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# **County Parks Commission to Consider Fee Study**

January 30, 2004

On February 10, 2004, the Placer County Parks Commission will be reviewing and making recommendations on the recently completed Parks and Recreation Facilities Impact Fee Study addressing the County's Park Impact Fee program. The public is invited to attend and provide input.

The meeting will be held at the Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

The Placer County Department of Facility Services is exploring the possibility of restructuring County park fees to provide funding for purchase and development of passive as well as active parks.

The role of the County Parks Commission is limited to focusing on the content of the study and its recommendations as they pertain to parks and recreation.

The Park and Recreation Facilities Fee Study reviewed the inventory of existing park and recreation facilities, calculated existing park facility standards, estimated park land and development costs, and calculated the appropriate park facility impact fees.

Currently the County collects \$3,105 per residential lot created in the Dry Creek-West Placer area and \$1,450 per residential lots created elsewhere in unincorporated Placer County.

The new fee structure supported by the study would distinguish by the type of housing unit.

Under the proposed new structure, the County would, at the time of subdivision, collect \$533 per parcel zoned single family, \$389 per unit zoned multi-family and \$351 per unit zoned age-restricted senior. At the building permit stage, the County would collect an additional \$2,817 to total an overall \$3,350 for single family units including modular

homes; \$2,051 to total \$2,441 for multiple family units, second dwelling units and mobile homes; and 1,852 to total \$2,203 for age-restricted senior units.

After receiving input from the County Parks Commission and other representative bodies, Facility Services will present the report to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.



# **Transit Station Changes Announced**

January 30, 2004

Placer County Transit will make several changes to its Highway 49 bus route in Auburn beginning Monday, Feb. 2.

The changes will coincide with Monday's move of Auburn's main bus transfer station from downtown to Auburn Station, the newly improved transit center on Blocker Drive near the intersection of Nevada Street and Fulweiler Avenue.

Beginning Monday, transfers involving PCT, Auburn Transit, Gold Country Stage and Dial-A-Ride will take place at Auburn Station. The Auburn Light Rail Express Route also will stop at Auburn Station.

Until now, Elder's Station in the downtown area near where Lincoln Way and High Street intersect has served as the main bus transfer station.

Starting Monday, PCT's Highway 49 buses will no longer serve Elder's Station, the rest of the downtown area and the stretch of Marguerite Mine and Auburn Ravine roads that includes the Valley Oaks Apartments. Those changes will eliminate overlap between PCT's Highway 49 route and bus service provided by Auburn Transit.

Auburn Transit riders from the downtown and Valley Oaks areas will be able to get free transfers to PCT's Highway 49 route at Auburn Station.

The new PCT route will take riders to the Auburn Station 10 theater complex on Nevada Street and will include stops near Target and Pak 'N Save in North Auburn.

A new route schedule and map are available on the county web site.

The newly expanded Auburn Station has several advantages as a bus transfer station, including easy access to Amtrak train and bus service and plenty of parking. As part of the project, bus shelters were added and lighting was improved at the site.

Elder's Station has several disadvantages, including lack of easy access to Amtrak, limited parking and crowded bus shelters.

"This new facility provides all of those things," said PCT Transportation Supervisor Anthony Middleton of Auburn Station.

PCT is a service operated by Placer County's Public Works Department.

PCT normally operates from approximately 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays. It is closed on several holidays: New Year's Day, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



# **Casino Update**

**Update: Dec. 22, 1999** 

On Tuesday, Dec. 7 Supervisors tentatively agreed to a modified Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Placer and the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC). However, they included the caveat that if the Dept. of the Interior provides an opinion in writing within 30 days (by Jan. 6, 2000) that UAIC does not qualify for an exemption under Section 20(b)(1)(B) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, then this agreement is void. (The section referenced would allow the tribe to bring land into trust since the tribe's reservation lands were dispersed 40 years ago).

The Board modified the Memorandum of Understanding agreed to on Aug. 24 by allowing the tribe to pursue alternative solutions for sewer and water service. Board members asked that the UAIC pursue obtaining water from the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), rather than from wells, which were to be considered only if PCWA did not agree to work with them.

Regarding sewer service, the Board agreed that UAIC could pursue annexing into the county's sewer system in the area, working out an agreement with Lincolnand Additionally, Supervisors made several modifications during the August meeting, which are included in the proposed Memorandum, and revisions will be considered to a letter of support of UAIC's application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### **Background:**

The United Auburn Indian Community, a Tribe which includes local Maidu and Miwok Indians, has proposed building a gaming casino on 58 acres of industrial land located in the County's Sunset Industrial Area.

Under the law, Native American tribes can legally operate gaming on federal trust lands or reservations. The United Auburn Indian Community held such a land (the Auburn Rancheria, established near Auburn in 1917) until the 1950s, when federal policies changed and all the reservation lands were dispersed, except a 2.3 acre parcel.

In 1994, Congress restored the full rights and recognition for the United Auburn Indian Community and entitled the Tribe to seek out land anywhere in Placer County for their desired economic goals.

Under the Indian Gaming Regulation Act of 1988, Native American Tribes, which are sovereign entities, are provided the economic opportunity to game on trust land to the level that State law permits gaming. If the State of California were to ban gaming (including the lottery, horse racing and bingo parlors run by non-profits), then gaming would not be available to the Tribes.

According to United Auburn Indian Community representative Howard Dickstein, the United Auburn Indian Tribe plans to exercise its right by building a gaming casino.

Cities and the County can offer input to the federal government as the Tribe chooses land to put in trust. However neither the County nor any City has authority to override the federal law and prevent the siting of a casino. Legal staff in Washington, under contract to the county to investigate all possibilities, report that there is little likelihood the Federal law will change.

Therefore the United Auburn Indian Community can petition the federal government for the right to put land into trust, and if federal officials agree, then can build a casino anywhere in Placer County, inside or outside a city, without regard to existing or previously proposed land use planning.

There are no federal requirements that the Tribe, a sovereign nation, follow county or city land use ordinances which all citizens must follow, such as requiring that fees be paid to cover the costs of fire and law enforcement, design requirements, sewer and water quality standards.

The proposed site: The 58-acre casino site is located near the intersection of Athens and Industrial Avenues in the County's Sunset Industrial Area, near the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill. Residential development is not allowed in the Sunset Industrial Area, and the site is not near any residential neighborhoods. Hwy 65 would be the primary access.

To the west of the site is 1.5 miles of industrially-designated property, then six miles of agricultural land. To the north is one mile of open space, then Lincoln's southern boundary and existing agricultural land (with residential land designated by Lincoln). To the east is the railroad, then 2,000 feet of industrially-designated land, then the City of Lincoln and Twelve Bridges project, more industrial land, then a project with 10-acre minimum lots. To the south is a two mile stretch of industrially-designated land, then Roseville's industrial area along Foothill Blvd. The tribe has requested the United States

to take this parcel into trust for its benefit.

In the future, the tribe will also ask the United States to take two other sites into trust: an 1,100 acre site to build approximately 100 homes for Tribal members near Camp Far West, and a 2.3 acre cultural/recreational site near Auburn (the remainder of the Rancheria).

