



**The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area
Mobility and Sustainable Community
Vision Project**

**Community Visioning Workshop
October 27, 2011**

Why hold a visioning workshop?

The formation of the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Advisory Committee in 2009 and the findings of the State Route 49 Realignment Study in 2010 made it clear that there is a need to ask meaningful questions about what the communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado want to look like physically, economically, socially, and environmentally in 5, 10, or 20 years.

In response to this need, the El Dorado County Transportation Commission (EDCTC) began the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Vision Project (Vision Project) in March 2011 to initiate a dialog with the community about how to address mobility issues, to draft core values, and create a vision for the future.

The Planning Process

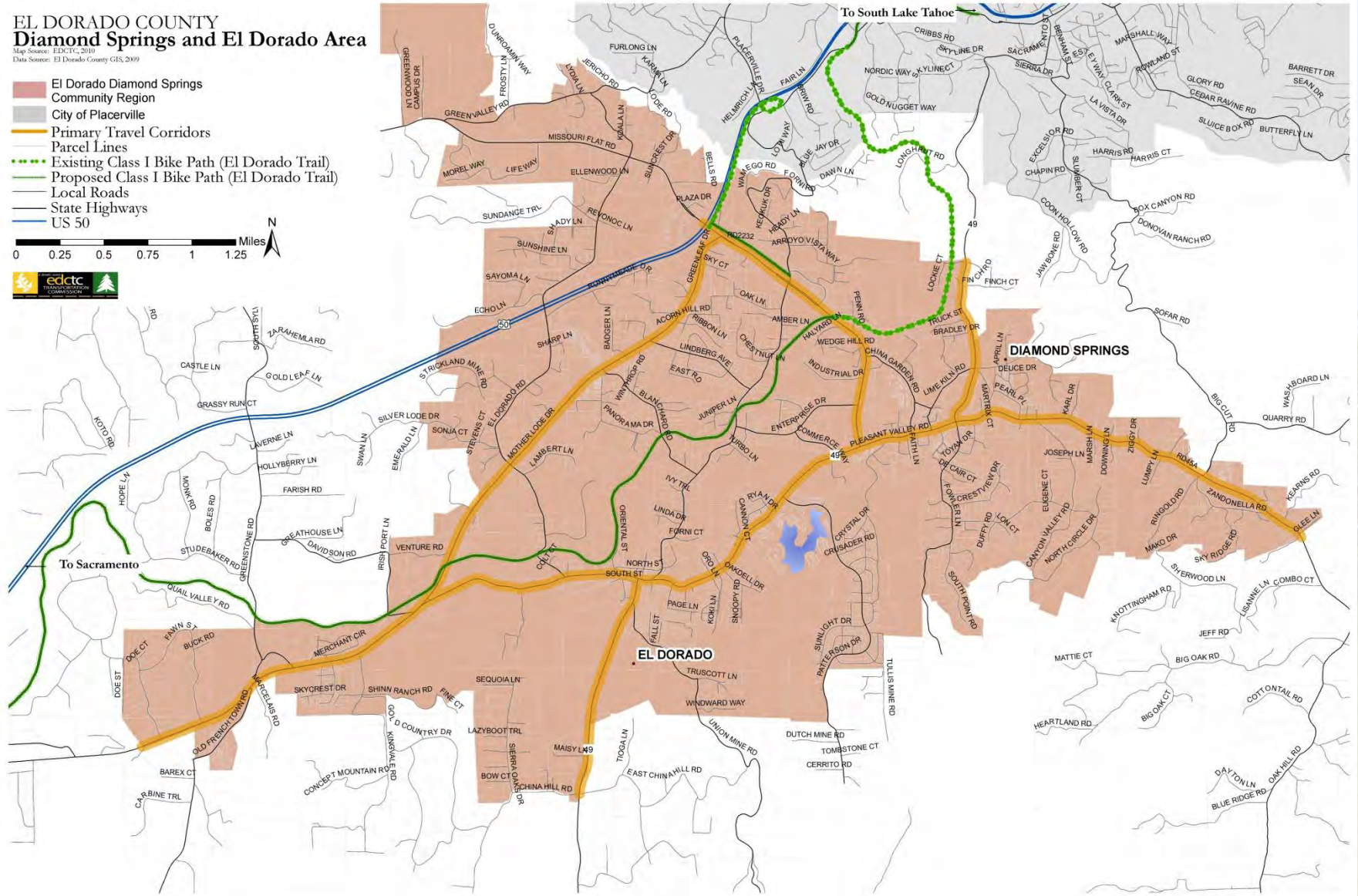
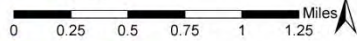
The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Vision Project (Vision Project) utilized the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to draft core values and a community vision through a series of five meetings during the spring and summer of 2011. A Community Visioning Workshop was held on October 27, 2011 to provide the public with an opportunity to weigh in on the concepts developed by the SAC.

