zea. "It's a chipping away of the goals of stewardship by focusing more on the process of bureaucracy."

This has led some landowners to bypass the regulatory process altogether by converting their lands to other uses, such as recreation, wildlife habitats and housing, which isn't necessarily bad, Palicki noted. "That can be fine, too," he said. "We like to see options available."

But while the timber industry in California may find itself in continued flux, the local demand for wood products that Zea identifies isn't necessarily accurate, according to a local environmental group. "We don't agree with the basic premise that somehow we're supposed to produce X number of board feet per capita in California," said Foothill Conservancy Executive Director Chris Wright via e-mail. "This is an odd premise that's being used to push more

timber harvest when we don't expect to produce all of our other resources in this state."

As for the commission's contention that increased harvesting on government lands would reduce fire hazards, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is more concerned with an encroachment of undergrowth and smaller trees that can fuel wildfires, according to CAL FIRE unit forester Phyllis Balducci. "In general, those private lands are not overstocked," she said of the privately owned lands CAL FIRE manages. "Where the issue comes in, and this has been brought up before, is that many of the national forest lands have not been harvested heavily for over 15 years." The department doesn't manage national forest lands.

Representatives from Eldorado National Forest could not be reached for comment.

Logging larger trees can actually increase the risks associated with wildfires, Wright said, by raising the temperature of the forest and creating stronger wind patterns.

As for a timber industry the commission reports is suffering as a result of decreasing harvesting numbers, Zea said large and small landowners are hamstrung by complex state regulations. "I guess the paradox is that we consider ourselves environmental leaders, but on this end we're failing," he said. "You can get to that stewardship in a so much more effective way."

The industry wasn't able to take advantage of last year's housing boom, for instance, nor was it greatly affected by the slowing market. Getting into the timber industry at this point, Zea added, is a risky venture in a state where the industry's future is increasingly uncertain. "A saw mill business is not inexpensive," he said.

For the conservancy, its focus on stewardship has meant

supporting what it calls sustainable timber harvest, which seeks to balance the interests of communities, wildlife, water quality and wood production. As a partner of the Calaveras Healthy Impacts Solutions project, the conservancy is working with loggers, landowners, the local Native American population and other environmental groups to reduce fire dangers and provide jobs in the Blue Mountain area of the county. The CHIPS project was recently awarded a federal grant that Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA) will present next week in West Point.

"We will all need forest products," Wright said, "but first and foremost we must protect the forest ecosystem."

But how far does that stewardship extend? Palicki notes that the state's continued demand for wood products just means it's getting it from outside states and countries, where these strict environmental policies don't exist.

"From a global perspective, you're harvesting from other places without those environmental protections," he said. "It's sort of a zero sum (game)."

Jenifer Gee contributed to this report.

News

NEW STRATEGY AIMS TO ENSURE FUTURE OF FORESTS

By **Dana M. Nichols**

December 17, 2007

Record Staff Writer

ARNOLD - The U.S. Forest Service this month launched a national strategy intended to preserve open space on private lands outside of forest boundaries.

That's because federal officials now consider the proliferation of homes and roads on private lands like those stretching from West Point to Arnold in Calaveras County to be one of the greatest threats to nearby national forests.

Federal officials and scientists say carving up private lands into lots for homes fragments wildlife habitat, introduces weeds closer to the forests and makes it harder to control a variety of threats from wildfires to erosion caused by motor vehicle use. They expect 65 million acres of land within 10 miles of national Forest Service boundaries - private forests and other private lands - to be converted to housing between now and 2030.

A recent federal report offers the Stanislaus National Forest as an example of a forest suffering damage from user-created trails as a result of the growing population within 10 miles of forest boundaries.

The new open space conservation strategy does not come with any new money to buy land for conservation, but it does direct local staff at all 155 of the nation's forests to work with local governments and landowners to preserve open space.

"It recognizes that this is a serious situation in America," said Larry Payne, director for cooperative forestry for the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., and chairman of the committee that produced the conservation strategy.

In Calaveras County, much of the private land close to national forest boundaries is owned by Sierra Pacific Industries, a private logging company. SPI representatives in Calaveras County and at SPI headquarters in Anderson did not respond to messages seeking comment.

But at least one conservation advocate said he'd welcome efforts by SPI and the Stanislaus National Forest to swap pieces of land that would give each entity larger contiguous tracts.

"It makes sense in so many areas out there in the forest where the forest service has blocks of land that are more challenging to manage," said John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center.

Right now, there are many small pockets of Stanislaus National Forest land that are surrounded by private SPI land and are impossible to reach, particularly in the West Point area, said Jerry Snyder, a spokesman for the Stanislaus forest.

Calaveras County Supervisor Steve Wilensky, whose district includes public and private forestland near West Point and Rail Road Flat, said he'd welcome federal help in preserving some particular chunks of private land that have old-growth trees and archeological sites, and that are next to national forest.

"This is actually quite a development and very heartening to hear," Wilensky said of the Forest Service strategy to preserve open space near forests.

Unlike most counties in the Sierra Nevada that are largely public land, Calaveras County is mostly privately owned, Wilensky said. "We are the most privatized and Balkanized section of the Sierra."

Payne said the Forest Service open space strategy is entirely voluntary and will only work with willing local governments and private property owners. He said the program will include efforts to develop new incentives to keep ranches and private logging lands in operation so their owners won't be forced to sell them off for housing development.

conservation tool will involve developing "ecosystem service markets."

James Melonas, a cooperative forestry specialist for the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., said another conservation tool will involve developing "ecosystem service markets."

Such a market would allow those receiving an environmental benefit to pay for it. For example, a Bay Area water district that gets drinking water from the Sierra might pay private property owners so that the owners would not create housing projects that would eventually pollute the water with their leaking septic systems, Melonas said. He said a water utility in New York already pays landowners in mountains there to adopt certain practices because it is less expensive than building treatment plants to clean up the water.

Ranchers and loggers here have traditionally been skeptical about efforts to regulate the lands they own, but they also admit that economics is forcing many to abandon their business and sell out for housing.

That means that at least some may be willing to discuss measures intended to preserve ranches and private forestlands.

"We are open to everything to help us with agriculture," said Michael David Fischer, a rancher who is director for the District 12 San Joaquin/Calaveras Farm Bureau. "I can't see where it would be a bad thing, myself," he said of Forest Service help to keep private ranches and forests in operation.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com.

[VISIT HIS BLOG](#)

Open space near national forests

To learn more about the U.S. Forest Service's open space conservation strategy, visit www.fs.fed.us/openspace.

"Peak Oil" not yet in General Plan update

Last June, the Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability (FoCuS) submitted documents requesting that information on climate change and "peak oil" be included in the Baseline Report for the General Plan update. We are pleased to see references to climate change.

However, we have been unable to find any reference to peak oil in the current General Plan draft. "Peak Oil" is the concept that either recently or very soon the world will experience the historic peak in oil and gas production, after which oil consumption will begin to decline as that resource is depleted. This inevitable decline in world oil and gas production may not be receiving the widespread press that climate change currently is, but the implications are every bit as profound and should be reflected in our General Plan.

Calaveras County is rural; we are far removed from current sources of many of the essentials for life that will have implications as oil decreases:

- The cost of transporting food from distant sources will increase significantly. Our General Plan should reflect our support for local agriculture.
- People will drive less. The Plan should support infrastructure changes that encourage alternative fuels and forms of transportation.
- The production of consumer goods to meet the needs of county residents suggests local industry. A currently missing Economic Development Element would do well to set in place goals that foster a strong local economy.
- As gasoline diminishes, how will we address declining tourism? What other sources of wealth and work can be fostered and developed.
- Declining oil may require concentrating housing and services (schools, health care, public safety) to cut down travel distances.
- Independent local renewable forms of energy need to be factored into planning for housing, transportation, schooling, and business. Future economic development should foster a strong locally based economy powered by energy sources other than gas and oil.

