

Farmers/Hunters Growth Alternative Stakeholder Interview June 13, 2008

Attendees: Richard Price, Penny Warren, Gayle Luna, Lee Callender, Max Kee, Greg Wilson, Kathy Nicol, Stephanie Williams, Francine Stuelpnayel, Cynthia Bryant, Michael Warren, Sherri Scott

General notes:

- Concerned that the growth will overtake areas that are used for local food production today. Keep food gardens closer to reduce cost of transport.
- Alternative A doesn't seem to reflect the impending rise in the cost of gasoline and that will actually hurt the local economy in the end
- Like mixed-use as it is more walkable
- Like C for its neighborhood communities, with stores & public spaces
- Mixed-use may be a tough sell because people want at least a small yard, but it will likely become more popular as gas prices go up
- We must consider the choices of the immigrants from LA and the Bay Area
- Let's put our community's interest before the immigrants (from cities)
- Southgate area has mixed viability, not all the soil is good enough to do anything but rice....the walnut trees don't all make it
- Buffer zones around ag areas are needed for compatibility and actual protection of commercial agriculture.
- Support a minimum 10-acre residential property size for properties immediately adjacent to active commercial farms (that need to spray, work at night, etc.)
- Like the idea of including small commercial centers in new neighborhoods
- Add community gardens within the central city area
- More jobs need to be with local entrepreneurs and located in mixed-use cores
- We need to protect the best soil that can't be replaced once it's paved over
- Some soil is more viable than others
- City should annex all the island County areas, including Chapman-Mulberry
- Talent isn't utilized because Chico is picky about which industries we allow
- Need to add more rail transit
- Follow soil studies when considering expansion of the Greenline into areas, especially in areas where houses aren't already
- Encourage mixed-use & more residential in the Mangrove area
- Smaller units and lots are needed for younger generations based on economic realities
- Encourage more alternative/public transport, including the return of the trolley to the SW and up Esplanade and around downtown
- Plant more fruit and food trees as street trees and around town as a source of food
- Plan at the neighborhood scale and consider single homes that house more residents in one unit. Don't try to apply the same standard to all neighborhoods; consider the unique qualities of each
- City needs to update outdated ordinances to implement the ideas in the new GP
- City should create model programs for re-integrating returning veterans