VISION PROJECT AREA

EL DORADO COUNTY Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area

Map Source: EDC/CTC, 2010
Data Source: El Dorado County GIS, 2009

- El Dorado Diamond Springs Community Region
- City of Placerville
- Primary Travel Corridors
- Parcel Lines
- Existing Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
- Proposed Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
- Local Roads
- State Highways
- US 50



The Vision Project SAC was made up of 45 groups and organizations including:

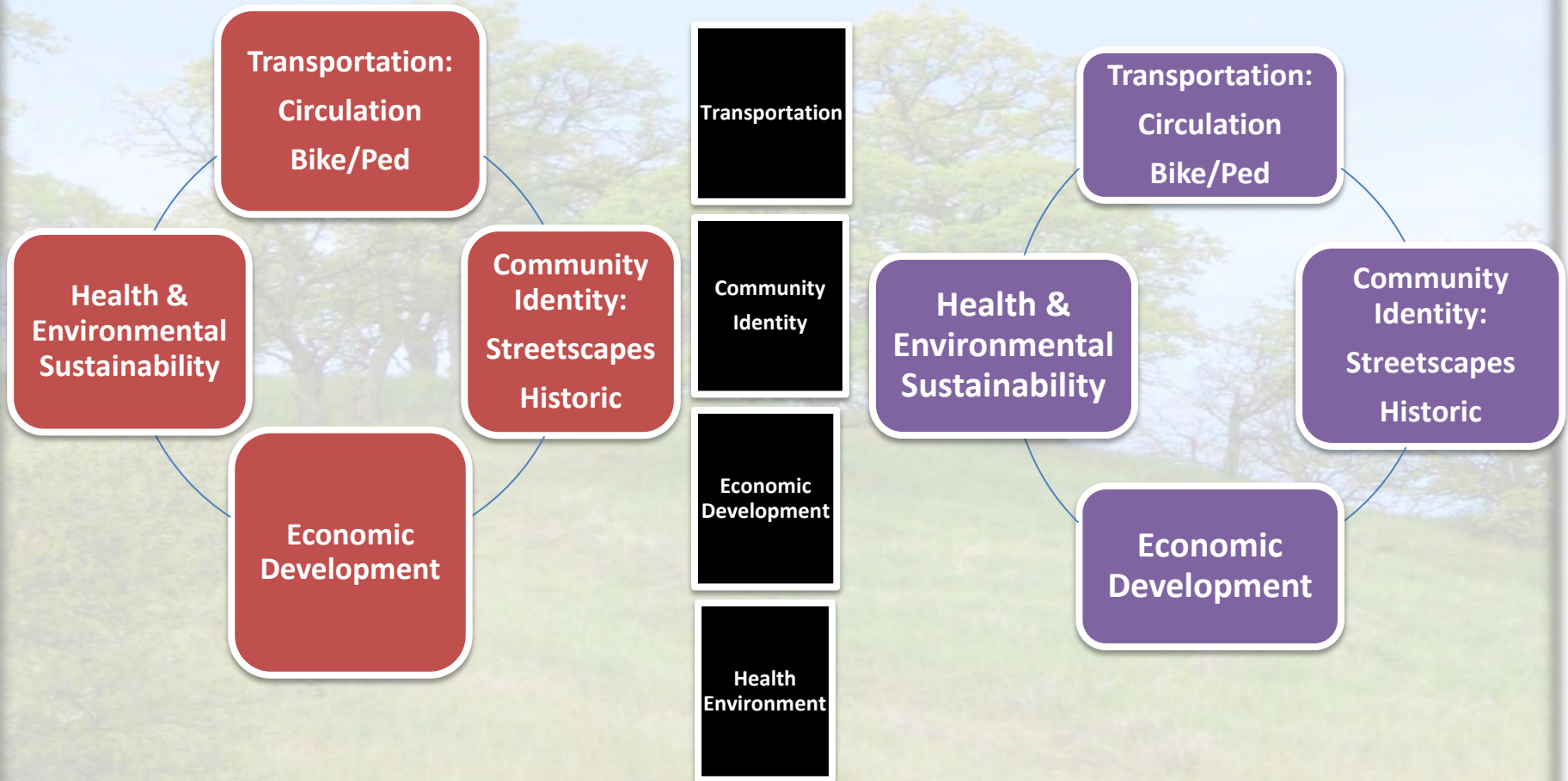
Diamond Springs – El Dorado Community Advisory Committee
Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District
Diamond Springs Merchants Association
Diamond Springs Miwok Tribe
El Dorado Community Center
El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission
El Dorado Merchants Association
Friends of Diamond Springs – El Dorado
No Gridlock Committee
P.I.C.O. Inc. (Protecting Indian Creek Oaks, Inc.)
Residents Involved In Positive Planning, Inc. (R.I.P.P.)
Save Our County
Surveyors, Architects, Geologists, and Engineers (SAGE)

During the planning process the SAC considered:

Current Reality

Goals

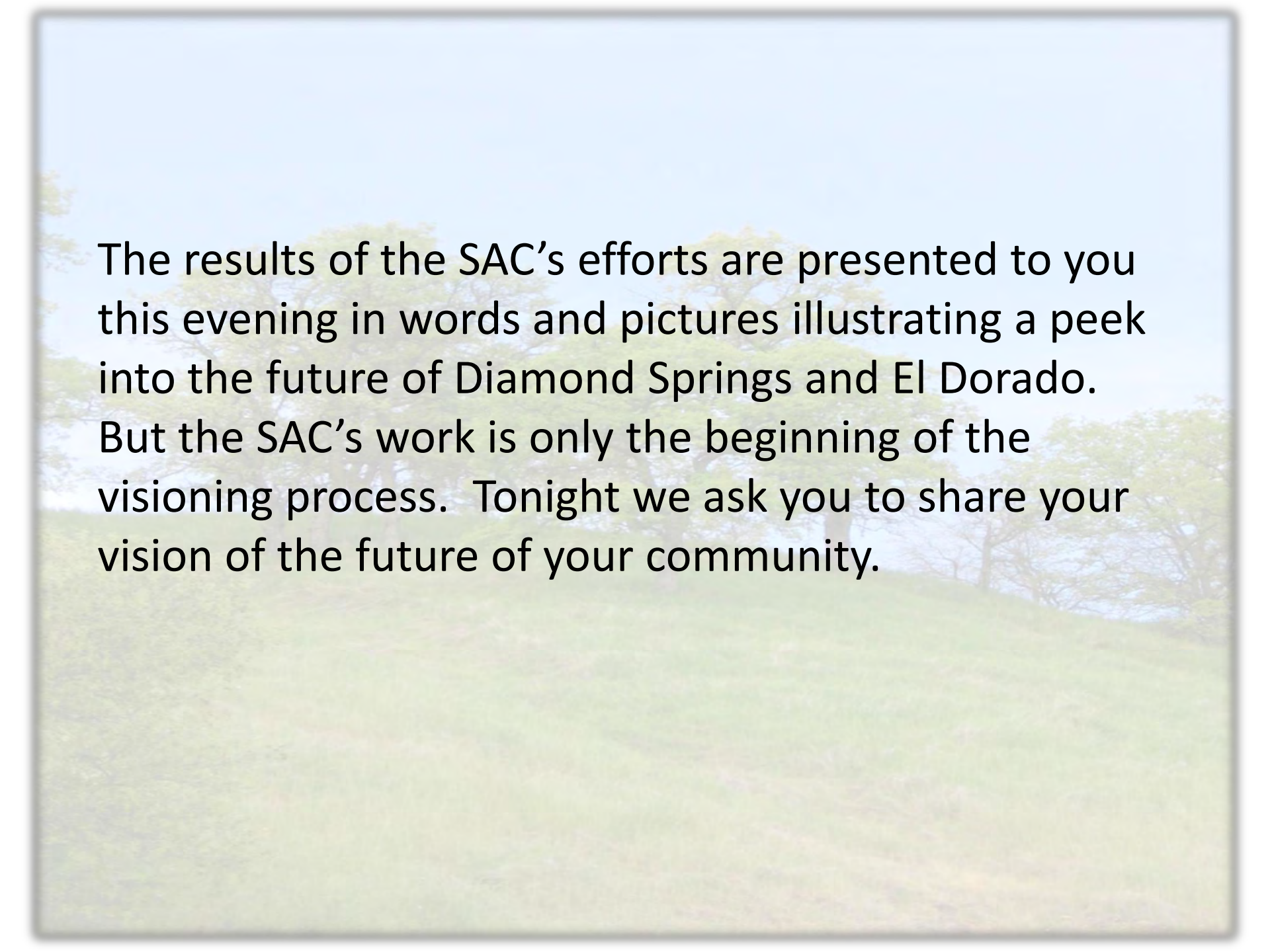
Vision "Buckets"



Community Values and Vision

October 27, 2011 Community Visioning Workshop





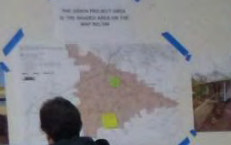
The results of the SAC's efforts are presented to you this evening in words and pictures illustrating a peek into the future of Diamond Springs and El Dorado. But the SAC's work is only the beginning of the visioning process. Tonight we ask you to share your vision of the future of your community.



Welcome to the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Visioning Workshop

What is the purpose of planning? Why should you invest your time?

How can other El Dorado County communities provide a lesson for the future and how might that lesson?



Welcome to the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Visioning Workshop

What is visioning?

Visioning is a process by which a community defines the future it wants. Through public involvement, communities identify their core values and vision of the future. Visioning can help a community in identifying important and current values.

Why hold a visioning workshop?

The formation of the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Advisory Committee in 2009 and the 2011 Regional Growth and Land Use Study - Columbia to El Dorado County, California, identified a need to ask meaningful questions about Diamond Springs and El Dorado County's future mobility and environmental sustainability in 5, 10, or 20 years.

In response to the 2011 Regional Growth and Land Use Study, the El Dorado County Commission (EDCTC) began a Mobility and Sustainable Community Visioning process to draft core values, and...

The visioning workshop is being held through the process the...

Welcome to the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Visioning Workshop

What is the purpose of visioning? Why should you invest your time?

- To create a vision of where you want to live, where you want your children and their children to live

Has any other El Dorado County community created a vision for the future and then manifested that vision?

Yes! Almost fifty years ago a handful of individuals saw the opportunity to change their community and did it. While it wasn't easy to set their individual fears and differences aside, in the end they overcame them by finding common ground in the desire to have greater control over their lives and the changes they could see coming to their community. Empowered by a shared vision of the future and trusting that the outcome would benefit everyone, the group created Apple Hill, changing not only their community, but the county and the region as well.

While the vision of Apple Hill addressed many of the elements being considered by this visioning effort, including economic development, community identity, and health and environmental sustainability, one thing it did not consider was traffic circulation. While the example of Apple Hill teaches that it is possible for a community to create a powerful vision of the future, it also reminds us to be open to possibilities, and to not only assume, but to expect that a vision can become a reality.



OF QUALITY OF
ENVISION?

WELCOME!

OUR VISIONING
PROCESS IS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Thank you for helping us finish

What is visioning?

Visioning is a process by which a community defines the future it wants. Through public involvement, communities identify their core values and vision of the future. Visioning can help a community in identifying important and current issues.