This General Plan is supposed to be a useful document for the next 20 to 30 years. To not include the reality of declining oil and gas supplies, and the profound effect this will have on the way we live, commute, recreate, and do business here in Calaveras County, is to ignore the elephant in the room. We need to keep Peak Oil in the forefront of our strategic planning at the County level, and consequently it should be a part of this General Plan.

Note: The price of a barrel of oil has gone over \$100 for the first time. Prices in local stores have already reflected rising costs of production and transportation. Some estimates predict the cost of a gallon of gasoline will be over \$4.00 in the course of 2008.

A Few "Peak Oil" Quotations

Estimates come from numerous sources, not the least of which is Vice President Dick Cheney himself. In a 1999 speech he gave while still CEO of Halliburton, Cheney stated:

*By some estimates, there will be an average of two-percent annual growth in global oil demand over the years ahead, along with, **conservatively**, a three-percent natural decline in production from existing reserves. That means by 2010 we will need an additional 50 million barrels per day.*

"The world has never faced a problem like peak oil. Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary."

U.S. Department of Energy – March 2005 report

As long distance transportation for food and other important goods becomes too expensive and energy intensive with declining oil supplies, local communities will have to become more self-reliant and self-sustaining. In effect, the process of globalization will reverse as a massive economic re-localization effort begins out of necessity.

Community Solution.org

The issue is not one of "running out" so much as it is not having enough to keep our economy running. In this regard, the ramifications of Peak Oil for our civilization are similar to the ramifications of dehydration for the human body. The human body is 70 percent water. The body of a 200 pound man thus holds 140 pounds of water. Because water is so crucial to everything the human body does, the man doesn't need to lose all 140 pounds of water weight before collapsing due to dehydration. A loss of as little as 10-15 pounds of water may be enough to kill him.

In a similar sense, an oil based economy such as ours doesn't need to deplete its entire reserve of oil before it begins to collapse. A shortfall between demand and supply as little as 10 to 15 percent is enough to wholly shatter an oil-dependent economy and reduce its citizenry to poverty.

Matt Savinar, lifeaftertheoilcrash.net

Chapter 10 Safety

10-10 Soil Erosion

There is a very brief discussion of soil erosion on this page. However, the potential for soil erosion due to clearcutting and the effects on Calaveras's watersheds is not considered. Following is a study on these issues compiled from a number of different sources. Following the study is a map of Calaveras watersheds.

Watershed concerns from evenaged timber harvest

"Water quality characteristics most affected by timber harvesting are: (1) sediment (2) dissolved nutrients . . .; and (3) water temperature."(20) Undisturbed forests are generally low in dissolved or suspended matter (except during floods); sediment loads and dissolved nutrients generally increase with the level of disturbance to the forest. Timber harvesting adjacent to stream channels increases sediment flows into streams, and can affect the temperature of the stream, because it removes the streamside vegetation that buffers the stream. (Backiel and Gorte, Report to Congress on Clearcutting)

"Logging and related activities such as road building, skidding, slash burning, and others have the potential to produce erosion that can deliver sediment and nutrients to streams." (Foster Wheeler, 69)

"Use of the soil resource for timber harvest has altered some characteristics of the soil and made it more susceptible to erosion (Poff 1996)." (Foster Wheeler , 21)

Watershed effects from clearcutting

Bates and Henry conducted a 15-year study "on the effects of clearcutting in Colorado snow-zone watersheds. Their results were similar to many other studies, from the Paulini brothers [in 1607] to the present—cutting increases peak flows and increases sedimentation [in] watersheds." (Euphrat, 14)

Harr et al. found that...clearcutting increased storm runoff in coastal Oregon watersheds. (Euphrat, 56)

"Clear cutting has devastating impacts on salamander populations. This has been documented in the scientific literature, in particular by Professor James Petranka and co-workers. There is also unpublished data existing in forest service reports concerning the effects of clear cutting on salamander and other vertebrate populations in New Mexico forests. There is extensive information available from Forest Service scientists in Arcata, Ca about clear cutting in the Pacific Northwest." (Dr. Wake, personal email)

"The effect of riparian zone trees on stream temperature has been documented in the Pacific Northwest (Meehan et al. 1977). There is very little information about the specific function of shade in the Sierra Nevada, although several authors have extrapolated the results of studies from the Pacific Northwest. For this analysis, we assume that temperature can be affected by lack of shade during the summer." (Foster Wheeler, 38)

Effects as Documented by ERA [Equivalent Roaded Area] Assessment Levels:

"Significant effect: Impact scores will be high in basins that receive a concentration of clearcutting and have a higher than average road concentration.

- "No effect: Areas with low road density or dominated by selective harvesting will continue to have low scores. " (Euphrat, 97)

Bare ground and equipment-operated ground:

"Bare ground is a potential source area for stream sedimentation, because machine-operated ground creates surfaces of relatively lower permeability over which overland flow is more likely to carry sediment." (Euphrat, 69)

“Significant differences were found between the clearcut and selectively harvested sites...All of the sites had been tractor-harvested...Most notably, clearcut sites had significantly more equipment-operated ground than selective-harvest sites....[T]ransects of harvest areas showed a difference in the amount of bare ground between selection and clearcut sites, significant at the 90% level...indicative of probable source areas for sediment transport.” (Euphrat, 70)

“[Study of harvest method and amount of bare ground] suggests that, per unit of ground, the potential for stream channel effects from surface soil erosion is greater on clearcuts.” (Euphrat, 100)

Change in water yield in the Mokelumne watershed:

Increases in Peak flow and heteroscedasticity

Peak flows were seen to increase in response to extreme events over time; low flows decreased over the same period.

From EBMUD’s “Protecting the Mokelumne...”

“The impacts of high flow volume include:

- River basin and shoreline scouring
- Sediment transport to Pardee Reservoir, displacing water supply storage and adversely impacting water quality (turbidity, copper compounds)
- Increased plant by product (nitrogen and phosphorus) volumes entering Pardee Reservoir, accelerating eutrophication
- Higher water temperatures in flows to Pardee, compromising programs to enhance fish habitat conditions in Pardee, Camanche, and the Lower Mokelumne River.” (EBMUD, 11)

For the Middle Fork of the Mokelumne, “Blanchard has already suggested that, for the period 1930 to 1960, total water yield increased. He attributed this to the removal of vegetation by timber harvesting, and anticipated an increased water yield of 4 to 6 inches, or 20%.” (Euphrat, 45)

Euphrat found that “the 20% increased yield that had occurred, ... according to Blanchard, continues still. What is notable, however, is the increased spread (heteroscedasticity) of the data; lows are lower and highs are higher...The increase in variation over time appears to be most marked beginning at water year 1971...[current Forest Practice Rules began in 1972] [O]ver this period of time, the streams are producing both more water in wet years, and less water in dry years. Interestingly, this effect of timber harvesting was a principal argument for conservation at the turn of the century, and a reason for which the reservation of forest area was justified by the fledgling Forest Service.” (Euphrat, 46-47)

Euphrat’s “analysis of residuals from the rainfall-runoff relationship for large storms in the Middle and South Forks of the Mokelumne indicates that runoff is getting greater over time, with a significance at the 99% level or higher...These data indicate that, over time, these streams are increasing their total flows per storm by many percent...

“It has been shown...that timber harvesting has occurred during this time span, and that the cumulative timber harvesting acreage tracks with time. Road density also increased to present levels between 1930 and 1975, and road maintenance and rebuilding have also paralleled timber harvesting. It is tempting to attribute the increase in large-storm runoff to other factors that track with time, but little else has occurred in these watersheds of such significance to the hydrologic Watershed Effects from Clearcutting

environment. Thus, time serves as a useful proxy variable for the suite of activities that is road-based logging.

