

Capay Valley Vision

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For More Information

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A Capay Valley Vision Update

ESPARTO – Several recurring themes have emerged from Capay Valley Vision's October 29 Visioning Workshop and its two Community Advisory Council meetings. Foremost among these themes is the community desire to maintain its rural life style, but other important issues include a safer Highway 16, purposeful economic development, enhancement of recreational opportunities, and improvements in local communication.

Capay Valley Vision has formed five task forces to focus on each of these issues. All these groups have met at least once since the October 29 workshop and are currently enlisting additional interested community members

The Agriculture and Environment Task Force, chaired by Paul Muller and Vance Howard, is concentrating on the viability of local farming and ranching in this era of depressed commodity prices, based on the recognition that a rural way of life cannot be maintained without a profitable agriculture. This group held an introductory workshop on January 16 at the Guinda Grange Hall, with panelists including Mike Bloom, Tom Frederick, Larry Heitman, Tim Mueller, and Scott Stone.

The Transportation Task Force, chaired by Jan Lowrey and Tom Frederick, has joined with SACOG to apply for a grant to fund transportation planning along the Highway 16 corridor from Madison to the Colusa County line. If the grant is funded, applicants will seek to develop a comprehensive transportation plan to address all aspects of local transportation, whether state, county, or private. Community input will provide a significant foundation for this plan.

The Communications Task Force will concentrate on expanding *Valley Voice* coverage and improving the Capay Valley web site. A more detailed description of its activities occurs elsewhere in this edition.

The Economic Development Task Force, chaired by Sue Heitman and Cathie Wicks, has recently divided into sub-groups exploring the feasibility of a community kitchen for value-added food processing; the creation of a Capay Valley logo or trademark; and downtown Esparto re-vitalization. A separate article in this edition amplifies these ideas.

The Recreation Task Force, chaired by Ron Voss and Paul Martin, is in the process of surveying the recreational needs of the region and identifying community goals. Initial efforts are aimed at supporting the existing activities of WYORCA and the Esparto Lions/Madison Park project.

It is clear that the success of any or all of these initiatives will depend upon community participation. Capay Valley Vision invites all interested residents to join in the effort to make our future brighter and more satisfying. For additional information, call David Scheuring, 796-2166.

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