

City of Yuba City

This is the seventh in a series of articles featuring local governments using Blueprint Project principles in built projects, plans or general plans. In October, SACOG Director and City of Yuba City Councilmember Dave Doolittle and City Manager Jeff Foltz gave a presentation to the SACOG Board of Directors regarding Yuba City's new General Plan that incorporates Blueprint principles.

With a storied history of rebuilding efforts after disasters, residents of Yuba City do not languish in a “can-do” attitude. Rather Yuba City citizens have always had a “must-do” state-of-mind. In times of need, the community joins together to solve issues as a collective group.

Throughout the early 20th century, the former mining town was ravaged by fierce fires and frenzied floods. To facilitate recovery and rebuilding efforts in 1908, community forces organized to incorporate Yuba City as a municipal corporation for the purpose of improving police and fire services, sewage disposal and sani-

ation, and animal control.

The spirit of those efforts influenced the city's efforts to update their General Plan in 2004, with the key goal to “control our destiny through quality infrastructure.”

“During the Blueprint Project our General Plan was updated and adopted,” said Dave Doolittle, SACOG Director and City Council Member for Yuba City. “It is steeped in goals related to Blueprint's smart-growth principles, and we chose to adopt it as our Preferred Alternative.”

The former gold mining distribution center, currently populated with 53,000 residents, is expecting population growth reaching more than 67,000 total residents within 20 years.

“The General Plan is based on input from Yuba City citizens, business owners, elected officials and city staff, and strives to maintain what is good and desirable about Yuba City as it grows into the future,” said Doolittle.

The goals for the General Plan included: building livable



The General Plan promotes a strong, identifiable downtown enhancing the community's character and aesthetics.

communities, improving public safety services, promoting a strong, identifiable downtown, implementing a great parks system, taking advantage of the Feather River frontage, building upon diversity, and providing exceptional customer service to the city's residents.

“We used the General Plan to promote a village concept throughout the city,” said Jeff Foltz, City Manager of Yuba City. “We need to create workplaces, housing and job opportunities in walkable, livable communities.”

Good community design was a key component in the General Plan's development. It specifically includes plans for integrating neighborhoods and neighborhood centers, enhancing community character and aesthetics, and residential development to accommodate a full range of housing types including affordable housing.

Key goals and initiatives were established for determining land-use designations and the framework of the General Plan including:

Clearly Defined Urban Edges

Yuba City's Urban Growth Boundary is roughly defined by Pease, Township, and

Bogue roads, and the Feather River.



Large Parks

Two new, large city parks are included in the new General Plan. Low-medium and medium-high residential uses are planned to be situated adjacent to these parks, which provide a valuable amenity to nearby residents as well as the overall population.

Network of Open Space

All of the parks and open space uses are linked by a system of parkways, bikeways and roadways.

“Yuba City is committed to maintaining a vibrant and healthy economy, providing land for planned development, and ensuring the fiscal and financial health of the city,” said Doolittle. “We will be working with the private sector to ensure that adequate infrastructure, particularly streets, water and wastewater treatment capacity, is available to attract and maintain business.”

For more information regarding Yuba City's General Plan visit www.yubacity.net or contact (530) 822-4700.



The Yuba City Master Plan establishes a network of open spaces, two large City Parks, and clearly defined urban boundaries.