“In respect to other, external factors, another hypothesis that must be tested is that of climatic change: Is the nature of flow changing in response to a set of changing storm conditions?...None of the results indicate significant relationships between climate, runoff, and time.” (55)

Euphrat’s “data show that runoff from large storms in the Mokelumne watershed has significantly increased over the period 1930-1980, the period in which these basins experienced timber harvesting and roadbuilding activities. Because the effect does not appear to be flattening over time, the change in runoff characteristics may well be tied to timber harvesting as well as road densities. Timber harvesting affects runoff by its reduction of vegetation cover and subsequent impacts on the snow pack. It may be fair to say that more recent timber harvesting, affecting annually and cumulatively greater and greater areas, combined with roads, skid trails, and tree removal, is creating progressively greater runoffs from large storms, with the largest storms displaying the greatest increase of runoff.

“Hewlett and Helvey found similar results on a 108 acre watershed in North Carolina, and attributed the increase in quickflow to increased runoff from saturated surfaces. Harr et al. found that...clearcutting increased storm runoff in coastal Oregon watersheds. (Euphrat, 56)

“The increased runoff and high significance in the extreme portions of this storm population show that peak flow changes in the mid-elevation Mokelumne are greatest during extreme events. This could be due to sediment additions from roads, from the change in runoff created by forest openings, or from the road surfaces themselves. The warm rain-on-snow storms, the topography, and the dense road network all make the Sierra different from other regions. Clearly, more research is needed in this region, on both control and treated watersheds, to determine the relative contribution of each of these variables to peak runoff events and sediment transport.” (Euphrat, 57)

Decreased low-flows:

“The weekly low-flow data from Forest Creek and the South Fork Mokelumne showed decreases over time significant at the 95% level.” (Euphrat, 60)

“The lowering of the lowest weekly flows, significant on Forest Creek at the 95% level, and on the South Fork at the 99.99% level, is important in terms of the riparian and aquatic habitats available in the streams of the lower Mokelumne watersheds. For fish and other aquatic species, decreased low-flows reduce available living area and increase temperatures through lack of dilution. For riparian species, low-flows change habitat close to stream channels and allow more species that cannot tolerate perennial flooding to live adjacent to the stream. For people and animals, it restricts the amount of water available for consumption and lowers its quality, through heat and associated eutrophication.” (Euphrat, 60)

Small streams appear to be most affected by and the least able to recover from this phenomenon. (Euphrat, 101)

“Observation of stream channels, as was conducted in the watershed survey, suggested that low summer flows in smaller channels are more discontinuous now than under original conditions...It appeared that a small stream, unprotected, would rapidly move from perennial to ephemeral, or from Class I to Class III under California Department of Forestry definitions.” (Euphrat, 60-61)

“-Large Storms: Total quick runoff from storms has gotten larger over the period 1941-1990 (the period of record for this study), with significance at the 99% level or greater. Storm temperature and rainfall intensity are not correlated with this time period, although road mileage and harvested area are. Increased peak flows may decrease streambank stability, and are a serious geomorphic concern in linear, unstable alluvial basins such as Forest Creek.

Long-term fishery effects: “Low flows are becoming lower, leading to elevated water temperatures...Compound effects on Forest Creek and parts of the Middle Fork are also significantly changing the shape of the stream channel and its banks

“Significant effect: Elimination of anadromous fishery; severe reduction of local cold water fishery.” (Euphrat, 95)

Recommendations to SPI in the Foster Wheeler report

“Over time, develop a monitoring plan that integrates implementation monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and adaptive management... This monitoring plan can also address any potential future issues related to use of the clearcut silvicultural system. There are two items resulting from this assessment that could be addressed in a monitoring plan. These items are:

- The use of the clearcut silvicultural method would likely result in greater water runoff from individual timber harvest units. While this greater area of clearcuts would be unlikely to affect significant peak flows or rain-on-snow events, there is some potential for increased sediment delivery from some units either to roads or across WLPZs. The management recommendations for roads in this watershed assessment should minimize potential sediment delivery from that source.... The monitoring plan should address the continued effectiveness of WLPZs under the clearcut silvicultural prescription.
- Though the Upper Mokelumne watershed is considered to be relatively stable, there is some potential for localized increases in mass wasting when the clearcut silvicultural treatment is used in areas of steepest slopes.... The monitoring plan should assess whether the implemented screening and measures are effective at minimizing mass wasting. Adaptive management will provide the opportunity to address the effectiveness of implemented mitigation measures. Monitoring may identify problems with implementation or it may identify that certain measures are unnecessary to protect watershed resources. (Foster Wheeler, 111)

From EBMUD’s “Protecting the Mokelumne...”

“...Poor timberland management and maintenance practices could send sediments and nutrients to the lower river, harming water quality and fish.” (EBMUD, 2)

“EBMUD has invested more than half a million dollars in litigation that successfully required both state and federal timber harvesting approvals to take a broader look at the downstream nutrient loading impact of proposed timber cuts.

“EBMUD also has acquired approximately 500 acres of Mokelumne watershed lands at a cost of nearly \$600,00 during the past ten years to protect water quality.” (EBMUD, 6)

“EBMUD’s commitment to stewardship of the resources has grown over the last 70 years. EBMUD is now a leader within the water industry in responsible natural resource management, protection, and enhancement. EBMUD is one of the only water agencies in the country to explicitly identify natural resource protection as part of the organization’s core mission. (EBMUD, 4)

“The water district has long been active in efforts to protect the Mokelumne River and its resources. These actions include partnerships with local interests on projects and services, and with state interests on fishery protection. The District has also been involved in litigation to improve timber harvest practices, and land acquisition to protect the water quality in the Mokelumne.” (EBMUD, 4)

from CCWD and CPUD’s. **UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER SANITARY SURVEY**. December 2000:

- “Logging activities pose a potential threat to surface water quality because it promotes erosional transport of sediment into the waterbodies as well as animal wastes. Increased sedimentation and turbidity impedes the effectiveness of disinfection processes.” (Tetra Tech, 5-9)

Environmental Impact of Road Logging:

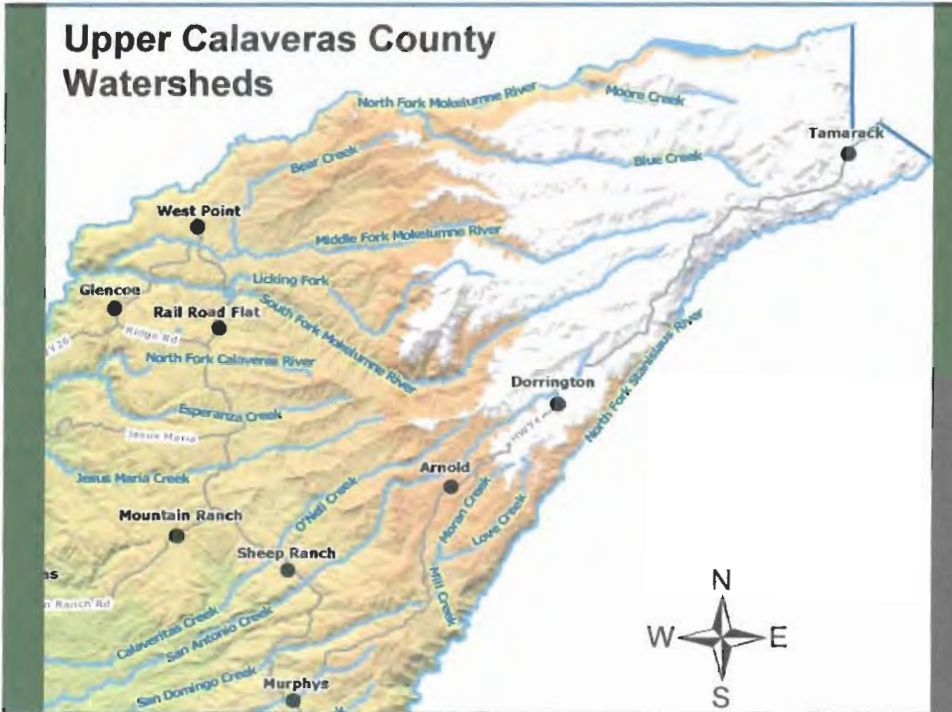
“...As we appreciate the suite of impacts that affect the land, recall that one set of impacts may begin before a previous set has finished, and that road systems and large tree removal are essentially permanent changes. Recall also that water-driven sediment transport tends to occur watershed-wide at virtually a single instant; the largest storms will entrain most of the material that can move. Following storm driven removal of unstable landings and fills, human actions move still more material from stable areas into inherently less stable areas, as they rebuild the road and landing system. The action of flushing sediment, via precipitation, and re-destabilizing the landscape, through human agency, is part of the road logging system.” (Euphrat, 24-25)

