

4520 Lon Court
Diamond Springs, CA. 95619
July 7, 2009

Jack Sweeney, Supervisor
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fairlane Drive
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Need for Area Planning Diamond Springs-El Dorado.

Dear Jack,

We have been talking for a long time about the need for an area plan for Diamond Springs-El Dorado and I think we must do it NOW. I walked away from your June 30, 2009 meeting on mixed use development with a feeling that mixed use, while apparently popular, will be difficult to implement without a better sense of knowing what the community wants.

With all the projects being proposed in the Diamond Springs-El Dorado area, there is no meaningful way to look at each individual project and think we are going to have a cohesive community when we are finished. We need to study our area in a comprehensive manner.

Diamond Springs and El Dorado have wonderful remnants of our history, and I think there is broad agreement that we want to ensure that these community centers be vibrant and viable into the future. The only way this desire can be met is with some development. We need them to be seen as pedestrian friendly; places where people will want to walk or ride bikes to do business and save themselves the trouble of driving, places where tourists want to stop and experience our area.

Currently the Planning folks are looking at the circulation patterns of the area, but we need a broader comprehensive focus that addresses all the applicable elements of the general plans. For example, the projected growth, according to the Parks and Recreation Element, will generate the need to build local, community, and regional parks. The transportation corridor should serve these parks. How are we going to determine where these parks are located and who will be paying for them? I have similar concerns when looking at the Conservation and Open Space Element, ... Safety (Fire), and others.

Our community is being torn apart by competing interests at a time when we ought to be unifying to find acceptable ways to become economically sustainable community for the future. We need to develop a process that allows the people a better forum to participate in planning our communities; I think that is the objective of area planning, but I am not locked in on the words.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Robert A. Smart, Jr.