

Auburn Journal
Monday, February 2, 2004

Residents meet in Roseville to plan future land use, transportation for region

By Ryan McCarthy
Journal Staff Writer

Roseville – More than 200 people packed into a meeting room Saturday to take up issues potentially more important than who wins the Super Bowl – future land use and transportation in Placer County.

The workshop for the Blueprint project, a joint effort of valley Vision and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, provided the chance to discuss the impact of growth.

Mike McKeever, a consultant with SACOG, said a modest increase in growth – with most development in established areas – seemed a common theme Saturday.

McKeever noted the serious, energized, high-quality discussion about the county's future.

“This is real citizen planning,” he said.

Light rail, downtown development and the balance between jobs and housing were among matters taken up by 10 participants at 20 tables.

Dave Vinze, planning and monitoring manager for the Placer County Air Pollution District, said discussion at his table concluded that the county – one of the most rapidly developing in California – would grow even faster than it is now.

Martin Tuttle, executive director of SACOG, said he was struck by the serious approach people took when considering Placer's future.

“Of all of these workshops, this has been the most business-like one we've seen,” Tuttle said of those gathering at the Maidu Center in Roseville. “Business-like is good – even on a Saturday.”

Placer County Supervisor Ted Gaines, Jan Christofferson, executive officer for the county and Planning Director Fred Yeager were among those attending the meeting put on by Valley Vision and SACOG.

Six counties – Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba -- and 22 cities, including Auburn, Colfax, Loomis, Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln, associate to form the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. The regional group has a staff of about 50

and is located in downtown Sacramento. Valley Vision is a non-profit organization that addresses regional issues.

Roseville resident Jeremy Sutter, 31, said he came to the Blueprint project meeting because he's interested in development-related issues.

"Its all theoretical," Sutter said of discussions on growth. "It just depends on how they execute things. We'll see what happens."

The Journal's Ryan McCarthy can be reached at ryanm@goldcuntrymedia.com.