## What has happened:

The Tribe has indicated that they will ask the federal government to allow them to put the proposed casino site into trust and the two other parcels into federal trust.

The United Auburn Indian Community has created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County under which the Tribe has agreed to abide by all local development standards and has agreed to pay for infrastructure such as roads, just as any other business would be required to do, in this case more than \$1 million a year. If signed, the MOU would be enforceable through the Sacramento Superior Court.

All five members of the Board of Supervisors oppose gaming, and have repeatedly stated their opposition. However, a Board majority (4-1) accepted the MOU on August 24, 1999 citing federal law and Tribe's stated determination to build a casino. If the terms of the MOU are met, the Board agreed to sign the memorandum and send a letter of support to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Currently all terms of the MOU have not been met.

The Cities of Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln have voted to oppose a casino, and the City of Lincoln has voted not to provide sewer or water service to the proposed casino. The United Auburn Indian Community announced withdrawal of their proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Roseville.

### **New MOU:**

A simplified copy of the MOU previously discussed and generally agreed to in August is attached. The UAIC has proposed providing sewer service through the City of Lincoln's system, through connecting the existing County system or through installing an independent sewage treatment plant. The UAIC proposes obtaining water through the Placer County Water Agency or through wells.

A complete copy of the Proposed MOU is available through the Clerk of the Board, Auburn. (It is approximately 25 pages long).

Citizens wishing to offer support or to protest may address their comments to the U.S.

Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Sacramento.

# A simplified copy of the MOU agreed to on Aug. 24 is below.

### (For specific, detailed information, please request a complete copy)

- Tribe will request the 3 parcels be put into trust by the Dept. of the Interior (one for gaming, one for homes, one for cultural/religious/recreational uses only)
- Tribe agrees to comply with County general and community plans, zoning ordinances, design guidelines.
- Tribe agrees to process a development application for review by county staff to determine compliance with an environmental review that substantially complies with the California Environmental Quality Act
- Tribe agrees to reimburse the County for law enforcement (approx. \$458,089 per year), including five new deputies and one patrol vehicle. Under federal law, most state criminal laws continue to apply on Indian trust lands, and the Sheriff's Dept. retains jurisdiction over enforcement of those laws except state gambling laws.
- Tribe shall build a fire station onsite to address fire and emergency response needs, use Placer County Fire Service and its contractors to provide fire protection and emergency response, and shall reimburse the costs (\$450,000 per year).
- Tribe will mitigate traffic and circulation issues and pay all required traffic mitigation fees. Tribe will build a new two-lane road to connect Athens Road and Sunset Blvd. The Tribe will share costs on improving Fiddyment Road.
- Tribe will provide sewer service to the casino through the City of Lincoln.
- Tribe will reimburse the county or other jurisdictions for public services and compensate the County for loss of local property taxes. Transient occupancy taxes will be collected if appropriate.
- Tribe will build according to the County's building standards.
- Tribe will contribute \$50,000 annually to help prevent and treat problem gambling.
- Tribe will donate \$25,000 to Placer Legacy (the County's Open Space Preservation Program) the first year, and add an additional \$25,000 each year up to a \$100,000 per year contribution
- A process for resolving disagreements will be established with enforcement through the Sacramento County Superior Court. The Tribe agrees to waive sovereign immunity in favor of the County as to disputes arising from the MOU or activities undertaken by the Tribe.
- A Tribal County Advisory Committee will be established to address local impacts. Meetings will be open to the public.
- The Tribe agrees to negotiate in good faith with the City of Roseville.
- The County will send a letter to the United States Dept. of the Interior supporting the application of the Tribe's request to have the land taken into trust.
- The parties will submit this agreement to the Dept. of the Interior for either approval or written response that no approval is necessary.





# New County Juvenile Facility Dedication, Guided Public Tours

The new Placer County Juvenile Detention Facility is almost completed, and will be dedicated by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 7, 1999. Guided public tours of the new Juvenile Detention Facility will be available on Wednesday, December 8, from 11 AM to 1 PM. The new facility is located in the DeWitt Center at 11260 B Avenue, off Richardson Boulevard just north of the jail.

The new facility, which was funded by Placer County and by a grant from the California Youth and Correctional Agency, will open for operation early in the year 2000. Developed and built at a cost of \$10 million dollars, the new facility will replace the existing inadequate facility, built in the 1950s. It includes 75 beds and a juvenile court room, and is designed to meet the needs of youth from the cities and the unincorporated area in the county.

"The new hall will help insure public safety, and will expand our ability to work effectively with local youth who need to be in custody," said Norma Suzuki, Placer County Chief Probation Officer.

The Juvenile Detention Center is one of several criminal justice facilities, costing approximately \$100 million, which Placer County criminal justice officials project will need to be built over the next eight to ten years.



# **Placer County Encourages Kids' Bright Smiles**

November 10, 1999

A bright smile on the face of a child is a beautiful sight. But the smile may not come if that child is ill or is embarrassed to show her teeth, due to poor dental care. Placer County officials and staff will help protect those smiles in the future. Thanks to a recent grant of \$116,452 from the Sierra Health Foundation's and the California Endowment's <code>brightSMILES</code> Dental Health Partnership, with budgeted county funds, the Placer County Community Dental Clinic will take steps to improve dental care throughout the county for low-income children and adults.

Placer County Community Dental Clinic staff will work with a newly-established Bright Smiles Dental Care Task Force to identify county dental care needs and to help improve dental care education for children and families in the county. The task force is expected to include parents, local dentists and physicians and other health care professionals, as well as representatives from the educational and child care professions. It will meet for the first time on Wednesday, November 17, 1999, from 6 to 8 PM at the Placer Community Action Council office, at 1166 High Street, in Auburn. Marylee Drake, RN, at 530-889-7160 or Curtis Nelson, DDS, at 530-889-7188, would be happy to provide further information to those interested in joining the task force.

"We applied for this grant because so many low-income children and families don't have access to dental care." said Marylee Drake. "The grant will enable us to improve and expand service for this population."

The *bright*SMILES grant will allow Placer County to remodel and renovate the existing Auburn and Kings Beach community dental clinics, and add much-needed dental equipment. It will also enable the new task force, with county staff, to identify dental care needs within the county, and help inform community members and local professionals about the need for good dental care in general for children and adults. The task force will also help coordinate and assist educational efforts to prevent dental problems. Finally, the grant will help fund more dental screenings and sealant programs for schoolchildren in the Tahoe area.

Poor dental health care can cause problems for children in unexpected areas. In addition to embarrassment over decayed or missing teeth, poor dental care can cause problems with eating, digestion, and speech and learning. Recognizing the need to improve dental health in northern California, the Sierra Health Foundation and The California Endowment established the *bright*SMILES Dental Health Partnership. They awarded nine grants totaling \$500,000 in the first round of funding. The partnership will award an additional \$1 million in grants in the future, as the project is expanded. Placer County was fortunate to receive its grant early in the process, and low-income children and families in the county will benefit.



