

February 5, 2009 General Meeting - Stallion Springs New Multi Purpose Room

Kern Council of Governments' Senior Planner, Marilyn Beardslee, will summarize the outcome of the Regional Blueprint Summit to be held January 26, 2009 at the Fresno Convention Center. The Summit is the culmination of years of planning and community outreach by the COGs of eight San Joaquin Valley counties including Kern. The focus will be on combining the visions of the eight agencies for managing growth over the next 40 years into a region-wide scope. This scope will address educational opportunities; economic diversity and employment options; planned developments that accommodate growth and yet curb sprawl while preserving agriculture and ranching; improved medical services; additional parks and recreation programs; walkable neighborhoods and improved infrastructure including better roads, bikeways and public transit; more housing choices; and healthier air.

How might a Regional Blueprint affect ****our future Bakersfield visits ? ***our quality of life in the Tehachapi area ? ***the future of Cummings Valley ?* Come to the meeting and, if interested, also attend the Summit in Fresno. Additional information on the Summit can be found at <http://valleyblueprint.org/summit.html> or you may call Marilyn or Project Manager, Becky Napier at 661/861-2191.

Outlook for the Future

Although we are enjoying a breather from the former major challenges, it is imperative that we maintain membership strength and rebuild our treasury to meet the inevitable new challenges. We will continue to watch closely as the Greater Tehachapi Area Specific Plan unfolds and will address the persistent clutter of illegal signs posted in the Valley

And for now the Board wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season!

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Tehachapi, CA 93581



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CVPA News

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Meadows Development

Several months ago we got word that Pacific Sod had applied to Kern County Planning for a General Plan Amendment and zone change from agricultural to residential / commercial on 640 acres in Cummings Valley. The one-page application was preliminary and far from complete. Planning advised the owners of the additional information that would be required. As of December 5th Planning has received none of the additional information.

Prison Expansion and Waste Water Treatment Plant

There appears to be good news on these issues. In an address to the Stallion Springs Property Owners Association, Greg Garrett, Tehachapi City Manager, said that the prison water plant is under construction and expansion has pretty much gone away, "We've been dropped off their short list."

This was confirmed in the front page article of the November 12 edition of the Tehachapi News with the headline, "Prison expansion project is derailed for now." "Funding problems and community resistance combine to halt plans."

Thanks to all who signed petitions, attended meetings and otherwise took a stand against the expansion.

Welcome News

From the Former Holly Brooke Ranch of the Late Jack Palance

The new owners of the ranch, Mark and Jessie Milano of The Milano Land and Cattle Company, are making major improvements including new quarters for a caretaker, refurbishing the big barn and a new home in the same location amongst the trees where the old house was removed.

Their new home, a 5,000 square foot Greene & Greene style craftsman home designed by Andrew Nasser of Pasadena, promises to be a signature addition to Cummings Valley.

We are pleased to welcome the Milanos to the former Holly Brooke Ranch, which we understand they intend to maintain as a working cattle ranch. It is a great relief to realize that our fears of the ranch being purchased by a developer did not materialize.

TMVWGA (Tehachapi Mountain Valleys Wine Growers Association)

Five Cummings Valley properties are now committed to growing wine grapes, and others including a Brite Valley owner, are showing interest. *(continued inside)*

On October 21, a meeting was held to form a wine growers association. Thirteen people with a wine connection attended, including the President of the Antelope Valley Wine Growers Association and her mother who came to give guidance in our set up. Although it makes for a long name, it was agreed that the idea of “mountain valleys” would catch the attention of folks looking for a new and different experience in wine tasting and other points of interest..

Officers of the Association are: President - George Gonzales, Vice President - Bob Souza, Vice President Communications - Gary Pearson, Secretary - Patty Souza, and Treasurer - Sandy Erickson.

With the TMVWGA launched as an intended non-profit, the rush was on to submit an application to the Kern County Board of Trade for a grant from its Tourism Grant Program. The application submitted on the November 3rd due date asks for \$16,280 to develop a web site and to design, print and distribute brochures over a wide area frequented by tourists.

Vision Brochure

The beautiful 11" X 17" color brochure produced by the CVPA Vision Committee has been a huge success in illustrating the vision we have for creating economic benefit for the Tehachapi area and Kern County through development as a prime tourist destination while preserving our agriculture and open space quality of life.