A landscape photograph showing a grassy hill with several trees. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU SEE
DIAMOND SPRINGS?**



Sandwich
Fine Art

Sandwich
Fine Art



Sunbridge
Fine Art

Sunbridge
Fine Art

Sunbridge
Fine Art

Yield





Has any other El Dorado County community created a vision for the future and then manifested that vision?

Yes! Almost fifty years ago a handful of individuals saw the opportunity to change their community and did it. While it wasn't easy to set their individual fears and differences aside, in the end they overcame them by finding common ground in the desire to have greater control over their lives and the changes they could see coming to their community. Empowered by a shared vision of the future and trusting that the outcome would benefit everyone, the group created Apple Hill, changing not only their community, but the county and the region as well.

The vision of Apple Hill addressed many of the elements being considered by this visioning effort, including economic development, community identity, and health and environmental sustainability, but one thing it did not consider was traffic circulation. While the example of Apple Hill teaches that it is possible for a community to create a powerful vision of the future, it also reminds us to be open to possibilities, and to not only assume, but to expect that a vision can become a reality.

Celebrate Our History and Heritage



El Dorado's train depot was located on the north side of town and sat on the rail line that connected Sacramento with Placerville in 1868. The old school house in the picture still stands today.





180th Anniversary.

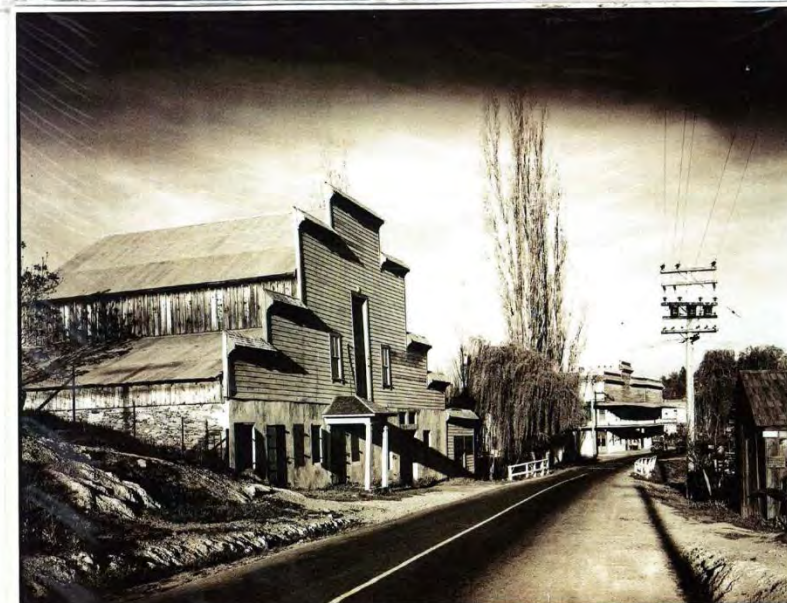
The Township of "El Dorado" California 1851



Lumber Crew, El Dorado, Ca. 1917



Hotel California, El Dorado, Ca. c1880s



Entering El Dorado, Ca. from the west c1930. A vacated Seymore Hill's Feed and Grain Depot and the Hill Hotel are on the left. Both would be destroyed by fires in the 40's and 50's

Mobility Challenges Are Opportunities to Improve How We Get Around



















Love
it!

~~THE~~ MAYBE WE
NEED TO CHANGE
"DIAMOND SPRINGS"
TO
"GAS STATIONVILLE,
USA"

The canopy
completely
undoes the
western motif
of the bldgs.

This should
never have
been approved.
So much for
Sacred sites.

WHERE DID THE
MIWOK SPRING GO?
I THOUGHT IT WAS
GOING TO BE SAVED?

How many
Indian
artifacts are
buried here
... or hauled
away as fill
dirt?



Will the Parkway have sidewalks + bike lanes.
(Complete Street)
How will it affect the El Dorado Trail

slow, smart growth.
No Big neon signs!
old west feel.
No "Sunrise Blvd" here

D

Keep it D
small, historic picturesque
NO 4 lane Rds!
Agreed!

We should preserve & protect old buildings



Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values

"We Value..."



The rural character of the area



Gold Rush / pioneer history and assets



Ease of travel in and through the community on smaller, uncongested roads



An environment free of pollution



Oaks and wildlife habitat



Native American history and sacred sites



Diverse sources of employment



A strong sense of community, knowing your neighbors



Places to walk, bike, and gather



The historic railroad corridor, park, and the El Dorado Trail

El Dorado's train depot was located on the same side of town and sat on the rail line that connected Sacramento with Fairville in 1868. The old depot, known as the historic old double-decker.