“Cumulative watershed impacts are the result of disturbance, first, and the interplay of sediment and water, second.” (Euphrat, 26)

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Upper Calaveras County Watersheds

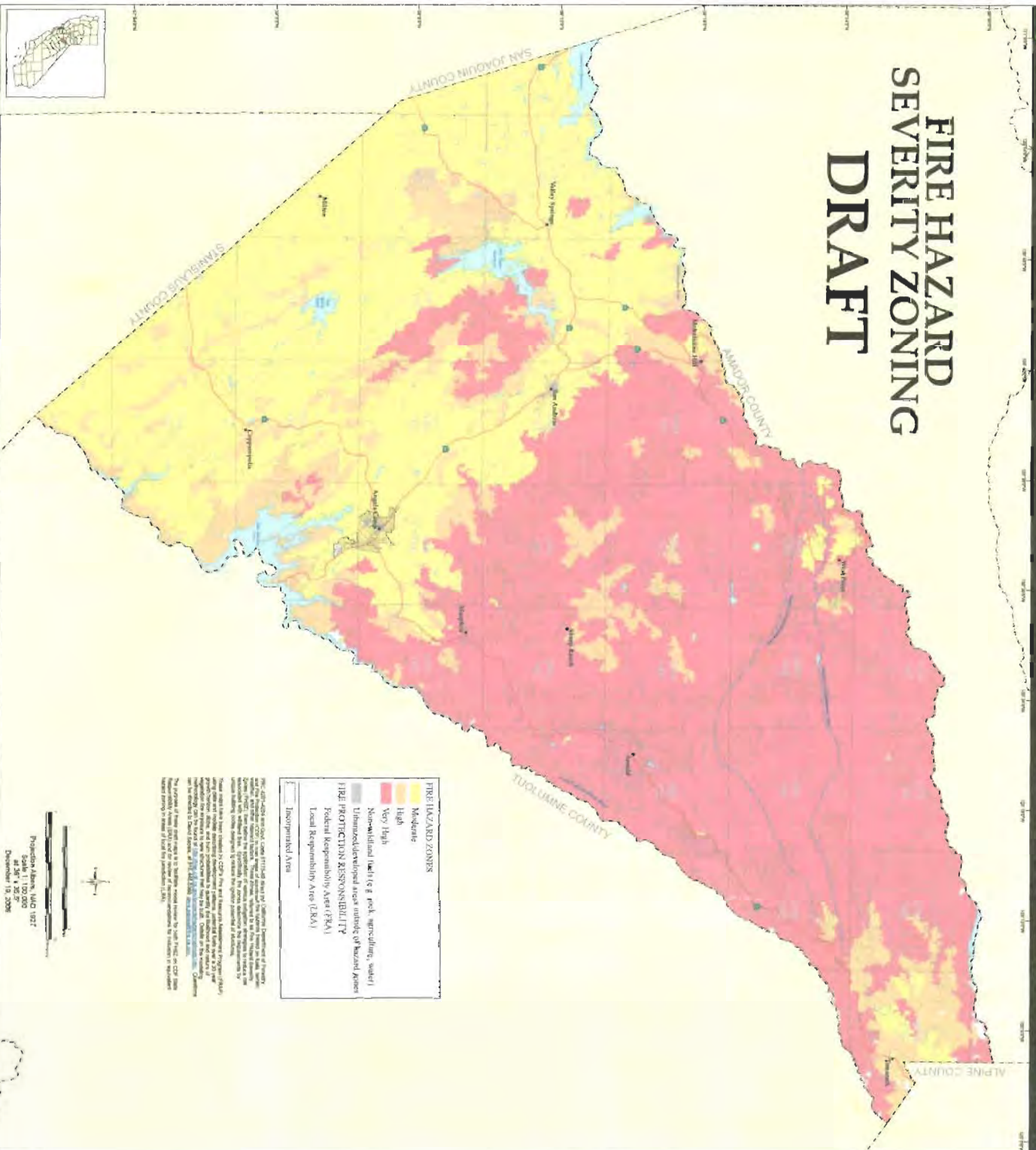


Chapter 10 Safety

10-19 Fire Danger There is a very brief discussion of the fire danger in this section, which underestimates the severity of the problem. According to the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) two-thirds of Calaveras County is in a Very High Severity Fire Hazards Zone (see map). A new study, "Dangerous Development: Wildfire and Rural Sprawl in the Sierra Nevada" outlines the increasing collision course in the Sierra between population growth and wildfire danger. (See following summary.) According to the study, 100% of the residential land in the Sierra Nevada portion of the County is in the Very High Fire Threat Class. Tree plantations can also be contributing to the threat. (see article).

Yet, despite this extreme threat the County seems woefully unprepared for potential fire catastrophes. (See following letter from the former Fire Prevention Planner for the County.) This problem needs to be addressed in the General Plan.

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONING DRAFT



The study of C. coli and C. jejuni in the Netherlands and the importance of surveillance of antibiotic resistance in this species have been highlighted by the fact that in 1997, C. coli was the most common cause of enteric infection in the Netherlands. The authors state that the importance of surveillance of antibiotic resistance in *C. coli* and *C. jejuni* is emphasized by the fact that in 1997, *C. coli* was the most common cause of enteric infection in the Netherlands. The authors state that the importance of surveillance of antibiotic resistance in *C. coli* and *C. jejuni* is emphasized by the fact that in 1997, *C. coli* was the most common cause of enteric infection in the Netherlands.

Arshad Usman, *Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Education, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey*

DATA SOURCES:
 (1) First-class Service Zone of 1972-1981
 (2) 1980s Recombinant Service Zone
 (3) Recombinant Service Zone

Dangerous Development

Wildfire and Rural Sprawl in the Sierra Nevada



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Executive Summary

Wildfire and population growth are on a collision course in the Sierra

New research by Sierra Nevada Alliance finds that large numbers of people are moving to very high fire hazard areas of the Sierra, leading to more wildfires, more taxpayer expense, and more loss of life.

In the next 20-40 years, even more people and homes will be in harm's way. The population of the Sierra is expected to triple by the year 2040, and new research by Sierra Nevada Alliance finds that 94% of the land slated for rural residential development is classified as very high or extreme fire hazard by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (also known as CDF or CalFire).

At the same time, climate change is already making summers in the Sierra hotter and drier, leading to an increase in the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfire (Westerling, 2006).

The combination of population growth and climate change in our fire-prone region is creating a "perfect firestorm" where increasing numbers of people and homes will be at greater risk of catastrophic wildfire.



The Sierra's population is growing -- and so is the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Photo by Maria Mircheva.

