

Capay Valley Vision

P.O. Box 799
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For More Information

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CAPAY VALLEY VISION HOSTS INAUGURAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Twenty-Five Community Organizations Represented

ESPARTO – Fulfilling its objective to enhance communication within the diverse Esparto/Capay Valley community, the Capay Valley Vision hosted the organization's first Community Advisory Council meeting on June 4, 2001, at the Esparto Library.

The inaugural gathering was attended by more than 30 residents of the Valley area, representing some 25 community organizations. Designed to represent the heart of the organization, the Community Advisory Council will be responsible for making recommendations to the board of directors regarding the activities and projects undertaken by Capay Valley Vision.

“The board was very pleased with the turn out,” remarked CVV President, Dave Scheuring. “The fact that 25 community organizations sent representatives says something about the way we all feel about this unique Valley and our desire to move the visioning process forward.”

The meeting began with introductions from CVV board members who then turned the session over to Dan Iacafano, a professional facilitator who specializes in helping groups comprised of varying backgrounds and interests to express ideas and build consensus.

CAC participants first identified the qualities that define the Esparto/Capay Valley region, such as the organic farming industry, open space, the Cache Creek watershed, wildlife habitats, and friendly people, to name a few.

After identifying qualities of the Valley, the facilitator helped the group discuss the current issues the Valley is facing today and likely into the future unless the community comes together to plan ahead. Participants cited issues such as traffic safety, aging buildings, lack of infrastructure to encourage economic development, competition for water, inadequate delivery system for electricity, creek bank erosion, lack of facilities for young people, and rising land prices.

With key issues identified, participants then were ready to begin thinking about their vision for the Esparto/Capay Valley region. Consensus developed around goals such as preserving the agriculture base, maintaining a rural lifestyle, and promoting a sustainable economic development strategy. Additionally, the group cited the need for senior housing, a place for youth activities and a revival of downtown Esparto, complete with shops, retail service businesses and a farmers' market showcasing the Valley's agricultural industry.

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“I hope the community members who participated in this first session came away with a sense of achievement,” said Iacafano. “They reached consensus on many things. Now comes the more difficult part, the thinking creatively to solve the perceived problems and develop a strategic action plan to address them.”

Added Scheuring, “A Community Strategic Action Plan takes a strong commitment to develop. It would not only outline the issues and objectives, but would set out a specific strategy and action steps to achieve the determined goals and ultimate vision for the Valley.”

Capay Valley Vision, Inc. is a nonprofit organization created to enhance communication within the diverse Esparto/Capay Valley community to develop a vision and community action plan for the area in a way that best preserves the valley’s rural character, agriculture, history and natural environment, while supporting a vital local economy. To date, CVV has secured funding grants of \$15,000 from the Great Valley Center LEGACI Program, and \$40,000 from CalFed Watershed Program.

The next CAC meeting will occur after schools starts this fall.

Local organizations or individuals interested in learning more about CVV and participating in the organization’s Community Advisory Council are invited to send inquires to P.O. Box 799, Esparto, CA 95627.

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