

Housing Project Kicks Off

With homes selling at all-time highs within days of hitting the market and more families locating to Western Yolo County, residents from Madison to Rumsey are caught in the housing crunch. Many families and individuals spend more than a third of their income to keep up with monthly rent payments putting the dream of home ownership out of reach.

To help address these complex challenges a group of local residents is teaming with experts through an effort convened by Capay Valley Vision aimed at spurring development of affordable housing projects that complement the community's character. Over the next twelve months, a Housing Task Force of local residents, including representatives from the area general plan advisory committees for Esparto and Capay Valley, will meet to develop feasible options to meet targeted housing needs in the region. This winter a series of public workshops will present the task force's findings to the community for discussion and input.

The task force initially met on May 11th. Esparto resident and task force chair Ron Voss said "the lack of adequate, moderately priced housing is an issue that affects many in our community directly and all of us indirectly." In particular, the project will look at increasing the housing supply for seniors, year-round agricultural workers, and seek to better understand how growth and the casino expansion will impact the overall housing market. Task force members discussed designing projects within infrastructure and resource constraints focusing on in-fill development.

A number of nonprofit housing entities have pledged their participation to aid the task force in looking at attractive models from other rural communities, exploring financing strategies, and developing concepts that public or private developers would want to build. The Sacramento-based California Coalition for Rural Housing will serve as a lead project advisor. The project is funded by Yolo County using tribal mitigation funds.

The next meeting of the Housing Task Force is Tuesday, June 8th, 6:30pm in the Esparto Library and is open to the public. Chair Voss put out a specific call for participation from Madison residents. A paid internship is also available for a student wishing to gain research and project management experience. For more details contact the Capay Valley Vision office at 796-4160 or info@capayvalleyvision.org.