New Findings of This Report:

- Between 1990 and 2000, the number of people living in *very high* or *extreme* fire threat areas of the Sierra grew by 16%.
- 94% of the land slated for rural residential development in the Sierra is classified by CalFire as *very high* or *extreme* fire threat.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the Sierra's wildland urban interface (or WUI) grew by 131,000 acres, a 12% increase.
- Better community planning can help reduce the number of lives and homes at risk.

This report examines the relationship between land use planning and wildfire prevention in the Sierra. We hope this report will help the public, decision makers and conservation leaders assess where and how we grow, to make better choices that will keep our homes and communities safer.

Local governments in the Sierra, along with state and federal agencies, must take action to limit the spread of residential development into dangerous areas. We must also end subsidies that encourage reckless development at taxpayer expense.

Fire is natural & unavoidable in the Sierra

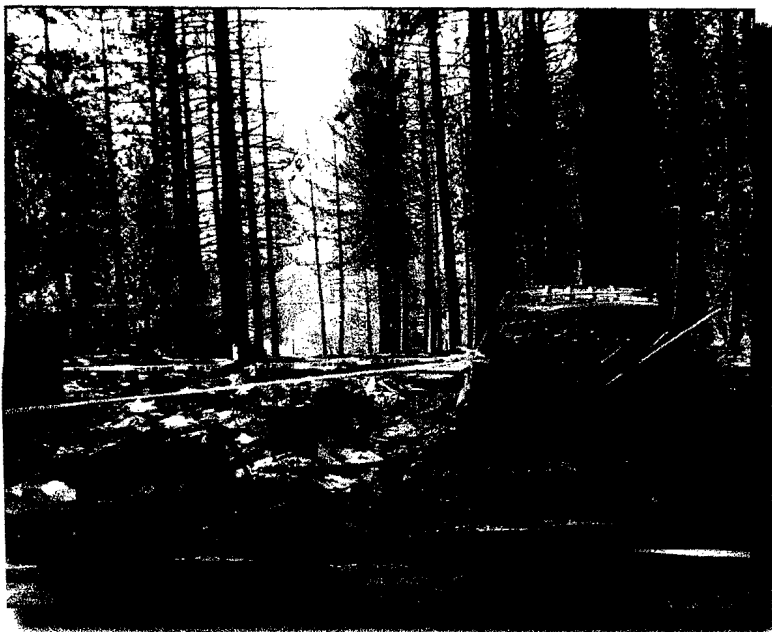
The Sierra Nevada is a fire-dependent landscape. California's Mediterranean climate of wet winters and hot, dry summers creates the exact conditions for fire to flourish. Sierra plants, animals and forests evolved with fire for thousands of years, and have adapted to not only survive with fire, but to depend upon it. The health of the Sierra landscape depends upon frequent, low-intensity fires that thin crowded forests, recycle nutrients, and increase biodiversity (Barbour, 1993).

Decades of fire suppression and logging have created a tinderbox

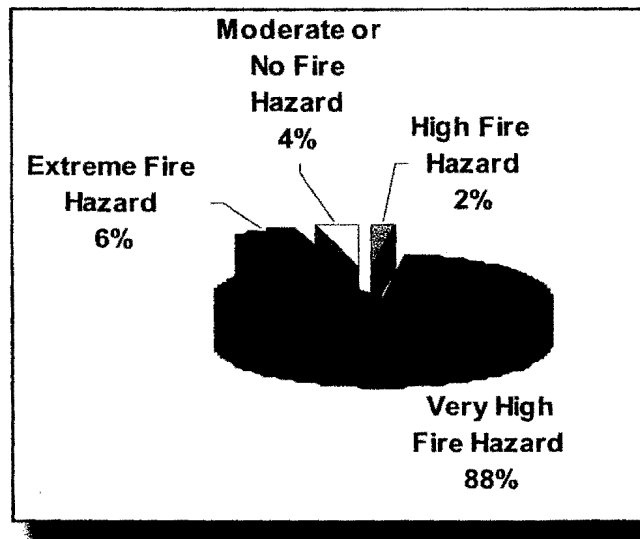
After the gold rush, fire suppression became the standard practice, and these small, low-intensity fires were regularly put out. This seemingly good idea has had disastrous consequences. After 100 years of fire suppression and logging large, fire-resistant trees, Sierra forests have become virtual tinderboxes, crowded with dead brush and small trees. (Barbour, 1993). The continuing conversion of mature, fire-resistant forests to plantations and other industrial logging practices are compounding the fire threats in the Sierra Nevada, taking what was a fire-adapted forest system and making it much more vulnerable to catastrophic fire. Unlike the small, low-intensity fires that used to be the norm, Sierra wildfires today are much more likely to become catastrophic crown fires that char everything in their path.

The Sierra is growing – into wildfire areas

The Sierra is the third-fastest growing region of California, and that growth is putting more people directly in the path of catastrophic wildfire. By 2040, the population of the Sierra will triple to 1.5 million - 2.4 million residents (Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, 1996). New research by Sierra Nevada Alliance finds that 94% of the land slated for rural residential development is in areas classified by CalFire as very high or extreme fire hazard.



The 2007 Angora fire destroyed 242 homes near South Lake Tahoe. Photo by Autumn Bernstein.



This figure depicts fire hazard on lands slated for rural residential development in the Sierra.

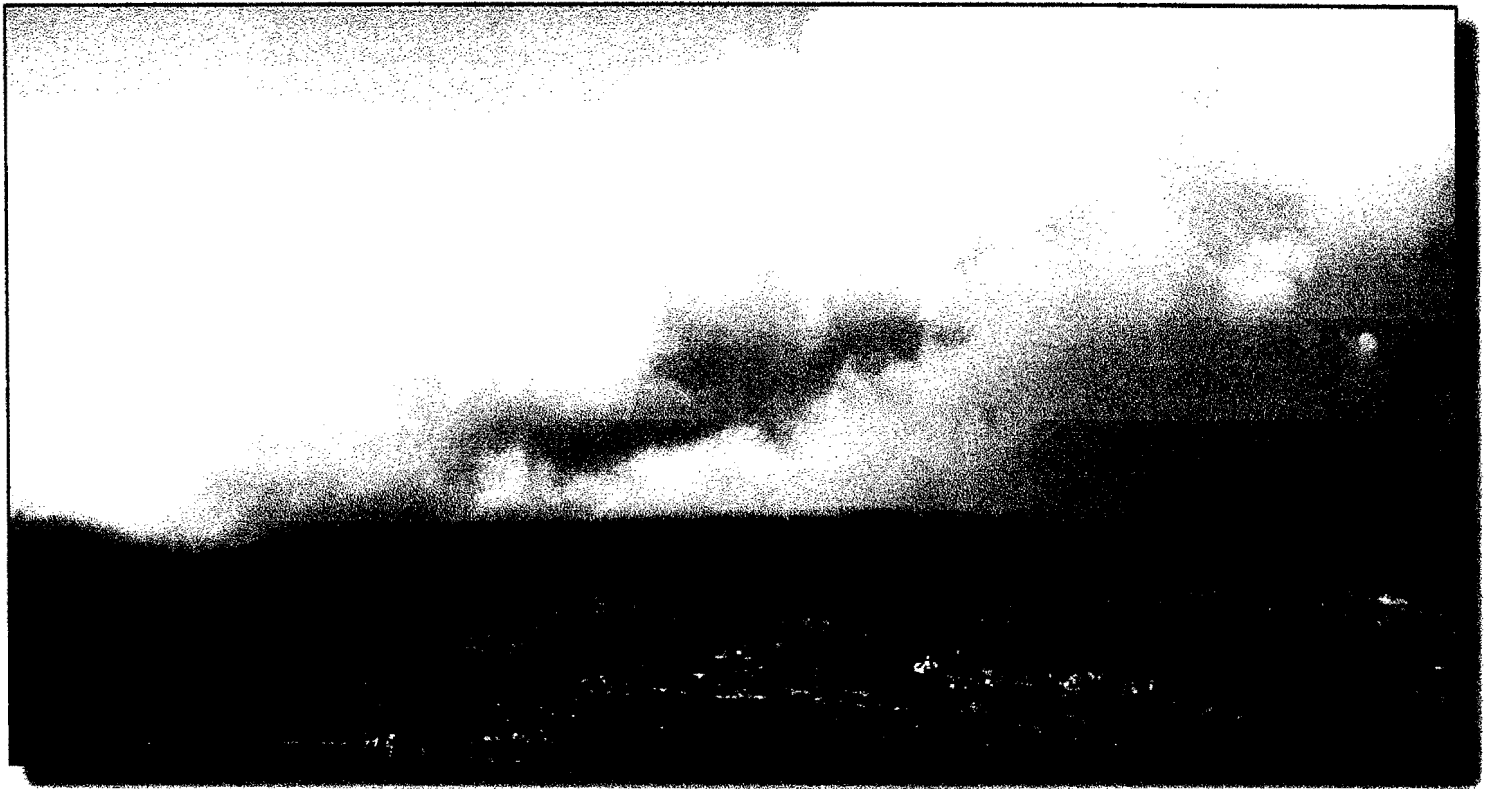
Unsafe growth patterns increase fire danger