# Casino Update, November, 1999

Casino Update - Nov., 1999

# **Background:**

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There are no federal requirements that the Tribe, a sovereign nation, follow county or city land use ordinances which all citizens must follow, such as requiring that fees be paid to cover the costs of fire and law enforcement, design requirements, sewer and water quality standards.

The proposed site: The 58-acre casino site is located near the intersection of Athens and Industrial Avenues in the County's Sunset Industrial Area, near the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill. Residential development is not allowed in the Sunset Industrial Area, and the site is not near any residential neighborhoods. Hwy 65 would be the primary access.

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Two other sites are also proposed for inclusion as trust land: an 1,100 acre site to build approximately 100 homes for Tribal members near Camp Far West, and a 2.3 acre cultural/recreational site near Auburn (the remainder of the Rancheria).

## What has happened:

The Tribe has indicated that they will ask the federal government to allow them to put the proposed casino site into trust and the two other parcels into federal trust.

The United Auburn Indian Community has created a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County under which the Tribe has agreed to abide by all local development standards and has agreed to pay for infrastructure such as roads, just as any other business would be required to do, in this case more than \$1 million a year. If signed, the MOU would be enforceable through the Sacramento Superior Court.

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MOU are met, the Board agreed to sign the memorandum and send a letter of support to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior. Currently all terms of the MOU have not been met.

The Cities of Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln have voted to oppose a casino, and the City of Lincoln has voted not to provide sewer or water service to the proposed casino. The United Auburn Indian Community has withdrawn their proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Roseville.

## What happens next:

The United Auburn Indian Community and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs will make the next decisions.

The MOU which was approved in concept by Supervisors called for sewer and water service to be provided by the City of Lincoln, which has since declined to do so.

The Tribe has indicated that they remain interested in the Athens Road site. They could arrange for sewer and water service to be provided another way. In order for the Board of Supervisors to sign the MOU as originally planned, the Tribe and the Board would have to agree on new language.

However the Tribe can forward its plan to the Bureau of Indian Affairs with or without input from the Board of Supervisors.

Citizens wishing to offer support or to protest the proposed casino should address their comments to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Sacramento.

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- A Tribal County Advisory Committee will be established to address local impacts. Meetings will be open to the public.
- The Tribe agrees to negotiate in good faith with the City of Roseville.
- The County will send a letter to the United States Dept. of the Interior supporting the application of the Tribe's request to have the land taken into trust.
- The parties will submit this agreement to the Dept. of the Interior for either approval or written response that no approval is necessary.
- The County will contact the Governor to change the legal gambling age at casinos from 18 to 21.



# Citizens Advisory Committee Makes Recommendations on Open Space Protection to Board of Supervisors

November 4, 1999

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will share its recommendations on how to promote and protect open space in Placer County with the Board of Supervisors in a workshop on Monday. This open space conservation program, launched last year by the Board, is called Placer Legacy.

During this meeting, the Board of Supervisors may direct staff to create a range of alternative strategies and incentives which benefit both the landowners who keep the land undeveloped and the community. A plan for preserving open space could take shape, face public review and modification, and finally Board acceptance next year.

Unique to the Nov. 8 workshop is a presentation by Sonoma County Supervisor Tim Smith, who will describe Sonoma's successful open space preservation plan. Also on the agenda is a discussion of the CAC's recommendations, a demonstration of the Geographic Information System as a planning tool, and a review of the proposed Placer Legacy work program. The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 8 at Twelve Bridges Golf Club in Lincoln.

The 11 members of the Citizens Advisory Committee were appointed by the Board, and collectively represent agriculture, business, development, recreation and environmental interests. They held a number of public meetings last year, including community forums attended by more than 300 residents, who shared their thoughts on why and how Placer's picturesque open spaces should be preserved for future generations.

Residents rated "quality of life" issues as the most important reason, followed by such things as "physical and mental health", "silence", "rural character", "aesthetic qualities", "living in harmony with nature", "providing a sense of freedom and security", and "protection of wildlife and agriculture", "economic development" and "recreational uses". They also identified the consequences of failure to preserve open space a "loss of quality".

of life for future generations" including "urban sprawl", and "pollution", "loss of beauty", "personal space and community connection", adding "jobs leaving the area", "loss of business diversity", "lowering property values", and "erosion of our economic base over the long term."

While no strategy has yet been created, the Board and CAC members have already identified several key concepts based on extensive research and public input. "Placer County has a unique competitive advantage over other counties in California because of the beauty and abundance of open space that surrounds our communities," Larry Welch, Site Operations Manager for Hewlett Packard in Roseville and a CAC member, noted earlier.

In May, Board members affirmed that participation in Placer Legacy would be voluntary. Plans are to link "willing buyers" with "willing sellers." Placer Legacy would implement existing County land use plans and policies as they relate to open space conservation. No changes to land uses are proposed as part of the Placer Legacy program. Cities have been invited to participate, and will determine their own level of involvement if any.

With a goal of making open space protection economically advantageous for landowners, Board members have requested a list of options, including donations, agricultural and conservation easements, county acquisition, management incentives and transfer of development rights, each of which benefits the landowner and the community.

As always, open space projects would be required to meet federal and state wildlife protection laws, but a goal would be to have Placer Legacy take a lead role in and streamline the process working with state and federal agencies. No new regulatory mechanisms have been proposed.

"The community must be a vital part of Placer Legacy, for without public support, this project cannot succeed," said Fred Yeager, Planning Director. "We do not believe that regulation alone can accomplish our goal."

During their meeting, Supervisors and CAC members will also review a prospective work plan. Hausrath Economic Group has been recommended to conduct a fiscal impact and funding options analysis for Placer Legacy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides for coordination and collaboration between the County, numerous state and federal agencies and the Cities has been drafted by the law office of Beveridge & Diamond, under contract to the Board. Supervisors will review and discuss the concept and purpose of this MOU. The Board is being requested to review and adopt a resolution to prepare an open space conservation plan which addresses agriculture, public safety, community edges and urban separators, outdoor recreation, biological resources and regulatory tools. The resolution incorporates the recommendations of the CAC.

CAC members welcome opportunities to speak about Placer Legacy. To arrange a speaker, contact Chairperson Joanne Neft, 916-663-9126.

Another issue of the Placer Legacy newsletter will be published and mailed free to anyone interested. Call the Placer County Planning Department at 530-889-7470 to be added to the mailing list.

Additionally, information about Placer Legacy is available on-line on Placer County's web site, www.placer.ca.gov.

