



January 2007

COUNTY OF NAPA General Plan Update Newsletter



County of Napa Office of Conservation,
Development and Planning
1195 Third St.
Napa, CA 94559

Residents Weigh In: Comments Welcomed at Public Meetings

POPE VALLEY AND LAKE BERRYESSA

Napa County may be best known for the world-renowned Napa Valley but the County's character is also defined by the rural and recreation areas in Pope Valley and Lake Berryessa. To ensure that residents there had an opportunity to share their visions for the future of the County, staff held a series of meetings to get feedback on proposed goals and policies for the General Plan Update in late 2006.

More than 150 people shared their opinions. There were discussions regarding economic development strategies, such as providing greater flexibility for home-based businesses, and the potential for additional visitor-serving and mixed uses near Lake Berryessa. Separate surveys were developed for each area to gauge resident's opinions regarding these and other ideas for consideration within the General Plan Update. The end result was shared with the Steering Committee and then incorporated into the Draft General Plan to allow residents County-wide to share their opinions as well.

People who are interested in these areas of the County are encouraged to provide their comments. Should the County ask voters to consider changing the designation of a small area at the Pope Valley cross roads? Are there areas at Lake Berryessa where additional mixed-use development should be encouraged? Or are there other strategies that should be used to attract limited and needed local-serving businesses to the Lake?



ANGWIN IS STILL THE FOCUS OF PLANNING

The Draft General Plan Update and Draft EIR will both stimulate further discussions about Angwin. There appears to be broad consensus that the current General Plan does not do the area justice, and the Draft General Plan Update's Agricultural Preservation & Land Use Element starts to address this issue by suggesting some policies that could guide further discussions. But exactly how the area should be represented on the official land use map of the County still needs to be resolved.

In August 2006 more than 150 Angwin residents participated in County workshops at Pacific Union College, reviewing maps of five different scenarios, ranging from no change to alternatives which would require a vote of the people pursuant to Measure J (1990). The workshops and the draft documents currently being circulated for public comments highlight the need for further planning work.

Residents and others interested in the future of Angwin are encouraged to send their comments and suggestions to the County so they can be reflected in revisions to the draft documents. They should also stay tuned for more workshops in 2007, when Pacific Union College's proposals for the area will be available for discussion, and the County's land use map will be finalized. ♻️

Questions? Comments?

To learn more about the Napa County General Plan Update process or if you have questions, please contact:

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Visit us on-line at www.napacountygeneralplan.com



Message from Hillary Gitelman, Napa County Planning Director

We are approaching a tremendous milestone in Napa County's General Plan Update project and we need your help. In early February, we will circulate a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a draft General Plan Update document for public review. We need anyone who is interested in the future of Napa County to take a look at these documents and provide constructive suggestions about how they should be improved.

The draft General Plan Update is the result of over one year of hard work by the General Plan Steering Committee, County staffers, and all of the Napa County residents that have participated in the planning process thus far. The draft does not represent a finished product, but is intended to be sufficiently detailed to allow for meaningful comments. We want to know whether you agree with the goals and policies it contains, have suggestions about how they can be modified, or have ideas about additional policies we should consider. Once we get your comments, we will complete the draft document so that it can be reviewed by the Planning Commission and considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. If we are successful, the General Plan Update that is adopted by the Board in early 2008 will provide a comprehensive policy framework and a basis for sound decision making for years to come.

The draft EIR is the result of over one year of hard work by County staffers and a multi-disciplinary team of environ-

mental consultants. Intended to assess all of the potential physical environmental effects of the General Plan Update, the EIR examines several planning alternatives and a long list of environmental issues. Comments and questions regarding the analysis are welcome. All comments received during the comment period will be responded to in the Final EIR, which must be certified by the Board before they can consider adoption of the General Plan Update.

Upon their release, both the draft EIR and draft General Plan documents will be available for you to view on-line at www.napacountygeneralplan.com. Please watch for our e-mail, which will also contain information about the comment period and where to submit your comments. Public feedback continues to be the most important function of the General Plan update process. We encourage you to participate and would welcome an opportunity to address community groups or other associations interested in our planning process.

Thank you again for your continued support and participation. 🌱

Hillary Gitelman

Draft Documents Released Soon

Public Comment and Feedback Encouraged

The Napa County General Plan Update is approaching an important juncture in its development – the release of the draft documents. After months spent collecting public feedback and conducting research throughout the county, both the draft General Plan Update and the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are scheduled for release to the public in early February.

The County encourages feedback from residents in order to ensure that the General Plan Update is comprehensive and relevant and the EIR is accurate and thorough. Public comments on both documents can be given at public meetings (see following schedule), by U.S. mail or e-mail to: info@napacountygeneralplan.com. Comments must be received by the close of the public comment period and should be as specific as possible.

THE DRAFT EIR

An EIR is a document required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In essence, an EIR is a detailed review of a proposed project, its potential environmental effects, possible changes that can be made to reduce adverse effects, and possible alternatives.

THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

The General Plan is a document containing a statement of development policies and must include certain state

mandated elements related to land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open-space, noise and safety. The draft document being circulated for public review addresses all of these issues with the exception of housing, because the County's housing element was updated in 2004.

The draft also addresses additional topics of local concern such as agricultural preservation, economic development, and historic preservation. 🌱

Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Draft Documents

Public Encouraged to Attend

Napa County residents will have many opportunities to hear about the draft EIR and draft General Plan Update and provide feedback on those documents. We encourage you to participate in the process by attending one of the many public meetings planned throughout Napa County over the next few months. Or, you can reach us through email links found on the website at www.napacountygeneralplan.com.

Date	Meeting	Location	Steering Committee Members
Wednesday, January 31 1:00 p.m.	Steering Committee / Public Meeting	Napa County Office of Education Boardrooms A, B and C 2121 Imola Avenue Napa, CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Peter McCrea, Chair · Tom Andrews, Vice-Chair · George Bachich · Mary Ellen Boyet · Jon-Mark Chappellet · Stephen Cuddy · Debra Dommen · Tom Gamble · Michael Haley · Jim Hendrickson · Guy Kay · Carol Kunze · Carole Meredith · Beth Painter · Carol Poole · Jeff Reichel · Brad Simpkins · Stuart Smith · Robert Torres · Bill Trautman · Duane Wall
Wednesday, February 28 1:00 p.m.	Steering Committee / Public Meeting	Napa County Office of Education Boardrooms A, B and C 2121 Imola Avenue Napa, CA	
Wednesday, March 21 9:00 a.m.	County Planning Commission / Public Meeting	County Administration Building, Board Chambers (3rd floor) 1195 Third Street Napa, CA	
Wednesday, March 28 1:00 p.m.	Steering Committee / Public Meeting	Napa County Office of Education Boardrooms A, B and C 2121 Imola Avenue Napa, CA	
Wednesday, April 4 6:00 p.m.	Public Meeting	Yountville Community Hall 6516 Yount Street Yountville, CA	

The content of the Steering Committee meetings is subject to change at any time. Please check our website --- www.napacountygeneralplan.com -- to confirm meeting dates and time. 🌱