

Potter Valley Community Action Plan

January 26, 2005 Meeting Summary

This was the first of six community meetings being held for the Potter Valley Community Action Plan. The meeting was held in the Potter Valley Community High School Multi-purpose Room. Approximately 75 people attended the first meeting. County Supervisor Michael Delbar opened the meeting, and explained the County's role in securing Forest Service funds for the Plan. George Williamson with Planwest Partners, the consulting firm hired to prepare the plan, facilitated the meeting.

An overview of the community planning process was presented. Community members were then asked to describe characteristics and trends for Potter Valley, and then to define goals for the future. Their comments are summarized below.

Potter Valley Characteristics

Meeting participants identified the following characteristics for Potter Valley:

- ❑ A good record of community service
- ❑ Open spaces
- ❑ Little noise or light pollution (dark skies)
- ❑ A gateway to a natural forest
- ❑ Rural/ agricultural
- ❑ Single school district
- ❑ River recreation- Russian River
- ❑ Community center
- ❑ Grange (community organization)
- ❑ Commute in and out
- ❑ Many residents lack wastewater system
- ❑ First-class fire department
- ❑ Health and dental clinic
- ❑ Lack of streetlights
- ❑ First class irrigation district
- ❑ Youth athletic organizations (4-H, Girls and Boys Scouts)
- ❑ Tight knit, family-oriented community
- ❑ Poor road conditions and speeding
- ❑ Stable agricultural businesses
- ❑ Public transit (Mendocino Transit Authority)
- ❑ Community internet resource: www.cloudforest.org

Community Trends

Meeting participants described the following trends being seen in Potter Valley::

- ❑ Less retail with loss of grocery and hardware store
- ❑ Lack of jobs and industry
- ❑ Declining school enrollment and decreasing community support for the school
- ❑ Less and less affordable housing
- ❑ Lack of law enforcement
- ❑ Few restaurants and cafes
- ❑ More demand for health services
- ❑ Growing need for community park
- ❑ Sidewalk on Main Street
- ❑ Need for community building – such as Grange
- ❑ Lack of bike/ walking paths
- ❑ Excessive regulations for agriculture
- ❑ Need for telecommunication upgrades
- ❑ Mischief and illegal dumping, illegal camping, drug use
- ❑ Russian River safety (Rock)
- ❑ Weed control on roadsides

Potter Valley Community Action Plan Draft Goals

The draft Community Action Plan Goals set at the January 26th meeting have been grouped by action item category. They are for discussion at the February 22nd meeting:

Community Facilities and Services Goals

- ❑ Working Grange/ community center
- ❑ More community self- sufficiency
- ❑ Bring kids back through youth services
- ❑ Community pool
- ❑ River parks/ safe access points along Russian River
- ❑ More access to PG&E lands on Eel
- ❑ Protect water/ PG&E hydro facilities

Local Business and Arts Promotion Goals

- ❑ Permanent rodeo grounds
- ❑ A viable agricultural industry
- ❑ Develop an artist cooperative, art walls, and open studio events

Infrastructure Improvement Goals

- ❑ Light Tahto Bridge on Main Street
- ❑ Develop a community wastewater treatment system
- ❑ Improve communication services
- ❑ Develop trails for walking, hiking, biking and horseback riding
- ❑ Improve Potter Valley television reception

Health, Education and Safety

- ❑ Emergency phone along River
- ❑ Decreased drug use/ production
- ❑ Community meetings in the issue of drug problems
- ❑ Improved health services
- ❑ Provide classroom space for recreation classes
- ❑ Improved community services (Fire)

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 23rd, 6:30 PM at the Potter Valley High School Multi-purpose Room. The purpose of this meeting will be to identify specific action plan issues the community would like to address, to help meet community goals.