The wildland urban interface -- the area where houses and wildlands meet, and where catastrophic wildfires are likely to destroy lives and property -- is growing rapidly in the Sierra. New research by Sierra Nevada Alliance finds that between 1990 and 2000, the wildland urban interface (WUI) in the Sierra grew by 12%. As the size of the wildland-urban interface grows, so does the risk of catastrophic wildfire that destroys lives and property.

The WUI in the Sierra is characterized by low-density housing development scattered in a sea of flammable vegetation. This pattern of low-density development, with one house every 2-80 acres, is often referred to as "rural ranchette" development. Ranchette development in the WUI makes it more difficult and more costly for fire managers to prevent wildfires and protect homes and lives when major fires do occur.

Climate change is increasing wildfire danger

At the same time that population growth is putting more people in fire hazard areas, climate change is already making summers in the Sierra hotter and drier, leading to an increase in the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfire (Westerling 2006). CalFire predicts that these impacts will become more severe in coming years (CalFire 2003), leading to a "perfect fire storm" where increasing numbers of people and homes will be at greater risk of catastrophic wildfire.



Poorly-planned growth is putting more homes in the path of wildfires like the 2007 Angora Fire. Photo by Eric Winford.

Taxpayers are subsidizing unsafe growth

Costs of fire prevention have increased exponentially in recent years as state and federal firefighters spend more time and money protecting new homes in wildland areas. The vast majority of these costs are shouldered not by the affected homeowners, but by state and federal taxpayers. A recent federal audit found that the US Forest Service is spending up to \$1 billion annually to protect private homes adjacent to national forest land (USDA Office of Inspector General, 2006). CalFire's fire protection expenditures increased an average of 10% per year between 1994 and 2004, and much of that increased cost was due to increasing numbers of homes in wildland areas (California Legislative Analyst's Office, 2005).

Current policy is failing at-risk communities

Our current policy framework doesn't do enough to minimize risks to lives, assets, watersheds, wildlife and ecosystem health. In most parts of the Sierra, land use planning in wildfire areas focuses on site-specific requirements such as clearing defensible space and building with fire-retardant materials. Site-specific building policies are important, but fire-safe planning must look at the bigger picture: planning the *neighborhood* and the *community*.

"Fire-smart growth" can save lives and money

Development in high fire threat areas of the Sierra is inherently dangerous. However, community design can play a large role in minimizing exposure and reducing losses. Infill and clustered development, aka "fire-smart growth," has numerous advantages over low-density ranchette development when it comes to fire safety. These factors should be considered by counties, cities and developers when planning for new development in the Sierra.



Taxpayers are subsidizing fire protection for homes in high fire hazard areas. Photo by Shasta Ferranto.

Butte County

Area of Wildland Urban Interface ¹: data not available

Residential Land and Fire Threat ²	Residential Low	Residential Very Low	Residential Total
Total Acres in Land Use Designation	5,601	149,833	155,434
Acres in Very High Fire Threat Class	5,601	98,626	104,228
% in Very High Fire Threat Class	100%	66%	67%
Acres in Extreme Fire Threat Class	0	51,207	51,207
% in Extreme Fire Threat Class	0%	34%	33%
Total Acres in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Class	5,601	98,627	104,228
% in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Class	100%	66%	67%

Population Growth from 1990 to 2000 ³	1990	2000	Change	% Change
Popn in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Areas	31,913	35,975	4,062	13%

Calaveras County

Area of Wildland Urban Interface ¹: 138,588 acres

Residential Land and Fire Threat ²	Residential Low	Residential Very Low	Residential Total
Total Acres in Land Use Designation	5,666	138,811	144,477
Acres in Very High Fire Threat Class	5,666	138,796	144,462
% in Very High Fire Threat Class	100%	100%	100%
Acres in Extreme Fire Threat Class	0	0	0
% in Extreme Fire Threat Class	0%	0%	0%
Total Acres in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Class	5,666	138,796	144,462
% in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Class	100%	100%	100%

Population Growth from 1990 to 2000 ³	1990	2000	Change	% Change
Popn in Very High or Extreme Fire Threat Areas	113,029	140,261	27,232	24%

1. Data is for entire County. Source: Radeloff, VC, RB Hammer, SI Stewart, JS Fried, SS Holcomb, and JF McKeefry. 2005. The Wildland Urban Interface in the United States. *Ecological Applications* 15:799-80

2. Data is for Sierra Nevada portion of County. Methodology: We used GIS data of the General Plans for all 21 California counties that lie partially or fully within the Sierra Nevada Region (Johnston, 2004) and overlaid CalFire's fire threat data map (CalFire 2004)

3. Data is for Sierra Nevada portion of County. Methodology: These data were compiled using GIS to compare CalFire's fire threat data map (CalFire 2004) with population information from the California Department of Finance. GreenInfo Network, 2004.

Catastrophic Fire Threat from Tree Plantations in the Sierra Nevada

Especially since the fires in recent years that swept through Arizona, New Mexico, and San Diego, the interest in and fear of catastrophic wildfire in California has been heightened. Debates have raged over fire management policy on Federal lands. Legislation and rules within the Board of Forestry have altered “fuels reduction” on private forestlands and around residential buildings. Fire Safe Councils have sprung up and availed themselves of grant monies flowing to develop Wildfire Protection Plans and fuels clearance projects. Policy decisions have been made from Federal to local levels in an effort to lessen risk from uncontrolled fire.

Ironically, while so much attention has been focused on fire prevention, an activity with the potential to significantly raise fire threat has been progressing unimpeded in the Sierra Nevada. Sierra Pacific Industries is proceeding with their business plan, which calls for the conversion of more than a million acres of currently diverse forestland into fire-prone homogenous plantations. Moreover, the threat of Sierran wildfire from SPI’s emerging plantations is exacerbated by the approximately 700,000 acres of older, largely untreated Forest Service plantations spread across the range.

