

# **VALLEY SPRINGS COMMUNITY PLAN**

## **STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

March 12, 2009

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church

135 Laurel Street, Valley Springs

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### **Summary**

The first advisory committee meeting was held with staff from LGC, CCOG, MyValleySprings.com, and EDAW to discuss the first steps in creating the Valley Springs Community Plan. The role and responsibilities of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) were discussed; the project and project partners were introduced; the proposed community design workshop (charrette) schedule and activities were reviewed; and the primary community issues and opportunities were discussed. Community-identified issues include: defining community boundaries, pedestrian safety and circulation, local economic development to pay for increased services, and local crime. The next meeting will be held in April, but the date has not yet been set.

### **Agenda**

1. Introductions (6:00)
2. Role of Stakeholder Advisory Committee (6:20)
3. Project Background (6:30)
4. Proposed Workshop Schedule and Activities (6:45)
  - a. Survey
5. Identify Community issues/Opportunities (7:00)
6. Schedule Next Meeting (7:20)
7. Public Comment (7:25)

### **In Attendance**

- Tami Allen- resident
- Michael Siligo- Fire District, Chief
- Ron Randall- Ranch Manager, Private Property advocate

- Shaelyn Stratten- County Planner, General Plan project manager
- Kevin Kidd- President, Rancho Calaveras POA
- Gary Caldwell- 16-year resident, former Caltrans
- Nick Baptista- Valley Springs News, Valley Springs PUD
- Gary Tofanelli- County Supervisor (District 1)
- Michael Robinson- Caltrans Grant Manager
- Mark Jones- myvalleysprings.com (MVS)
- Phyllis Maxfield- long-time resident
- Muriel Zeller- MVS
- Colleen Platt- MVS, Landscape Architect
- Zerrall McDaniel- Business Owner, CUSD Board Member, San Andreas Mobility Plan
- Mike Hazelhofer- Greater Valley Springs Advisory Group (GVSAG) Director
- Hazel Cain- concerned citizens, neighborhood group
- Carol "Mikki" Parks- 35-year resident, worked on special plan in Rancho
- Barbara Witter- local activist
- Alice Raine- Chair for Rancho CSA
- Joyce Techel- board chair MVS, business owner
- Lorey Oliver- Calaveras County Farm Bureau, business owner
- Karen Pekarcik- Executive Director, First 5, Rancho resident
- Dave Tanner- La Contenta resident, land planner/golf course engineer
- Russ Thomas- County Supervisor (District 5)
- Andy Whittaker- VSPUD
- Marti Crane- GVSAG
- Tim McSorley- CCOG
- Jeff Davidson- CCWD, land owner
- Josh Meyer- LGC
- Tyler Summersett- CCOG
- Jeff Goldman- EDAW
- Jeff Henderson- EDAW
- Josh Lathan- EDAW

### **Absent**

- Tracy Busby- SGT, Sheriff's Department
- Dann Myers- Postmaster
- Sherri Reusche- CUSD board member

### **Anyone missing from SAC?**

- Corps of Engineers/Hogan Reservoir
- County Planning Commission- Ted Allured (District 1), Steve Kearney (District 5).
- EBMUD- may depend on how far we reach out with plan area

- Local organized sports groups
- CalFire
- Park and Recreation Department- Deena McAfee (District 5 representative)
- Is group size a consideration?
- If no representative is available from these missing organizations, we will still be in contact with them and keep them informed

### **Diverse Group**

- Let's be constructive and move forward to create a great plan!

### **Project background**

- What's the timeframe?
  - Completion target: March 2010
- What is purpose of completed document?
  - Adoptable community plan by county in General Plan update
- What is current status of the General Plan process?
  - Shaelyn- there are milestones that have to be reached before the General Plan is adopted. If not met, the Valley Springs plan would have to be incorporated after the update process. It may or may not be part of update process. Uncertain at this point.
  - County wants the Valley Springs plan to be a part of the General Plan at some point
  - There will be opportunities during the planning process to integrate portions of the General Plan and Valley Springs plan
- Do we start with boundaries?
  - Jeff H - We're not coming in with any boundaries in mind- we want the community to help us define the project area
  - Jeff G- Consensus regarding the boundary sources from discussion of concerns and geographic areas that those issues cover
- When the County has information available regarding the General Plan, is the public able to see that information?
  - Shaelyn - Yes, it will happen concurrently with this plan. However, SAC will not receive advance copies. We'll hopefully have an updated milestone schedule for the next SAC meeting to show where consistency checks can occur.

- Tim- If there are problems with making information available that are associated with reproduction costs, CCOG will ensure that applicable information is posted on the Valley Springs project website
- Russ- SAC needs materials from County to ensure that nomenclature and format used in the Valley Springs plan is consistent with designations, etc. used in the General Plan
  - County is working on this template so that the Valley Springs plan can be coordinated with the General Plan

### **Proposed survey, workshop schedule, and upcoming activities**

1. Pre-survey- demographics, community identification
  2. Charrette- more detailed survey questions will be addressed through community design workshop process
  3. Post-survey if new questions arise during charrette or if others are not answered
- Tim- GVSAG has survey on website- should it be distributed to SAC?
  - Vision came from survey
  - Jeff G- Want SAC to tell us what kinds of questions we should be asking, then let project partners choose wording for survey questions
  - GVSAG missed out on some opinions-
    - Josh M- We don't want to over-do the initial survey or else there's nowhere left to build to during the charrette
    - Jeff H – We should ask broad questions in the beginning to grow interest. The charrette will cover lots of questions, but will raise others, and will allow us to drill down to greater detail after the first charrette. On the first day of the charrette, we need to start with the listening process.
    - Mike- In 2007, GVSAG began looking at community issues as part of the General Plan initiation. Volunteer committees started talking about elements proposed by the County, gathered lots of information to move towards a vision, and created a survey to get full community input/buy-in. It was cost-prohibitive at first, then the grant came through, and the process was put on hold until the Community Plan process began.
    - How will survey be distributed?