Attached is a complete copy of the CAC recommendations from the resolution:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer hereby directs the Placer County Planning Department to prepare an open space conservation plan, in coordination with the Citizens Advisory Committee and appropriate local, state and federal agencies. The Board of Supervisors further resolves that the open space conservation plan, also to be known as Placer Legacy, is to address the following elements:

# **Agriculture**

- Assist Placer County farmers by developing a strong local product identity;
- Require that multiple findings of public interest be made before allowing the rezoning of agriculturally-designated properties to a non-agricultural zone district;
- Assist with the marketing of locally-grown produce;
- Promote farmers' markets;
- Educate the public regarding the special values of locally grown crops;
- Utilize the Agricultural Commissioner's office as an agricultural advocate with the Board of Supervisors;
- Establish neighborhood agricultural "districts" with specific policies that are locally applicable;
- Encourage neighboring agricultural landowners/producers to collaborate on easements/land preservation;
- Assist farmers with tax and estate planning;
- Implement and promote the Williamson Act to ensure that the needs of farming operations are protected;
- Make the existing right-to-farm ordinance more useful to the farmer by educating the public and by intervening in legal challenges subject to right-to-farm;
- Work to make water available at a reasonable price;

# **Public Safety**

· Catalog lands with a public safety constraint and use this as part of the information in screening and ranking lands for open space conservation;

# **Community Edges and Urban Separators**

- Identify open space areas that define community edges and create urban separators and transition areas:
- Identify strategic opportunities to protect open space edges and buffers particularly when other open space values are present, e.g., stream corridors, scenic roadways, and sensitive species habitat;
- Provide the necessary transition and buffer areas to protect existing agricultural lands in western Placer County from expanding urban areas;
- Define or delineate the transition and/or buffer areas between the agricultural lands of South Placer County and the urban core areas west of the Highway 65 corridor between Roseville and Lincoln and the proposed urban areas south of Baseline Road:
- Identify the kinds of land uses and urban designs that would be appropriate in these transition and/or buffer areas;

### **Outdoor Recreation**

- Enhance recreational opportunities by improving public trail access including the construction of staging areas and parking lots, as well as the purchase of easements on private land connections to public land and city trail networks;
- Develop appropriate trails and passive recreation on lands that have been identified for biological resource reasons;
- Provide regional recreational facilities in the Lower Sierra and Foothill area, supplementing the recreation opportunities provided on the public lands in the Sierra Nevada, state park facilities, and the municipal park facilities provided by the Cities, special districts and the County;
- New regional recreation facilities could provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities with an emphasis on passive recreation;
- Provide several large acreage (>300 acres) passive parks in a rural setting in South Placer for incorporated and unincorporated residents;
- Prioritize the financial implementation program to ensure the development of one or more of these facilities order to demonstrate the purpose and value of Placer Legacy;
- Encourage, facilitate and evaluate the potential to fund volunteer efforts to provide trail systems, access, or recreational facilities;
- Ensure that zoning regulations maintain private recreation facilities as a viable land use;
- Provide access to an interconnected system of trails and parks throughout all of

Placer County by taking advantage of strategic opportunities;

- Develop an interconnected system of trails and parks that provide diverse recreation opportunities in the county including camping, outdoor education and other forms of active and passive recreation for all residents;
- Design to new facilities to fill unmet needs and to respond to anticipated or emerging recreational trends instead of solely responding to growth;
- Determine whether there are ways for the County to optimize and safeguard river and reservoir recreation;

# **Biological Resources**

- Determine which biological resources are not covered by existing regulations and hence which need County action to insure biodiversity or to avoid additional new regulations;
- Determine which biological resources are already heavily regulated but where the County can provide a regional and coordinated perspective that will improve the conservation of species;
- Assist public education and volunteer involvement;
- Organize public education and volunteer participation programs on a small subregional, watershed, neighborhood, or community-of-interest (e.g., agriculture) basis;
- Involve the public in efforts to identify, fund, protect and enhance biological resources in each of the various social and geographic communities throughout the county;
- Protect the stream resource group (i.e., riparian, aquatic, wetland and associated upland areas) as the highest priority for biological conservation because streams represent some of the greatest remaining biodiversity in the western County yet are not consistently protected by existing regulation;
- Protect and restore the stream resource group now to help prevent the further decline and potential listing of species associated with these habitat areas;
- Identify significant areas of grassland vernal pools that represent the greatest remaining values for this habitat in the county;
- Evaluate the suitability of protecting large grassland vernal pool areas with relatively undisturbed topography and hydrology, possibly in partnership with other public and private entities;
- Evaluate the potential for large scale grassland vernal pool conservation to serve as the basis for a regional permitting program for wetland and vernal pool resources;
- Protect oak woodland areas and included communities of unusual biological diversity, age structure, understory component, landscape linkage, or scenic value by the following means: 1) resident education about oak woodland value, 2) local conservation action, 3) continued application of County policy on discretionary land use entitlements (e.g., the Rural Development Design Guidelines) and 4) through continued implementation of County ordinances;

- Protect the grasslands in Placer County for their agricultural value, their contribution to biodiversity and as part of conservation efforts to protect vernal pool and oak woodland resources;
- Protect grassland areas of unusual biological diversity, native species presence, restoration potential, or scenic value;
- Utilize Placer Legacy's comprehensive, countywide scope to address conservation opportunities on public and private lands in the Sierra Nevada;
- Utilize Placer Legacy's scientific and technical resources to become an active participant in public land planning (U.S. Forest Service and BLM) and to coordinate with other Sierra-wide planning exercises.
- Develop and coordinate policies that enhance the value of public lands in the context of private lands over which the County has jurisdiction in the Sierra Nevada.
- Identify areas in the Sierra suitable for local government or non-governmental protection
- Participate in land exchanges, management agreements or similar programs to facilitate protection of Sierra ecosystems.
- Develop a program to monitor trends in the county that will impact open space resources and to evaluate the success of resource protection and management actions.
- Monitor trends to alert the County to a need for action before a resource is in crisis.
- Develop long-term objectives and a monitoring program designed to determine whether the objectives are being met and how management may be changed to perform better.

## **Regulatory Tools**

- Provide a comprehensive, systematic approach to protecting the county's ecologically significant resources in a manner that satisfies state and federal regulatory requirements for endangered species, habitats, and wetlands.
- Conserve the range of endangered, sensitive and rare species that occupy the region, not just those protected by law, by focusing on the preservation of diverse natural communities upon which they depend.
- Increase the long-term sustainability of the region's biodiversity by planning for these resources at a county-wide level.
- Streamline and coordinate the process of obtaining federal, state, and local project approvals and provide far greater certainty to both landowner and local government land use decision-making.
- Establish appropriate conservation measures for projects that affect biological and aquatic resources through a single program, administered by the County and other participating jurisdictions, rather than through a series of independent, disjointed regulatory processes.





# New Ag Commissioner to Highlight Farm Link to Quality of Life

Oct. 12, 1999

A San Diego resident will become Placer County's new Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights on November 8, replacing Griffith Yamamoto, who has retired.

In her new role, Christine Turner, who currently serves as Deputy Director for San Diego County's Regulatory Enforcement Division of the Agriculture Department, plans to showcase agriculture's important role in Placer County's quality of life. "Too many people think produce comes from the supermarket, not from the grower, and don't really understand agriculture," said Turner. "I hope to bring greater awareness to Placer County communities."

"The Board of Supervisors wanted an Agricultural Commissioner who can represent the agricultural industry of the county, both large and small growers, and who can provide increased awareness of the value of agriculture to our economy and our quality of life" said Don Lunsford, County Executive Officer. "Christine brings the skills and the desire to help the community understand.

