

## Commentary

### **Worried about the area's future? Speak Up Now**

If you've driven down Bridge Street near Highway 99 in Yuba City or tried to cross 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Marysville around 5 p.m. recently, you know what it's like to be stuck in traffic. We've seen significant growth in this area since our roads were designed, and the resulting traffic congestion brought on by this growth can challenge our patience.

It's tough to travel our roads and navigate through the community without forming an opinion about what could or should be done to meet the challenges associated with area growth.

The Sacramento Region Blueprint workshops, a transportation and land-use study, give area residents the opportunity to voice their opinions and actually see the results of those ideas through the use of a high-tech online program. The results will be used by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to help develop a traffic plan for the region and will also help county supervisors and planning commissions understand the views of the public as well as provide them with a tool to map future growth.

Attending a workshop can provide a better understanding of the difficulties and struggles our supervisors and planning commissioners face when making decisions of such importance. Residents in areas directly affected by the predicted growth can see how and why these decisions will be made, as well as express their preference for different types of planning solutions.

Each workshop is scheduled for 3 ½ hours during which two or more case studies will be presented. Working in small groups, residents will make decisions in a "what if" exercise using an interactive planning process and actually see the results on paper.

The Sacramento Region Blueprint workshops are a joint effort of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and Valley Vision. Workshops are being conducted in the six-county Sacramento region that includes El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties.

Since this region is expected to add 1 million people during the next 30 years, community input will be very instrumental in developing a workable plan. During the workshops, residents will be able to discuss how much of this growth should occur within our counties and what is the right mixture of jobs and houses.

The Sutter County workshop is being held from 8:30 a.m. to noon today at the Yuba City Senior Center, 777 Ainsley Ave. in Yuba City. The Yuba County workshop will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 7 at the One-Stop Training Center, 1114 Yuba St. in Marysville.

Attendance at both workshops is free, but seating is limited. Register online at [www.sacregionblueprint.com](http://www.sacregionblueprint.com).

If you'd like to view workshop results from other areas within the Sacramento region or would like more information about the local workshops, visit the Sacramento Region Blueprint Website, [www.sacregionblueprint.org](http://www.sacregionblueprint.org)