- Mailing to every resident in greater Valley Springs area (+/- 8000), with an option to do it online as well (surveymonkey.com)
- What is the greater Valley Springs area (where will surveys be mailed)?
- Rancho residents need to be involved in the survey- they shop in Valley Springs and contribute to the traffic too

## **Identify community issues/opportunities**

### **Key issues we know based on proposal process**

- Design that conveys rural character
- Cosgrove Creek flooding (USACE project)
- Economic development- managing the community growth pattern
- Traffic and Circulation concerns, SR 12/26 intersection

## **Community perspectives**

### **Additional key issues for plan**

- Protect walkability in Valley Springs- Make it so we can park in town and walk to shopping/eating
  - Are there adequate facilities for walking now?- probably not
  - Valley Springs is not walkable now
  - Don't put barriers in way of connectivity- auto/pedestrian
- Recreational opportunity- as community develops, make it so parents want their children to walk to school. Maybe those efforts could instead be put into recreation areas for weekend family bike rides.
  - Concern for children's safety walking alone in neighborhoods
  - Need access to recreation and services
- Universal accessibility issues. People who can't afford cars also need to be able to get around as much as everyone else.
- Families do want access for children to be able to walk: to recreation, services, friends' homes, town center, and outlying areas - but safety is an

issue and a design element- how do we ensure that design safety addresses a wide range of age groups?

- Valley Springs Elementary School has 350 kids, 20 in town- none ride bikes, 20 might walk, but the rest are bussed in
- Land use
  - Concern for bike/pedestrian facilities
  - Contributes to flood issues
  - Relationship to circulation/transportation- layout major arterials, at least in the plan
- County can hardly take care of current roads, let alone trails- thus, the burden falls on homeowners- Rancho has plenty of places to ride bikes but kids don't use them - kids in neighborhoods might not be safe walking around town, even with better pedestrian access
  - Movie- '*Where do the Children Play*'- need to reeducate SAC members about child pedestrian safety
- Need enough resources and a local economy to pay for everything residents want- Must get realistic about localized jobs and stopping retail leakage or else we can't afford everything we want. We should have a Valley Springs community where people can get everything they need locally.
- We have seven gangs from Stockton, quite active. Sheriff's substation is closed, and it takes 20-30 minutes for response. We need to address public protection and gang activity (e.g., break ins), and to think about public safety.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) question- When does the Environmental analysis take place, with the General Plan, or do we have to find additional funding?
  - We're working with the county on options, but we don't have a final solution yet
- How detailed does the community plan get? For example, does it have a circulation element? If it overlays with the General Plan and we have a different opinion of what should happen, does the community plan take precedence?

- No. If we develop a plan diametrically opposed to the County General Plan, then the General Plan takes precedence. However, we can address community issues that won't be covered in the General Plan (e.g., these are the needs of my community and how I want to address them). Regarding circulation, the County has control of County roads, so if we set a policy that the County is unable to implement, then such a policy is just words that will never happen. The same goes for policies related to Caltrans roads- sidewalks/trails can be taken care of at the community level, and those can be implemented- but you cannot override the General Plan with the community plan
- If we develop solutions that are not included in the General Plan, these policies could supplement the General Plan. Will the community plan then come up with solutions for circulation issues?
- GVSAG stated the County had no resources for community plans, but did determine topics to be addressed, including circulation. The County also said that if we create a broad plan, it will just be covered by the General Plan, but if we create something unique, it will be considered for inclusion to apply at a community level
  - Shaelyn - There's no reason to duplicate policies in the General Plan. For example, consider historic districts. The State has strict protections in place already, but we could designate a historic district that identifies applicable goals and policies - then the County could adopt those policies, in addition to all of the other policies the State or County may already have
- Any thoughts regarding future incorporation? Might this plan suggest a future City of Valley Springs?
  - Topic could be addressed within the charrette process
  - Incorporation has come up before. When it comes up, many people will need educational materials regarding what incorporation means for them
- We want a historic district in Valley Springs – consider the train depot as a historic asset. The community plan should identify what Valley Springs' business district is – Is it, for example Highway 12 to Terrace? We need to attract services that people need and want, and it is easier to do that if the business district is defined.

- Jeff G- Of the folks in the room (both on the SAC and members of the public) does anyone represent views of young adults who will comprise the Valley Springs community in the future?
  - No!
    - One survey per household may not be enough
    - We could get youth groups involved through civics classes
    - We could Twitter youth
    - We could do a civics day at the charrette

**Key opportunities summary**

- Make the community walkable
- Ensure that adequate parking is available
- Parks and recreation and trails
  - Build upon existing assets
- Maximize opportunity to create a historic district and business district

**Schedule next meeting**

- April- date not finalized yet
- CCOG will email some date options
- 6pm time works well for now

**Public comment**

None