"She also has a long history of evenhanded enforcement of pesticide regulation, allowing farmers to use what's reasonable while protecting the environment we all treasure, and has done customer service training."

Turner graduated from California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) with a B.S. in Soil Science, and worked as an Agricultural Inspector and Biologist, then Deputy Agricultural Commissioner for Environmental Protection in San Luis Obispo.

In Placer County the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures is charged with providing environmental protection through plant, pest management and pesticide inspections; and consumer protections through inspection of nurseries and food establishments. The job also involves making sure that weight and measuring devices, such as gasoline pumps, are accurate.

Additionally, the Commissioner assists in trapping predators to protect livestock and poultry, and wildlife in urban areas such as skunks and coyotes which can sometimes be a danger to humans and pets.



# **Supervisors Reluctantly Approve MOU for Casino**

Aug. 25, 1999

Caught between federal laws and a desire to protect county residents from gambling, Placer County Supervisors reluctantly approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Auburn Indian Community who plan to build a casino in Placer County's Sunset Industrial Area south of Lincoln.

In approving the MOU by a 4-1 motion, Supervisors vented their frustration at having few options available, and made the choice they described as best protecting citizens against unregulated casino gambling. The Board of Supervisors does not support gaming in any area of Placer County. Supervisor Bill Santucci cast the vote against the MOU, citing concerns about the site.

"None of us believe in or support casino gambling," stressed Board Chairman Robert Weygandt. "Yet under federal law, Native American tribes have a right to host gaming, and United Auburn Indian Community has said they plan to move forward with or without our support.

"This Memo of Understanding offers the best protection for our residents and communities because it guarantees that the casino will follow all local land use ordinances, create an environmental review document, pay for such things as enhanced law enforcement and fire protection, improve local roads, compensate the county for lost taxes, and establish a Tribal-County Advisory Council to resolve local issues. All these provisions are enforceable through the Sacramento County Superior Court.

"Absent this Memo of Understanding, neither the County nor any cities have any legal authority to regulate activities on tribal lands nor to make the Tribe pay for any impacts to the local community.

"Approving the MOU was a difficult and painful decision for us all, but extensive research by legal counsel over a period of three years has convinced us that changing or overcoming federal laws to stop gambling in Placer County would be virtually

impossible."

In 1994, Congress restored the full rights and recognition for the United Auburn Indian Community. This Act of Congress entitled the Tribe to seek out land anywhere in Placer County for their desired goal, a casino.

In exchange for the Tribe's agreement to meet local land ordinances and pay for mitigation, the County will support their application to the federal government to put this proposed 58-acre casino site, a 1,100 acre housing site near Camp Far West and a 2.8 acre site for recreational/cultural use only into federal trust. Board members added a provision that if the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected the application, the Board's support will be withdrawn.

Chairman Weygandt noted the efforts of the Tribe in working with the community. "I commend the Tribe for their extraordinarily good faith negotiating efforts," he said. "Their desire to be good neighbors will be a tremendous help to both the Indian and non-Indian communities.

"This spirit of cooperation means that the community and the Tribe are much better equipped to work together as issues arise in the future."

As proposed, the casino would be located near the intersection of Athens and Industrial Avenues in the County's Sunset Industrial Area. Residential development is not allowed in the Sunset Industrial Area, and the site is not next to any residential neighborhoods.

To the west of the site is 1.5 miles of industrially-designated property, then six miles of agricultural land. To the north is one mile of open space, then Lincoln's southern boundary and existing agricultural land (with residential land designated by Lincoln). To the east is the railroad then 2,000 feet of industrially-designated land, then the City of Lincoln and Twelve Bridges project, more industrial land, then a project with 10-acre minimum lots. To the south is two miles of industrially-designated land, then Roseville's industrial area along Foothill Blvd.

"After our professional planning staff explored many options, they recommended this site because it has access to roads, utilities such as sewer and water, the means to provide fire and emergency response, yet it's in an industrial area, not close to urban style development," Weygandt said. "The cities of Roseville, Lincoln and Rocklin were contacted by the County so they could review the site and identify potential impacts."

Board members decided to send a letter to the Governor requesting that any statewide gambling pact raise the age limit to 21, a request made by many residents. They asked the

Tribe to negotiate in good faith with the cities and to provide \$50,000 a year to help prevent and treat gambling addiction.

Residents who have concerns about the project may forward them to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1824 Tribute Road, Suite J, Sacramento, CA 95815-4308.

### **Summary of the MOU and other Provisions**

### (For specific, detailed information, please request a complete copy)

- Tribe will request the 3 parcels be put into trust by the Dept. of the Interior (one for gaming, one for homes, one for cultural/religious/recreational uses only)
- Tribe agrees to comply with County general and community plans, zoning ordinances, design guidelines.
- Tribe agrees to process a development application for review by county staff to determine compliance with an environmental review that substantially complies with the California Environmental Quality Act
- Tribe agrees to reimburse the County for law enforcement (approx. \$458,089 per year), including five new deputies and one patrol vehicle. Under federal law, most state criminal laws continue to apply on Indian trust lands, and the Sheriff's Dept. retains jurisdiction over enforcement of those laws except state gambling laws.
- Tribe shall build a fire station onsite to address fire and emergency response needs, use Placer County Fire Service and its contractors to provide fire protection and emergency response, and shall reimburse the costs (\$450,000 per year).
- Tribe will mitigate traffic and circulation issues and pay all required traffic mitigation fees. Tribe will build a new two-lane road to connect Athens Road and Sunset Blvd. The Tribe will share costs on improving Fiddyment Road.
- Tribe will provide sewer service to the casino through the City of Lincoln.
- Tribe will reimburse the county or other jurisdictions for public services and compensate the County for loss of local property taxes. Transient occupancy taxes will be collected if appropriate.
- Tribe will build according to the County's building standards.
- Tribe will contribute \$50,000 annually to help prevent and treat problem gambling.
- Tribe will donate \$25,000 to Placer Legacy (the County's Open Space Preservation Program) the first year, and add an additional \$25,000 each year up to a \$100,000 per year contribution
- A process for resolving disagreements will be established with enforcement through the Sacramento County Superior Court. The Tribe agrees to waive sovereign immunity in favor of the County as to disputes arising from the MOU or activities undertaken by the Tribe.
- A Tribal County Advisory Committee will be established to address local impacts. Meetings will be open to the public.

- The Tribe agrees to negotiate in good faith with the City of Roseville.
- The County will send a letter to the United States Dept. of the Interior supporting the application of the Tribe's request to have the land taken into trust.
- The parties will submit this agreement to the Dept. of the Interior for either approval or written response that no approval is necessary.
- The County will contact the Governor to change the legal gambling age at casinos from 18 to 21.



### **Placer County Exhibit Opens at State Fair**

August 20, 1999



"Fire in the hole," the miner bellows, just before the explosion sends smoke into the air. A seemingly endless mine shaft bends into the mountain.