As other places have found, vineyards and wine tasting are a powerful draw for visitors. Once the area is recognized as an attractive destination, development of other kinds of activities is stimulated, jobs are created, and the tourist dollars are felt by many area businesses. As the New York Times headlined about Walla Walla, Washington "WINE TAKES OVER A TOWN AND PROSPERITY FOLLOWS."

Our brochure has been distributed to many officials and organizations at local, County, State and Federal levels. Requests for single or multiple copies have come from several people locally. People are enthralled by the stunning layout and photos.

Thanks to Gary Pearson for chairing the committee, supplying great photos and text, Ron Pflugrath for major contributions and arranging for reasonable printing cost, and to Anthony McDemas and Sally Fox for their contributions.

We recognize that a tourist destination will bring a small amount of additional traffic, and that there will be some who will fall in love with the area and want to come to stay. In general, though, they will come, enjoy, spend their money and go home. Nevertheless, if it demonstrates that tourism is more beneficial than destroying our priceless agricultural valley for development of a new city, everyone except would be developers will benefit.

New Ag Ventures in Cummings Valley

Grimmway Farms/Cal Organic is well into construction of their first five-acre greenhouse for year round growing of tomatoes and red, yellow and green Bell Peppers. These will not be hydroponic (grown in a mainly water medium treated with chemical fertilizers) as some of us thought initially. They will be grown in containers with a soil type medium and organic fertilizers such that they will be certified organic with organic produce nutrient values. Target date for planting is January with harvest beginning in April.

The enclosed metal building on the east side is for produce processing and equipment including a large boiler to supply hot water to a system of piping throughout the greenhouse structure to maintain growing temperature during cold weather.

CSS Farms of Bakersfield leased acreage from Superior Sod to plant two large plots of onions watered by pivot point sprinklers in circular pattern. The onions, which are an especially pungent variety, are being

harvested by a company from Gilroy (“Garlic Capital of the World”) and will be dehydrated for making onion seasoning products.

We have a concern that CSS Farms has let the property corners outside the planted circles as well as roadsides go to big Tumbleweeds, Tumble Mustard, and other weeds. These are starting to blow all over the Valley distributing seeds, and may create driving hazards. We have in mind a letter asking them to please keep those areas cultivated for weed control. We commend Superior Sod and other growers for their excellent stewardship of all their unplanted areas.

Straight Thinking and Definitions

Recently, some poorly informed person, hiding under the cloak of anonymity, placed notices on several of the bulletin boards located at mailbox sites in Stallion Springs declaring that Triassic Legacy Vineyard is commercial expansion and the CVPA is a smoke screen.

Two CVPA members tried to refute the notion, but did not help matters when they posted notices agreeing that the vineyard IS commercial, although better than other alternatives.. Apparently their thinking is that if you sell the produce you grow, you are commercial rather than agricultural. Since essentially all produce is grown to be sold, the logical conclusion would be that there is no such thing as agriculture.

We of CVPA abide by the Kern County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, as well as State and Federal guidelines that all confirm that growing produce on your land and selling it is agriculture. Selling only things not grown on your land is commercial.

Produce stands are allowed by right in agricultural zones. For example, you may sell your apples, apple pies, and other produce from your land. You may offer samples of apples or pies for people to judge what they would like to buy. But, if you get apples exclusively from a neighbor's orchard to sell or make pies, you are commercial.

Wineries and wine tasting/sales rooms are the same in principle. A tasting room offers samples of wines for people to decide what wines they want to buy. It may sell jams or jellies made from wine grapes or from wines as well as other gift items relating to vineyards, grapes, wines etc. that help to promote the agricultural enterprise. The zoning remains agriculture.

Remember, our membership year runs from July through June, so check your label for currency.

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.				
Membership Application - July 1 through June 30				
Name(s) _____				
Local Address _____				Phone () _____
Mail Address _____ (If not same as local)				Phone () _____
Check Appropriate Area				
<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls	<input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs	<input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi
<input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/> ? _____
e-mail addr: _____				
Annual dues are \$12 per family. Please check one:			Mail with payment to:	
<input type="checkbox"/> One year \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Two years \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> Three years \$36	Cummings Valley Protective Association P.O. Box 1020 Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020	