Distinct, small communities



Local agriculture and community gardens



Safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian paths



Golden Chain / Highway 49

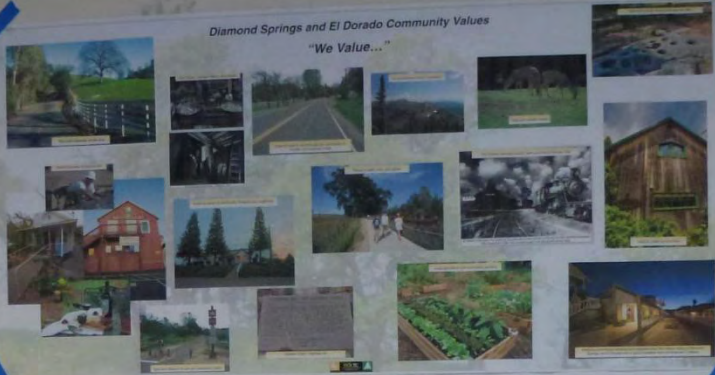


Keeping commercial development separate from the historic areas of Diamond Springs and El Dorado with a good transition from commercial to historic

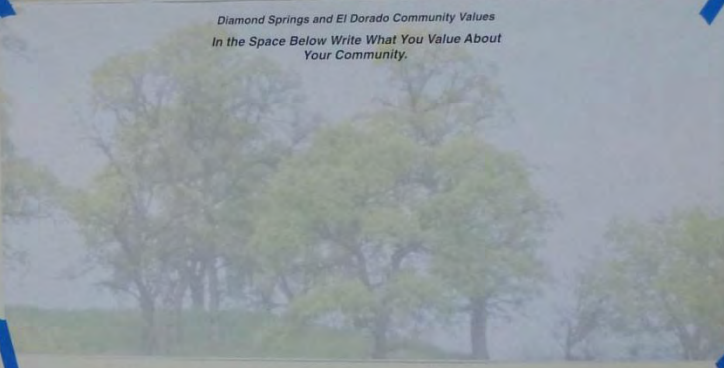




Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values
"We Value..."



Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values
In the Space Below Write What You Value About
Your Community.



← FOOD



Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Values

In the Space Below Write What You Value About Your Community.

Minimal cultural Lighting
rural feeling/narrow roads
historic architecture/old west/gold rush
Pleasant
Scenes and waterfalls

Historic Boutiques, i.e. Wines Cellar, etc.

Create Local Jobs. Live & Work w/ your own Community

Views of pasture land, oak trees, mountains, wildlife

Being able to see the sunrise/sunset

Riding my bike from my house to the trail

Local business - grocery, restaurant, clothing...

Rural feel w/access to retail close by.

Agree with all above statements

Keep area safe and healthy for our children

The reasons above are why we live here

El Dorado County residents do not

want overcrowded, overdevelopment and
want to remain rural lifestyle - Amen!

Safety
fix up old buildings
to slow down traffic
and make it a street
place for residents
no more!

5th Grade
Buildings !!
E

People who love the city live there
El Dorado County residents
love the country and its being
destroyed all around us.
Stop high density building

OAK TREES

want open spaces

tree canopy over road!

We want wildlife
in our community

we want to hear birds sing

Let's take
the old buildings
and make it a street
place for residents
no more!

It's not just about
of the residents
EE

Rural self-
like style
need to
in
4

In the Spa

We want to see the stars at night

Minimal Cultural Lighting

Rural feeling/narrow roads

Historic architecture/old west/gold rush

Railroad

Rivers and water falls

Historic Boutiques, i.e. Wines Cellar, etc.

Create Local Jobs. Live & Work w/ your own community

Views of pasture land, oak trees, mountains, wildlife

Being able to see the sunrise/sunset

Riding my bike from my house to the trail

Local business - grocery, restaurant, clothing...

Rural feel w/access to retail close by.

AGree with all above statements

Keep area safe and healthy for our children

The reasons above are why we live here

El Dorado County residents do not

want overcrowded, overdevelopment and

want to remain rural lifestyle - Amen!

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

The distinct, small foothill communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado are steeped in Gold Rush history and are integral links in the Golden Chain Highway, State Route 49. As you roll into town, the thing that catches your eye is that the area has retained a visible link to the Gold Rush era by thoughtfully maintaining the historic character of the core downtown area of each community. Located just minutes from a major commercial district, the transition from modern commercial architecture to the historic downtown area invites you to step back in time and experience a slower pace of life. Buildings from the 1800's have been maintained according to strict historic guidelines intended to celebrate the history of the area while new buildings in the historic core are constructed with an eye towards historic detail, right down to the painted on soot stains above faux gas lamp fixtures. A sense of history ripples through each town, inviting visitors to stay a while and enjoy the history that comes to life in these two charming and vibrant foothill communities.

In addition to its roots in the Gold Rush, the communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado also honor the culture and traditions of the Miwok Tribe, people whose lives were anchored to the land through rituals and sacred sites long before the first nugget of gold was discovered. Spaces within each community are dedicated to preserving and documenting the Miwok Tribe's unique sense of place, the story of their connection to the land experienced as sacred ground that inspires people travel to the area to study the rich collection of information and learn about the "old ways" of Native American life in the foothills of California.

Visitors to the area have the opportunity to experience their own connection to the land by using one of the many bike and walking paths to access scenic vistas such as fields of lupine and poppies in the spring, a herd of deer grazing on the tawny grasses of summer, or to see leaves of yellow and gold blanketing a secluded path in fall. Multiple gathering spaces along the trails, especially in the railroad park or along the El Dorado Trail, invite a picnic or just a brief rest stop in the shade of an oak tree. Residents also enjoy the quiet living and unique neighborhoods that dot the area surrounding the two small towns. Many walk or bike to their most common destinations and a strong sense of community is evident in the friendly greetings as neighbors meet on street corners and in the cooperative problem solving that occurs in town hall meetings.