Photograph provided by California State Railroad Museum Library, Illustration by Placer County

Steam trains - perched overhead on a trestle, or weaving in and out the mountains - link the past with the present as a nostalgic whistle forecasts their arrival. A granite quarry crane loads huge blocks as a series of push buttons invite young visitors to get involved.

Placer County's 1999 State Fair Exhibit opened today at Cal Expo with the theme "Placer County: Historic Gateway to California". The exhibit earned a Gold Ribbon, an award for Best Use of Technology, Special Effects or Animation and an award for Best Content.

As always, this year's exhibit includes a colorful cast of animated characters, from lumberjacks sawing a pine tree to the angry bear looking down on them.

The exhibit also features a Web site-style presentation created by students at the Woodcreek High School in Roseville, played on a touch screen computer donated by Hewlett-Packard, Inc. Other technology includes a video presentation donated by Affinity Media Services. Del Webb Sun City Lincoln Hills paid for the County's marketing piece for visitors to take home.

The theme, Historic Gateway to California, celebrates Placer's pathway through the Sierra over which people traveled, first by foot or horse and wagon, then by the first transcontinental railroad and highway, to discover California's diverse richs. Fertile foothills and valleys, dense lumber-producing forests, the lure of gold and the need for laborers brought newcomers to create a rich cultural mix in the County and the State.

As in prior years, the 1999 exhibit was created by a team of volunteers, county staff and local sponsors, with minimum security jail inmates doing much of the construction under the supervision of staff.

Jim McCrummen, Senior Building Crafts Mechanic, Placer County Facility Services, who lead the construction team explained today that to him, building the exhibit is the best part of the process. "It's the journey, not the destination," he said. "My favorite part now is watching the visitors enjoying our work."





# Proposed Casino "Memorandum of Understanding" To Be Heard

NEWS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 1999

The United Auburn Indian Community, a Tribe which includes local Maidu and Miwok Indians, has proposed building a gaming casino on 58 acres of industrial land located in the County's Sunset Industrial Area immediately south of Lincoln and two other land development applications. A brief summary of MOU provisions is below.

On Tuesday, Aug. 24, at 2 p.m. Placer County Supervisors will review an unusual proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Auburn Indian Community and the County regarding that proposal. The meeting will be held at the County Administrative Center, 175 Fulweiler Ave., Auburn.

Under both state and federal law, Native American tribes can legally operate gaming on federal trust lands or reservations. The United Auburn Indian Community held such a land (the Auburn Rancheria, established near Auburn in 1917) until the 1950s, when federal policies changed and all the reservation lands were dispensed to tribal members, except a 2.8 acre parcel.

Currently the United Auburn Indian Community has no lands in trust. However the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to place lands in trust for tribes. Congress in 1994 recognized that this Auburn Tribe was entitled to such land.

Once land is in trust, local government has no legal authority to determine land use, nor to regulate activities there.

What is unique in this situation is that the United Auburn Indian Community has voluntarily offered to comply with local land use ordinances and to mitigate all impacts of a casino if the Board of Supervisors agrees to support their request to place the land in trust. The United Auburn Indian Community would not be required to do so under either

state or federal law.

Specifically, Supervisors will consider whether to approve, reject or modify a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Auburn Indian Community and the County of Placer. Under the proposed MOU the United Auburn Indian Community would agree that for the casino and other lands they obtain, what they build will be consistent with current and future County general and community plans, zoning ordinances, design guidelines, and environmental review and building standards. The Tribe would reimburse the County for law enforcement and other public services provided to the Tribe on the three parcels and would reimburse the County for lost tax revenues. A standing Joint Tribal-County Advisory Committee would be created to resolve future concerns and would include community representation.

If the Board of Supervisors does not approve the MOU, the United Auburn Indian Community can continue its quest to have the federal government to put this land or other land into federal trust on its behalf. However once land goes into federal trust, the United Auburn Indian Community cannot be required by the County or any city to comply with local ordinances if they build a gaming operation. Nor can they be required to reimburse local government for services, such as the costs of providing law enforcement.

"The Athens-Industrial site appears to have a combination of attributes which make it a more suitable site than other places in the County," said Fred Yeager, Planning Director, who will oversee the mitigation measures if the Board approves the MOU. "The site has access to roads and utilities such as sewer and water, and means to provide fire and emergency response services, yet it's situated far from urban-style residential development. Putting a casino in an industrial area where housing isn't allowed, and where access to a major highway would not pass by residential areas, greatly reduces possible impacts or inconveniences to residents."

Some Roseville residents, however, feel that the casino would still be too close to their neighborhoolds. Roseville City Council members voted on Wednesday, August 18, to ask Supervisors to delay taking action for 30 days.

As proposed, the 200,000 square foot casino would be located near the intersection of Athens and Industrial Avenues in the Sunset Industrial Area. New residential development is not allowed in the Sunset Industrial Area, and the site is not next to any residential neighborhoods. The casino would provide class II and/or class III gambling activities (bingo, video gaming and card tables), a restaurant, offices and a gift shop, with 3,500 parking spaces. The site is near the Western Regional Sanitary Landfill and industrial buildings.

The United Auburn Indian Community has also proposed putting into trust an 1,100 acre

parcel by Camp Far West near Sheridan to build less than 100 homes in the future for Tribal members and their families, plus a 2.8 acre parcel located near Auburn for cultural, religious and recreational purposes, the only remaining part of the Auburn Rancheria.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding includes language to make the agreement legally binding on both parties.

During the meeting on Tuesday, comments to Board members from individual speakers will be limited to three minutes each.

# **General Summary of the MOU Provisions**

- Tribe will request the 3 parcels be put into trust by the Dept. of the Interior (one for gaming, one for homes, one for cultural/religious/recreational uses)
- Tribe agrees to comply with County general and community plans, zoning ordinances, and design guidelines
- Tribe agrees to process a development application for review by county staff to determine compliance with an environmental review that substantially complies with the California Environmental Quality Act
- Tribe agrees to reimburse the County for law enforcement (approx. \$458,089 per year), including five new deputies and one patrol vehicle. Under federal law, most state criminal laws continue to apply on Indian trust lands, and the Sheriff's Dept. retains jurisdiction over enforcement of those laws except state gambling laws.
- Tribe shall use Placer County Fire Service and its contractors to provide fire protection and emergency response, and shall reimburse the costs.
- Tribe will mitigate traffic and circulation issues and pay all required traffic mitigation fees. Tribe will build a new two-lane road to connect Athens Road and Sunset Blvd.
- Tribe will provide to the casino through the City of Lincoln.
- Tribe will reimburse the county or other jurisdictions for public services and compensate the County for loss of local property taxes.
- Tribe will build according to the County's building standards
- Tribe will contribute \$5000 annually to the California Council on Problem Gambling.
- Tribe will donate \$25,000 to Placer Legacy (the County's Open Space Preservation Program) the first year, and add an additional \$25,000 each year up to a \$100,000 per year contribution
- A process for resolving disagreements will be established with enforcement through the Sacramento County Superior Court
- A Tribal County Advisory Committee will be established to address local impacts. Meetings will be open to the public.
- The County will send a letter to the United States Dept. of the Interior supporting

- the application of the Tribe's request to have the land taken into trust.
- The parties will submit this agreement to the Dept. of the Interior for either approval or written response that no approval is necessary.

