

Letter: It takes courage to say no

— Patricia Puterbaugh, Cohasset

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Your editorial condemning the General Plan vote against a research park was disappointing. The vote showed foresight and vision for Butte County. It takes courage and inspiration to say no to the predominant concepts that dictate progress. New jobs and stimulating revenue cannot solely dictate how our county grows.

It is simply not true that graduates from Chico State University and Butte College have to leave to achieve their potential. Our young people often leave Northern California to gain experience and world knowledge before settling. Others choose careers that will allow them to stay in the fields of agriculture, medical or education.

It was also disheartening you wrote so negatively of Jane Dolan's no vote. You wrote "you can't think of development she's ever liked." Dolan has been a staunch supporter of agriculture and responsible, reasonable development. You say there are creative people who could work around the constraints to develop the environmentally sensitive land. Conversely, we need creative people to do something innovative — to design projects for the empty Koret or Fleetwood buildings at the airport, to propose solar and cogeneration additions to existing properties, to propose plans on acres of land nearer our cities where we can walk or ride bikes.

It takes belief in a clean future where land that is home to eagles and coyotes is respected. Land that is likely a recharge area for our priceless Tuscan aquifer. We are thankful that Maureen Kirk, Dolan and Bill Connelly have a vision for a hopeful future.

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