Both residents and visitors delight in the fine food that is found in the restaurants and outdoor cafes sprinkled along the main streets of Diamond Springs and El Dorado and in the unique shops that make the area a popular destination to find that special gift. Delicious meals prepared by local chefs feature locally grown food, fine pastries, and El Dorado County wines. To take a taste of the community home with you, shop the farmer's market in Diamond Springs on a Saturday morning and enjoy live music from local bands as you browse through rows of locally grown fresh fruit and veggies, cut flowers, pastries, and things not usually found at a supermarket like organic heirloom tomatoes. After you've spent a day meandering through the towns by car, foot, or pedal, then head out of town to enjoy the South County wine country or head east to Apple Hill, but come back again another day to rediscover Diamond Springs and El Dorado, two unique foothill communities flourishing in the present through their connection to the past.

A Peek into the Future

Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision

In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future



A Peak into the Future
Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision
In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

Handwritten notes and sticky notes on the left page, including a circled 'C' and various paragraphs of text.

A Peak into the Future
Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision
In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

The distinct, small foothill communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado are steeped in Gold Rush history and are integral links in the Golden Chain Highway, State Route 49. As you roll into town, the thing that catches your eye is that the area has retained a visible link to the Gold Rush era by thoughtfully maintaining the historic character of the core downtown area of each community. Located just minutes from a major commercial district, the transition from modern commercial architecture to the historic downtown area invites you to stroll back in time and experience a slower pace of life. Buildings from the 1800's have been maintained according to strict historic guidelines intended to celebrate the history of the area while new buildings in the historic core are constructed with an eye towards historic detail, right down to the painted on soot stains above faux gas lamp fixtures. A sense of history seeps through each town, inviting visitors to stay a while and enjoy the history that comes to life in these two charming and vibrant foothill communities.

In addition to its roots in the Gold Rush, the communities of Diamond Springs and El Dorado also honor the culture and traditions of the Miwok Tribe, people whose lives were anchored to the land through rituals and sacred sites long before the first nugget of gold was discovered. Spaces within each community are dedicated to preserving and documenting the Miwok Tribe's unique sense of place, the story of their connection to the land experienced as sacred ground that inspires people travel to the area to study the rich collection of information and learn about the "lost ways" of Native American life in the foothills of California.

Visitors to the area have the opportunity to experience their own connection to the land by using one of the many bike and walking paths to access scenic vistas such as fields of lupine and poppies in the spring, a herd of deer grazing on the lacy grasses of summer, or to see leaves of yellow and gold (marking a secluded path in fall). Multiple gathering spaces along the trails, especially in the railroad park or along the El Dorado Trail, invite a picnic or just a brief rest stop in the shade of an oak tree. Residents also enjoy the quiet living and unique neighborhoods that dot the area surrounding the two small towns. Many walk or bike to their most common destinations and a strong sense of community is evident in the friendly greetings as neighbors meet at street corners and in the cooperative problem solving that occurs at town hall meetings.

Both residents and visitors delight in the fine food that is found in the restaurants and outdoor cafes sprinkled along the main streets of Diamond Springs and El Dorado and in the unique shops that make the area a popular destination to find that special gift. Delicious meals prepared by local chefs feature locally grown food, fine pastries, and El Dorado County wines. To take a taste of the community home with you, shop the farmer's market in Diamond Springs on a Saturday morning and enjoy live music from local bands as you browse through rows of locally grown fresh fruit and veggies, cut flowers, pastries, and things not usually found at a supermarket (the organic, homemade jam). After you've spent a day meandering through the towns by car, foot, or pedal, then head out of town to enjoy the South County wine country or head east to Apple Hill, but come back again another day to rediscover Diamond Springs and El Dorado, two unique foothill communities flourishing in the present, through their connection to the past.

A Peak into the Future
Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Vision
In the Space Below Write in Your Vision for the Future

Handwritten notes and sticky notes on the right page, including a circled 'C' and various paragraphs of text.



WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU "SEE" DIAMOND SPRINGS AND EL DORADO?

and are integral to the thing that catches your eye is that the area...
...maintaining the historic character of the core downtown...
...minutes from a major commercial district, the transition...
...historic downtown area invites you to step back...
...buildings from the 1800's have been maintained...
...celebrate the history of the area while new...
...eye towards historic detail, right down to...
...A sense of history ripples through...
...history that comes to life in these two...
...Diamond Springs and El Dorado...
...whose lives were anchored to...
...get of gold was discovered...
...documenting the Miwok...
...and experienced as sacred...
...ction of information and...
...California...
...connection to the land by us-...
...such as fields of lupine...
...ses of summer, or to see...
...multiple gathering spaces along...
...the El Dorado Trail, invite a picnic or just a...
...enjoy the quiet living and unique...
...owns. Many walk or bike to their...
...is evident in the friendly greet-

- We need high speed internet to provide & sustain higher paying jobs & innovative people to our community
- Lets see a general design plan to lesson...
...? Consider 'old SAC' as an ext...
- We need an area park/Rec faci...

.../colleges/campus to...
...area & weather to draw...
...currently see...
...to the D/ED Comm. Adv. Com. mtg...
...- Firehouse Cont. Rm 6:00pm...
...Diamond Springs + E.D.