For specific information, please request a complete copy of the MOU by calling the Placer County Clerk of the Board at 530-889-4020.



### Placer County's Housing Rehabilitation Program Available

June 25, 1999

Placer County's Housing Rehabilitation Loan and Grant Program is available for the Kings Beach area and is seeking applicants.

As a project of the Placer County Redevelopment Agency, the loans and grants are intended for homeowners who have low or moderate incomes to improve and rehabilitate existing residential properties. Also eligible to borrow are landowners who sign 15-year agreements to set rental rates at restricted, affordable levels for individuals or families who have low or moderate incomes. Renters are not eligible to apply; applicants must own the property.

The loans must be spent on improvements such as structural repairs, roofing, electrical, plumbing, weatherization upgrades, or meeting health and safety codes. The cost of plans and permits can be included. Loans range in size from \$5,000 for a single unit, to a maximum of \$80,000 for an eight-unit complex. Placer County application fees total \$100, and interest rates range from one to four percent APR with a 30-year limit. Closing costs may be borrowed through the loan. Special energy upgrade grants are also available for homeowners with low incomes.

"Improving affordable housing in the Kings Beach area is extremely important," said District 5 Supervisor Rex Bloomfield. "I'm very pleased that we've been able to make this vital program available, and that a few property owners are already processing paperwork.

"I strongly encourage property owners to call for information and to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity to improve our Kings Beach community."

To receive information, call 530-889-4239 (or toll free from Placer County 1-800-488-4308, ext. 4239). Application packets will also be available in the Kings Beach library.

Placer County's Housing Rehabilitation Program Available Placer County, Calif.			
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### Lyme Disease: Precautions Advised in the Sierra

As families head for the hills for camping trips, picnics and hikes, Public Health officials are reminding them to beware of ticks: those uninvited guests which often carry Lyme Disease.

"We now know that Lyme Disease is endemic in this region of the Sierra-Nevada foothills, and that the risk of contracting the disease does exist," said Mark Miller, Director of Communicable Disease Control for Placer County, who has conducted Lyme Disease research locally for the last five years.

"We have documented that the tick which transmits the disease, the Black-Legged Western tick, resides in relatively high densities between 1,000 and 2,500 feet elevation," Miller said. Studies conducted by the Placer County Public Health Laboratory have identified certain areas in the county where as high as 12% of the Lyme Disease ticks are actually infected with the bacterium that causes the disease. "While this infectivity rate is still relatively low compared to the East Coast or even the northern California coast, it is higher than the statewide average."

Most patients develop a simple flu-like illness, but a small percentage of Lyme Disease patients experience long-term and sometimes debilitating symptoms of joints, central nervous system, or heart.

"There is some good news," Miller said. "Recent studies indicate that the tick must remain attached for more than 24 hours before the Lyme Disease agent is transmitted to the host". Miller advises that, aside from avoiding ticks altogether, the most effective prevention strategy is to inspect yourself and your children frequently and thoroughly during and after spending time in a tick area, and to remove ticks as soon as possible.

"To remove a tick, grab it as close to the head as possible and pull firmly straight out," he said. "If only 5% of ticks are infected, which is probably the case in many local areas, and you remove all ticks within 24 hours, your chances of contracting Lyme Disease is quite low." The trick is not to traumatize the tick which could cause the release of the agent into the bloodstream, Miller said.

The Federal Drug Administration has recently approved a Lyme Disease vaccine for use by persons 15-70 years of age. The decision to take the vaccine should be based on several criteria, advises Miller, including the frequency and time spent in an area and the incidence of infected ticks found there.

The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services offers several Lyme Disease services to assist the public and physicians. The Public Health Laboratory offers free tick identification as a public service. Additionally, either the patient or the tick can be tested for Lyme Disease.

The main challenge to physicians lies in the fact that the Lyme Disease agent can attack multiple body systems and may produce a variety of symptoms from a simple flu-like illness in most patients o complications such as short-term memory loss and even depression in a rare few. Adding to the dilemma is the fact that laboratory tests are not always reliable diagnostic tools. "A diagnosis of Lyme Disease should never be made solely on the basis of positive lab tests," Miller emphasized. "However, the tests can provide an additional piece of evidence if a two-step blood test process using approved methods is used." According to Miller, blood tests are relatively accurate in diagnosing late-stage disease while isolation of the agent from skin biopsy, a method offered by Miller's lab, is the best test for acute disease diagnosis.

The most reliable sign of Lyme Disease is the erythema migraines (EM) rash-like lesion present in about 60% of cases. One key to identifying an EM lesion is the fact that they never appear earlier than three days after the tick bite. "Localized reactions at the bite site in the first three days that produce redness, swelling, or bruising are simply reactions to the tick bite and not Lyme Disease lesions," Miller points out.

Contact the Placer County Public Health lab at (530) 889-7210 for information on testing. Mark Miller can be reached at (530) 889-7210. Internet sites providing reliable information include www.cdc.gov and www.aldf.com.



# Tahoe City Urban Improvement Project Work Progresses

June 29, 1999

The Tahoe City Urban Improvement Project Phase II was expected to pass a milestone on Thursday, July 1, with the completion of new drainage facilities, curb, gutter, sidewalk and installation of irrigation and electrical conduit from Bank of America to Mi Casa Too restaurant, Placer County Public Works announced today.

Work will continue to take place between the Fourth of July and Labor Day, but the contractor, Burdick Excavating, will not be working in the state right-of-way. Work will continue on constructing drainage and roadway improvements on Grove Street as well as construction of the Grove Street and Tahoe Marina parking lots.

Other work to be continued includes utility relocation work by Sierra Pacific Power Company and the Tahoe City Public Utility District. Isolated work will be done along the sidewalks already constructed, such as constructing granite veneer bollards, installing road signs, planting trees and connecting irrigation fixtures. Other work will include private sidewalk improvements, contracted by private property owners, behind the public sidewalks.

"Our goal is to allow work to continue while creating as little obstruction as possible," said Assistant Public Works Director Tim Hackworth. "If there are significant problems, the work can be stopped."

Caltrans is also planning work immediately after the Fourth of July, including drilling and sampling groundwater in front of the Barifot building because contaminated material was encountered during utility relocation work.

Total cost of the Tahoe City Urban Improvement Project is \$11.8 million, including this summer's work which will cost approximately \$5 million.



### Placer County Earns Economic Development Accreditation

April 6, 1999

AUBURN -- American Economic Development Council (AEDC) has announced that the County of Placer has been recognized as one of 17 economic development organizations accredited by AEDC as an American Economic Development Organization (AEDO).

"Placer County displays the professionalism, commitment and technical expertise, which is deserving of the honor," said AEDC Chairman and Acting President/CEO James W. Garver CED FM.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly-held standards in the profession. The program consists of two phases: documentation review and on site visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, program and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

Placer County now holds one of only two accreditations earned by agencies in the Sacramento region, and is the only county in California to receive accreditation. Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and/or on site visits by a team of the AEDO Board.