The fire threat posed by plantations is addressed by forestry professionals and scientists alike. Dellasalla et al,¹ name “losses of fire-resilient properties at the stand and landscape levels through the removal of large trees and ‘legacy’ stand components and homogenization of fuels across large landscapes” as one of the “factors acting as root causes of the current fire crisis” in the West. The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, too, is aware of plantations’ fire risk to the Sierra Nevada. In a June 2005 Emergency Rules Package for the Tahoe Basin, they wrote the following:

Extensive harvest in the late 1800s and early 1900s resulted in an overall young forest. There is concern that these changes have contributed to an increased likelihood of severe fire. Younger forests are more susceptible to mortality from fires. This is due to the lower height and size of small trees. Their bark is thinner, and their crowns are lower to the ground, making them more susceptible to lethal heating by flames of a low height. With much of the Basin in a younger state, a large proportion of it could burn severely, with high rates of mortality. These two human activities—creating younger forests by harvesting older trees and suppressing fires that otherwise would have burned off accumulated fuel—have increased the likelihood of severe fire in the Basin.²

Certainly if the current situation is left uncorrected, the Board of Forestry will be writing a similarly dire assessment for the rest of the Sierra Nevada in the not-so-distant future. Escalating

¹ “Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: A Synthesis of Fire Policy and Science.” Dominick A. Dellasalla, Jack E. Williams, Cindy Deacon Williams, and Jerry F. Franklin. *Conservation Biology*. Volume 18, No. 4, August 2004. p. 977

² http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/pdfs/OALEmergencyfinal%206_20_05withOALedits%20.pdf
State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. “Findings Pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.1(b) in Support of Adoption of Emergency Rules to Implement Lake Tahoe Region Exemption Emergency Rule, 2005.” Final Version with OAL Edits 6_20_05. Notice Date: June 13, 2005. p. 8

catastrophic wildfires in the Sierra from plantations, particularly as global warming continues to alter the region's climate, will threaten the safety of a growing population, their historic towns, wildlife, and 65% of the state's water supply,

However, these disastrous outcomes can be avoided or mitigated by immediately ceasing the large-scale clearcutting which is creating the danger. The Board of Forestry – the same one which recognized the threat in the Tahoe Basin - is the regulatory state body with authority to alter existing policy to create a more fire-safe Sierra Nevada and, therefore, must be the first stop on the road to stopping plantations. Unfortunately, the Board of Forestry is dominated by the timber industry. Four of its nine seats are reserved for industry representatives; a majority of the other five seats are also held by people with close ties and allegiance to timber interests.

This “fox guarding the hen house” situation means that a rational presentation to the Board will not cause change in current policy. It will take strong and irrefutable research with a non-negotiable demand for cessation of clearcutting to even get their serious attention. The mechanism for such a demand at the Board is an “Emergency Rules Package” (ERP). ERPs are allowed when a threat to public safety and wellbeing exists. Despite its validity, even an ERP is likely to provoke the Board's typical response to change or threat, “stonewalling” the offending issue by referring it to multiple committees to suffer a slow, painful death. In order to avoid this unacceptable end, any strategy must include a media component to assure that the results of study are widely disseminated to the people of California so that the Board cannot hide in their typical fashion. As well, the demands and facts must be removed from the Board of Forestry when it becomes clear that they will not be addressed and moved into the legislative arena or used as the basis of a lawsuit against CDF for failure to address the cumulative impacts from fire threat in the Sierra Nevada.

Research into fire behavior and management currently relies as much on fire modeling, a computer-generated means of fire simulation, as on studies of actual fire behavior. It is a highly sophisticated technique using many variables from which to arrive at conclusions. It is an accepted standard from which to make decisions and is expected to be part of any comprehensive assessment of fire risk. However, as was privately admitted by a CDF administrator, fire modeling can be manipulated at times to provide results researchers are looking for by manipulating the variables. That is why it is imperative to be the party creating the fire modeling, assuring that those performing it are professional and ethical, and not getting in the position of having to refute industry-generated flawed research.

There is a researcher with strong qualifications who is highly interested in conducting a study of fire threat posed by plantations in the Sierra Nevada. This is Barry Callenberger, a private consultant with a strong research history and years of practical experience in fire fighting and policy (<http://northtreefire.com/gis/modeling.php>). Barry and his colleague Zeke Lunder could produce a study, which would be irrefutable and convincing to a wide audience.

A comprehensive package for success would also include several other elements. One is a full review of scientific literature on the subject of plantations and fire risk, with emphasis on what is known about the Sierra Nevada. Another is a team of people to compile the Emergency Rules Package for the Board of Forestry and to serve as legislative liaisons for potential legislative action. As well, the services of a competent media consultant will assure effective media releases to assure maximum public awareness and buy-in for the effort.

SUE A. SCHULLER
Fire Prevention Specialist

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December 31, 2007

As I prepare to leave my post as Fire Prevention Planner for this County I wanted to share some thoughts with all of you regarding the future of this County and how it relates to it's fire prevention needs.

I believe that I accomplished what I set out to do 10 years ago, which was to meet the needs of this County to maintain and enforce minimum fire and life safety standards for all new projects coming across my desk. However, I may have done this County a disservice by not asserting myself effectively in the political arena to ensure that my efforts would continue long after my departure. I believe the "gap" between the local fire agencies and the Building and Planning Departments have been bridged, which was one of my most rewarding challenges during my tenure, but there is so much more that can be done. Many of you have never met me but just knew that whatever fire prevention responsibilities were required in this County were satisfactorily addressed.

In these days of dwindling resources and lack of funding we must all become creative and cultivate new and additional sources of help to assist us in protecting our citizens of this County. For the past 23 years it has been my passion and my responsibility as a certified California Fire Prevention Officer to educate the public and create an awareness of fire safety whether it be in their homes, in public places or in the businesses they work.

It is my hope that you will make an effort to recognize the importance of finding and creating the required funding to provide a full-time certified Fire Prevention Officer for this County. Further, I believe it is imperative that you support this position and recognize that it is not only necessary, but also a State requirement that this County meet and enforce minimum fire and life safety standards. As I wind down on my final day it disappoints me to know that the County still does not have a plan in place to carry on all that has been established in the area of fire prevention, or in working towards creating a multi-agency organization to ensure that the County is at least meeting the minimum fire and life safety standards.

I encourage all of you to step up to the plate and take the necessary action to meet the needs of our schools, educate our children about safety awareness, teach our working professionals as well as the average citizen off the street and promise them a continued safe environment in which they can all live in. The term that is so frequently used "we are working on that" just isn't enough. I urge you to set a deadline that an actual plan is being created and implemented, time is of the essence.

An ounce of prevention can go a long way, I have proven that. I do hope that my efforts and passion will continue to move Calaveras County forward in the world of public fire safety.

Thank you for your time and may you find peace in the New Year to come.

SAS

Comments on Chapter 11- Noise- Public review Draft Baseline Report- January-2008

Page 11-1 Major Findings

In preparing this chapter of the County's Baseline Report, the following major findings specific to noise issues were identified.

- Vehicular traffic is a major source of noise in the Planning Area, primarily from traffic on State routes (i.e. SR 49, SR 12, and SR 26) and major County roads.

There are other major sources of noise in the County involving gravel trucks that travel from SR 26 up Silver Rapids Road (a connector road) to the Hogan Quarry. Neighbors have stated that 20 + trucks proceed to the quarry starting at about 5:30 a.m., even though the quarry doesn't open until 7 a.m. It is a first in- first out situation. The problem is the use of "jake brakes" while traveling through residential areas before daybreak.

The problem could be lessened by posting signs restricting use of the "jake brake" while traveling through the neighborhood.

There is also an issue with large trucks traveling through the older part of Valley Springs to access Paloma Road. This is a noise and dust issue. Residents there have stated the noise is very disturbing and it is very unpleasant to sit out on porches because of the noise and the dust. There is a need for an alternate connector road to reach Paloma Road from SR 12/26. If such a road isn't planned at this point, it should be considered.

- Industrial uses and mining operations are also considered significant noise sources in Calaveras County. In some cases, noise-sensitive land uses are located near these operations. However, in most cases, however, these noise generators are located in areas of similar land uses or in rural areas surrounded by a significant amount of open space.

