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cc
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Subject Draft Oak Woodlands Management Plan

If you haven't already done so, I invite you to take a drive on Hwy 50 through the subdivisions covering the hillsides in El Dorado Hills, then travel in a circle around Folsom --- turn north on East Bidwell in Folsom, travel along that road until Riley St. Go right on Riley, then left on Bidwell St, then left on Folsom --- go a ways along Folsom to Blue Ravine, go East on Blue Ravine, and travel back up to East Bidwell.

You will notice a great deal of traffic and many shopping centers - many with empty stores.

Is this the quality of life promised to us in the El Dorado County General Plan? Are we to become another Folsom?

As we drive between Cameron Park and Placerville along Hwy 50, we are struck by the scenic beauty - first the springtime pink redbuds and the blue ceanothis on the gabro soils around Cameron Park, then the oak woodlands that extend along Hwy 50 from Shingle Springs to Placerville.

The draft Oak Woodlands Management Plan does nothing to protect the scenic beauty along Hwy 50 - roughly 1/3 of the County's area from Shingle Springs to Placerville. It does nothing to protect the wildlife corridors connecting North and South in that area. Without protection, the oak woodlands along Hwy 50 will surely be removed and replaced by shopping centers - like Folsom.

How many people will then want to drive through this area to come up to Apple Hill to buy Christmas trees or apples? They already have to put on blinders or turn up their stereo to get through the row upon rows of houses covering the hills in El Dorado Hills.

We did not move here to see our beauty and natural heritage our children deserve destroyed. If it is, we might as well have stayed in Sacramento.

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