"We are certainly proud of this recognition," said Robert Weygandt, Chairman, Placer County Board of Supervisors. "The county's economic achievements have come in part from our decision to work closely with cities on economic development, rather than to compete among ourselves. Working together has brought us all great success in attracting primary wage earner jobs to Placer County."

The American Economic Development Council is the largest international economic development society, serving almost 3,000 practitioners worldwide. Its mission is to help economic developers create sustainable economic growth through leadership training, issues management, alliances, and career anchoring.

(For more information on AEDC or the AEDO accreditation, call AEDC at 847-692-9944; email aedc@interaccess.com; or visit http://www.aedc.org.)



#### **Study to Begin in Tahoe City**

March 19, 1999

Claggett Wolfe Associates, a consulting firm specializing in economic development research and planning, has begun a business needs assessment as a means of learning how best to stimulate business activity and job development in downtown Tahoe City.

The firm, which has been hired by the County of Placer's Office of Economic Development, has provided similar studies for a number of cities, including South Lake Tahoe, Foresthill, Loomis, Vallejo, Oakland and Ventura County.

"Our goal is to help local businesses be more successful and to reduce obstacles they may face in seeking to locate or expand in Tahoe City," declared Ed Graves, Economic Development Director. "Claggett Wolfe Associates will gather information through a series of private interviews and focus groups, then will ultimately make recommendations to the Economic Development Board and Redevelopment Agency.

"For example, is there difficulty in hiring staff in Tahoe who are qualified for particular jobs? Are there permitting processes which can be simplified? Are there places where more parking must be created in order to comply with requirements? The more we can look ahead, the more we can prevent problems. Our goal is to identify specific, do-able projects which will help business significantly, and to make them happen through redevelopment tools."

Claggett Wolfe Associates has already begun its work. One task will be to identify the "downtown" area of Tahoe City, an effort which could help define where and how to establish "gateways" to the community. An inventory of all businesses in the "downtown" area will be developed. Another section of the study will compare the personnel needs of employers with the skills of the workforce.

"We know there will be housing, training and employee retention issues as business expands in Tahoe," declared Supervisor Rex Bloomfield. "This

study should allow us to anticipate problems and do what's necessary to prevent them from being obstacles."



#### **Update on Open Space Planning**

March 18, 1999

As spring wildflowers dot the landscape and tender grasses paint the foothills and valleys green, Placer County Supervisors will hold a workshop to review the work of the committees they appointed to recommend ways to protect Placer County's open spaces.

The Board meeting will take place on Monday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at Emma's Gathering Place, 3137 Taylor Road, near the community of Loomis.

Last April the Board unanimously agreed to work on an open space implementation plan with goals of protecting agricultural lands, natural features for outdoor recreation, scenic and historic areas, areas to insure public safety, areas which create a separation between urban communities, and areas which provide for plant and animal diversity and the protection of special status species.

Recognizing the diverse and often opposing interest groups which would need to work together to make open space preservation a success, the Board of Supervisors appointed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) which represents agriculture, environmental, large and small business, recreation, the building industry, community groups and other interests. The Citizen Advisory Committee named the effort "Placer Legacy" in recognition of its importance to future Placer County residents. They will participate in the workshop.

Ultimately the Board of Supervisors hopes to create a plan which identifies the most important kinds of space to be preserved, and how the community can work together to make preservation happen, including finding mechanisms for funding.

"Consensus seems to be emerging on several issues," said Fred Yeager, Planning Director. "No single interest group can solve this issue alone. Government regulations alone cannot solve the problem.

"Land owners could be encouraged and assisted to find ways to protect open space, but

should not be required to do so beyond what the county's general plan has already established. To that end, the Board will consider a staff request for action which calls for acquisitions of land to be based on 'willing sellers' and 'willing buyers'," Yeager said.

"The community must be a vital part of open space preservation, for without public support, including financial support, this project cannot succeed.".

Several tools already exist to set aside land, including conservation easements, private donations, the Williamson Act and development agreements. Potential funding mechanisms could include donations, grants, development fees and voter-approved funding.

Alex Ferreira, rancher and retired Placer County Supervisor who serves on the Advisory Committee believes that Placer County's Open Space Program may be "the last opportunity we have to preserve agricultural lands."

"There is so much development pressure aimed at large agricultural lands," he said. "We can and should create a program where farmers and ranchers could sell a conservation easement, receive some money, still own the land and still continue to farm. I don't see any other way. To make Placer Legacy a success, we need willing buyers and willing sellers; it's the only way."

Joanne Neft, Chairwoman of the CAC, stressed the importance of the community in the process. More than 300 people attended planning sessions last fall, with more sessions to be scheduled soon.

"I want citizens to become informed about Placer Legacy," Neft said. "We want people to read our newsletter which is coming out soon, to invite Advisory Committee members to give presentations to community groups, to send us mailing lists of people who may be interested. To obtain information, to request a speaker or to send us a mailing list, please contact Loren Clark at the Planning Department, 11414 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, 530-889-7470."

The Sierra Business Council, a non-profit organization representing 450 businesses throughout the Sierra Nevada region, is partnering on fund raising and community outreach.

Jeff Bordelon, Attorney at Law, serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee. "Our connection to the land in real human terms is vital to our individual and collective well being," he said. "We must reverse the trend of isolated cycles of public participation in environmental issues based on what we don't want to happen, and shift to cooperation on

what we can accomplish together. Our most critical environmental problems are social, economic and political. Placer Legacy is not a single program, but one which builds on the work others have done and requires the continuing involvement of the community. These outcomes cannot be accomplished by government working alone."



## Shelter Animals will be Spayed or Neutered Prior to Adoption

Feb.27, 1999

Placer County Supervisors decided on Tuesday to require that animals adopted from Placer County Animal Shelters in Auburn and Tahoe Vista be spayed or neutered by local veterinarians before they can go home with new families.

The ordinance change will make county policies consistent with new state laws (AB 1856), and should help reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs which must be euthanized each year. The Board also agree that animals should receive health checks and vaccinations before they go home with new owners. Adoption fees will increase to cover the costs of both the health care and the spay/neuter surgeries.

Local volunteers, including the Friends of the Placer County Animal Shelters in Auburn and Tahoe Vista, Pet Network and Auburn Area Animal Rescue Foundation have all encouraged the ordinance change as a means of reducing pet overpopulation. "Each year approximately 11 million companion animals are euthanized in the U.S.," said Rosemary Frieborn, President of the Friends of Placer County Animal Shelters. "Every county and every state should be requiring pet sterilization surgeries prior to adoption as a means of protecting these voiceless creatures."

Currently, people adopting dogs or cats must pay a deposit toward having their animals neutered or spayed, but it is estimated that only 60 percent of the animals actually were taken in for surgery.

The new ordinance contains provisions for delaying surgeries if the veterinarian certifies the animal is too young or too sick. In cases of hardship, alternative arrangements can be made under procedures already in place. The new ordinance will become effective July 1, 1999.