In the case of Hogan Quarry, the noise-sensitive land uses were permitted after the quarry was in operation. Rancho Calaveras residences were permitted in large number, over the years, and these residences are impacted by the operation of the quarry and the noise from the truck traffic that accesses the quarry over Silver Rapids Road (A connector road). When there is a need for emergency repair of levees in the Delta, the trucks run 24/7 until the emergency is over. A solution would have been to not develop right on Silver Rapids Road, but create a buffer to decrease the impacts from the traffic and the noise. This type of consideration becomes more necessary as the population increases in the County. The mining operations are an important part of the County economy and need to be buffered from encroachment from noise-sensitive land uses and vice versa.

- **Traffic Noise Modeling and Noise Contour Distances -Page 11-2**
- **"Traffic noise level contours for current traffic conditions...."**

- “Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes utilized in preparation of this report represent the best available data to calculate noise contours around roadways in Calaveras County. ADT volumes were collected over a number of years ranging from 1990 through 2007. (See attachment (A) Calaveras County Average Daily Traffic- Regional Roadways from the 2007 RTP-Appendix 6)

Calaveras County General Plan- Public Review Draft Baseline Report-January 2008

Chapter 6-Circulation Page 6-1

Major Finding

- A complete picture of existing transportation facilities in Calaveras County can not be determined from the data available. Because of rapid growth and increased transportation complexity, County data collection and analysis has not kept up with the need to provide baseline information on the local road system suitable for long-range planning.

**Calaveras County general Plan- Public Review Draft Baseline Report- January 2008
Traffic Noise Modeling and Noise Distances**

“ADT volumes were collected over a number of years ranging from 1990 through 2007 (see Appendix 6-B for Chapter 6). Depending on the roadway, it is possible the ADT volumes have changed very little since the data was collected. For example, a road that is not near any new development or on a major thoroughfare may not receive much more daily traffic than that which was measured several years ago.”

The intersection at State Route 12/26 is 16 years ahead of projection made by the County and Caltrans (Rick Traffic Study for North Vista Project)

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) counts are out of date due to the level of growth that is occurring in the County, particularly from east of Valley Springs and to the west. 72 of the listed road counts were taken in 2000 or before. Ospital Road has an #N/A next to it. Pettinger Road and Warren Road were counted in 2000. Vista del Lago and Silver Rapids Road haven't been counted since 1998.

Many west county residents use the traffic path from Rancho Calaveras to Highway 26 to Olive Orchard Road to South Burson Road to Southworth Road to Pettinger Road or Ospital Road to Highway 12 to San Joaquin County and points west.

Calaveras County has the obligation to produce the data that will allow Mintier and Associates to produce a Baseline Report that will allow the development of a functional General Plan to serve the residents of Calaveras County for the next 20 to 30 years.

Table 11-1 Existing Traffic Noise Contour Distance from Center of Planning Area Roadways (feet)

Silver Rapids Rd. figures are in question given the large number of gravel and rock trucks that are reported to travel this roadway dailey. The information needs to be confirmed.

Table 11-2 Short-term community Noise Measurements for the planning area

Hogan Quarry information is misleading and the information needs to be corrected. Along with gravel truck traffic, there are detonations of explosives in order to produce the product. The quarry was there prior to the County allowing residences near the quarry and along the traffic route for the trucks accessing the quarry. The OPR Guidelines mentions that a goal is to improve existing noise problems. This Baseline Report failed to identify an existing noise problem at the Hogan Quarry and on Silver Rapids Road accessing the Hogan Quarry from Highway 26.

In a January 22, 2007 Union Democrat article titled "Sheriff: County needs noise ordinance", "Calaveras County Sheriff Dennis Downum has asked county supervisors to consider adding a noise ordinance as they update the county's General Plan."

"As Calaveras County becomes more urbanized, (Supervisor) Callaway said, it faces more noise-related issues, and the standard of acceptable noise levels may vary across the county."

"She added that the General Plan would not be the place for an enforceable ordinance, BUT THAT THE PLAN COULD OUTLINE NOISE POLICY AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT IT."

The Baseline Report understates the present noise levels being experienced/suffered by Calaveras residents.

Neighbors mad over misting

Published: October 26, 2006

By SUNNY LOCKWOOD

An emergency measure taken by Calaveras County Water District to lower an especially full effluent pond in preparation for winter rains has some Copperopolis residents complaining.

In June, CCWD installed a Turbomister, which pumps water from the district's Copper Cove Service Area effluent pond and blows it through a fine nozzle at high velocity. A second machine was added in July.

"The water blows about 150 feet in the air and it's supposed to evaporate before it hits the ground," said Fred Burnett, district director of operations and regulatory compliance. He estimated the Turbomisters are handling about 100 gallons a minute.

But at Wednesday's CCWD board meeting, Director Ed Rich said he'd received a number of complaints about the sound the Turbomisters make.

"And two homeowners filed complaints with the DA and the Water Resources Board about the constant humming," he said.

During the meeting, two Copperopolis residents asked that the machines be turned off at least on the weekends, but Chairwoman Bertha Underhill said that will not happen.

"We've put sound modifiers on them and I know they're noisy, but they are absolutely necessary to reduce the level of our pond there," she said.

Burnett said the Turbomisters are strictly an emergency measure.

"I don't see us operating them next year," he said. "They aren't easy to operate and maintain, they're a huge power draw and cost a lot in terms of electricity. And they're making some of the customers unhappy because of their sound."

He said last winter crews raised the height of the 250-acre-foot pond's rim by 4 feet in a struggle to keep the effluent and rainwater from overflowing.

The district's normal processes of emptying the pond – using district spray fields and sending treated wastewater to the Saddle Creek Golf Course to keep its turf green – have not reduced the pond level enough, he said.

"We've been asked by the Regional Water Quality

Control Board to do everything in our power to get that pond low so that we don't spill this winter," Burnett said. He said the pond serves about 1,600 hookups in the Copperopolis area.

"If we happen to have a spill this winter, it will be to our benefit to report that we've done absolutely everything possible to reduce the pond level," he said.

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Sheriff: County needs noise ordinance

Published: January 22, 2007

By CAT SIEH

THE union Democrat

The lack of a countywide rule is hampering Calaveras County sheriff's deputies when it comes to noise complaints.

Calaveras County Sheriff Dennis Downum has asked county supervisors to consider adding a noise ordinance as they update the county's General Plan. That plan lays out where and how future development will occur in the county.

County officials agree noise is an issue, but what the ordinance would cover and how it would be enforced remains a question.

"We go out on a lot of disturbing-the-peace calls that involve music, generators, gunshots," Downum said in an interview. "(A noise law) would be a good tool to take some misery out of people's lives."

Under state codes, he said, deputies can cite noise makers between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., but only if a complaint is lodged. State codes say unreasonable noise between those hours amounts to disturbing the peace.

"All we can do is state 'you're disturbing the peace, can you quiet the party down?'" said Calaveras County Supervisor Merita Callaway. "What if it's a noisy party and it's 8 in the evening?"

A county noise ordinance would enable law enforcement to warn and cite violators, likely with a fine. The county's current General Plan deals only with noise under the government code, such as roads, airports and service plants.

"We don't have something that says 'you can work on a construction site from 6 a.m. to sundown in winter and 7 a.m. to 6 in the summer,'" said Callaway, adding that she also receives noise complaints from residents.

As Calaveras County becomes more urbanized, Callaway said, it faces more noise-related issues, and the standard of acceptable noise levels may vary across the county.

"What is accepted in more urban areas is a lot different than if you're out on five or 10 acres," Callaway said.

She added that the General Plan would not be the place for an enforceable ordinance, but that the plan could outline noise policy and how to implement it.

“My concern is you put in a n ordinance, then how do you enforce it?” Callaway said.
“I’d like to be able to give the (sheriff’s) department a tool that will help them without having to get into hiring a decibel patrol.”

The county General Plan is scheduled for completion in two years.

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