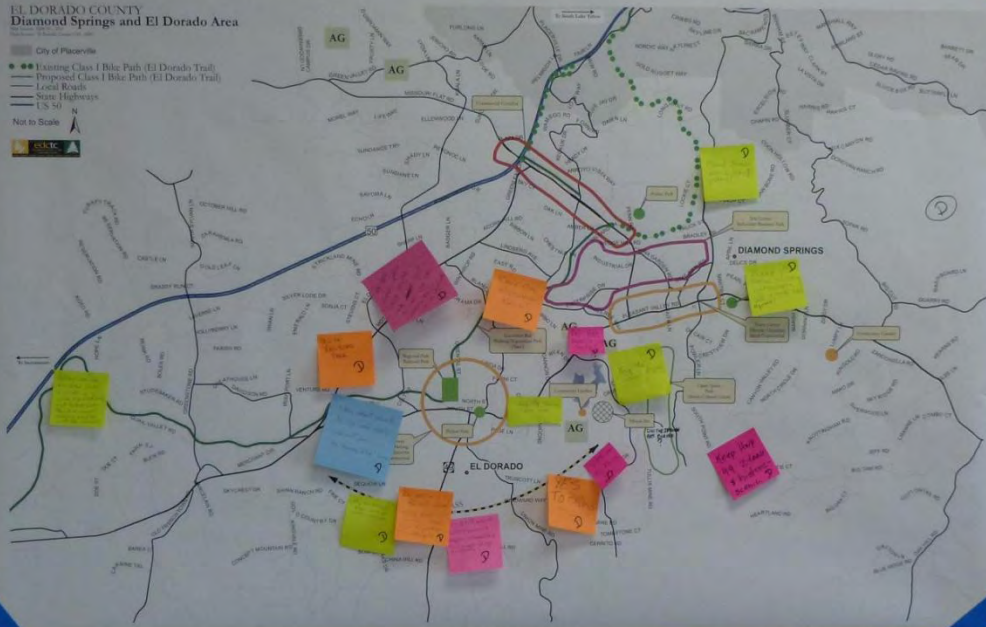


The map below illustrates the results of a SAC brainstorming session to consider new and different ideas for Diamond Springs and El Dorado



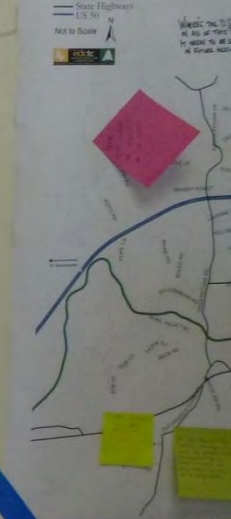
EL DORADO COUNTY
Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area

- City of Placerville
 - Existing Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
 - Proposed Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
 - Local Roads
 - State Highways
 - US 50
- Not to Scale



EL DORADO COUNTY
Diamond Springs and El Dorado

- City of Placerville
 - Existing Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
 - Proposed Class I Bike Path (El Dorado Trail)
 - Local Roads
 - State Highways
 - US 50
- Not to Scale



E TRL

MAKE CONCRETE BUILDINGS LOOK HISTORIC, LIKE THIS CLUSTER.

A

THIS DEVELOPMENT LOOKS FANTASTIC
(VISIONING SITE)

ONCE FA

Golden Chain highway was meant to connect old gold rush towns - protect the rural envit.

URE

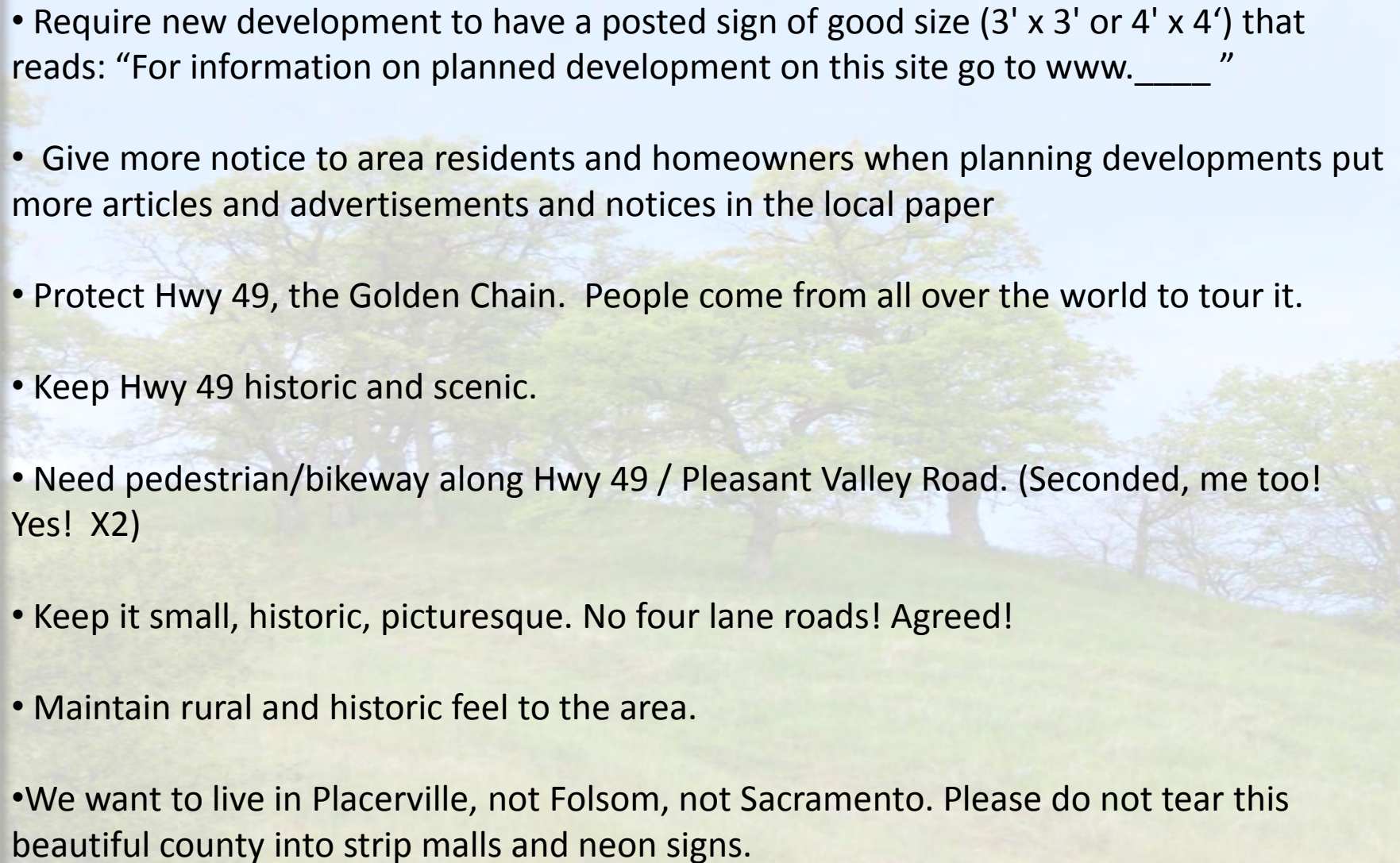
Pedestrian & Bikeway Valley on Pleasant Rd will give kids a chance to bike to school.

A

Maintain rural and historic feel to the area

A

- Offer financial incentives to developers who do a full-blown historic-looking development like Bruce Wirtanen's Town Center. Do not let commercial development look like Folsom or “Anytown” USA
- Retain our historic buildings and blend with new buildings built in the same style as Bruce Wirtanen's Town Center development. Please, no more developments like Grado's McDonald's fiasco of gridlocked traffic
- Residents do not want the proposed Creekside Plaza on Missouri Flat and Forni Road. This area is already Level of Service “F.” School traffic is insane. Stop cramming in commercial development.
- We need high-speed Internet to bring in the bigger businesses, colleges, and high-tech campuses to provide and sustain higher-paying jobs. We have the beautiful area and weather to draw innovative people to our community.
- Born and raised in this county. Leave it rural. What are we leaving our children? People move here to get away from overdevelopment and want their peace.
- I have lived in Eldorado for 68 years. Save our old towns keep them as they are. Put your roads somewhere else.

- 
- Require new development to have a posted sign of good size (3' x 3' or 4' x 4') that reads: “For information on planned development on this site go to www.____”
 - Give more notice to area residents and homeowners when planning developments put more articles and advertisements and notices in the local paper
 - Protect Hwy 49, the Golden Chain. People come from all over the world to tour it.
 - Keep Hwy 49 historic and scenic.
 - Need pedestrian/bikeway along Hwy 49 / Pleasant Valley Road. (Seconded, me too! Yes! X2)
 - Keep it small, historic, picturesque. No four lane roads! Agreed!
 - Maintain rural and historic feel to the area.
 - We want to live in Placerville, not Folsom, not Sacramento. Please do not tear this beautiful county into strip malls and neon signs.

Next Steps in the Planning Process

EDCTC was awarded a \$250,000 Community-Based Transportation Planning Grant by Caltrans to fund the Diamond Springs and El Dorado Area Mobility and Sustainable Community Plan (Community Plan). The results of the Vision Project, including the work of the SAC and the Community Visioning Workshop, will inform the direction of that planning effort which will begin in early 2012.

The objective of the Community Plan is to:

- Enhance modal choices and connectivity to meet future transportation demands and to identify the multi-modal transportation infrastructure and land use planning that will provide the foundation for long-term economic and community well-being while protecting environmental, historic, and cultural resources.
- Streamline Caltrans' Local Development - Intergovernmental Review (IGR) process in the project area.
- Provide an implementation plan, including cost estimates and funding strategy for recommended improvements.
- Leverage State and Federal funding.
- Identify updates needed to documents such as the 1989 El Dorado County Historic Design Guide.
- Coordinate with County Planning and DOT to facilitate implementation of relevant elements of the El Dorado County General Plan, such as Policy 2.4.1.2, community design guidelines.

CONCLUSIONS

The values and vision “straw man” developed by the SAC was validated by the community’s comments at the visioning workshop.

- Lasting Legacy: The community now has the first bones of a vision and set of values to provide a context for infrastructure improvements to the community:

“How will transportation and other infrastructure improvements support the community’s values and vision?”

- The vision and values are living documents that can help the community determine where they want to go before they decide how to get there.
- The Diamond Springs and El Dorado Community Advisory Committee is a natural home for these documents.
- Vision Project resulted in a planning process that can be replicated in other small communities of the county: Pollock Pines, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Fairplay, Somerset, Georgetown, Cool, Coloma.



The El Dorado County Transportation Commission Would Like to Thank the Following for Their Generous Support of the Vision Project:

- **The Stakeholder Advisory Committee for giving their time, energy, and passion to the project over the last 8 months**
- **Bruce Wirtanen and the Diamond Springs Town Center for providing the space for the workshop**
- **Paul Radcliffe for the use of his fine art photography that so beautifully captures the heart and character of the area**
- **Mike Speegle for the use of his collection of historic photographs of Diamond Springs and El Dorado**
- **The Community for participating in the workshop**

