

From: Janice Cader-Thompson
Tue 2/8/2022 12:27 PM
Subject: Lafferty Ranch

Afternoon, At our last meeting I felt there was push back adding Lafferty Ranch in the General Plan language. Lafferty has been in our general plan for decades. It is the headwaters of Adobe Creek, it was the city's water resource for many decades. Lafferty is an important environmental treasure. Someday Lafferty will be a connection as a ridge trail, hiking trails and a connections to the Sonoma Valley. We almost lost those water rights to private ownership. The water rights were save in perpetuity at the State level. Lafferty Ranch is an important part of Petaluma history. A local group has been working for decades for public access to this site, monitoring the property and more. I am asking for your understanding and support making sure Lafferty Ranch is not excluded as part of the General Plan process.

Sincerely,
Janice Cader Thompson

From: Ann Edminster
Thu 2/3/2022 9:55 AM
Subject: Re:GP Vision Feedback

Ned,

Thanks so much for taking the time to share your thoughts on the General Plan vision and guiding principles.

David and Rhianna,

My views are 100% in alignment with Ned's. Please convey these to the GPAC; I hope they will be reflected in the final documents.

Ann
Ann V. Edminster, M.Arch. (she/her)

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From: Ned Orrett
Tue 2/1/2022 6:16 PM
Subject: GP Vision Feedback

Hello David -

Thank you for your work underpinning our new General Plan. I read the material you forwarded for our (CAC) review, and herewith offer a few comments.

Overall, I am impressed and delighted with the love for our community and clear desire to maintain its unique features while responding to key ecological challenges and human needs going forward. The Vision Statements offered by GPAC members were especially enjoyable to absorb - they are eloquent, heartfelt, and inspiring.

In my role as a member of our Climate Action Commission, my hope is to see a General Plan that will be built around values of maintaining, if not enhancing, the capability of Earth's ecosystems both in Petaluma, and beyond. We know we must first eliminate our greenhouse gas emissions, and then remove residual CO2 in the atmosphere until its concentration is returned to preindustrial levels. While doing these things, we also want to at least preserve remaining natural habitat to enable wildlife to survive before conditions worsen. Given that human culture has for centuries driven consumption of earth resources upward at an exponential pace, especially in the United States and other industrialized nations of the global north, the difficulty of the challenge before us to make the necessary changes cannot be overestimated. We must join together to find a new way. Accordingly, it is wonderful to see the seeds of a caring, regenerative Petaluma being sown into the Guiding Principles laid out for Petaluma's next General Plan.

It appears we (human species) are being warned by the climate crisis that our consumption exceeds the biocapacity of the Earth, to the peril of all. One of the [best reports](#) I've found on this on this topic suggests the need to transition to a far more resource-efficient economy - from linear to circular and regenerative resource flows; and more importantly, to a services-driven economy fostering collective well-being rather than continued individual material consumption. Further:

"What will be needed urgently is a value shift—replacing, or at least complementing, material consumption as the main objective in life. Instead, what's needed is a well-being economy that fosters true quality of life factors such as a purposeful life, health care, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate, safe conditions in the workplace,

education, and access to and participation in cultural activities and family life.”

Accordingly, I suggest discovering means for measuring and reporting the Quality of Life for various subpopulations of Petalumans going forward. While of course there are other quantitative data we'll want to track over time, quality of life might well drive it all.

While many other points caught my eye while reviewing the collective thoughts, I'll make just a few notes:

1. Strong recommendations throughout for supporting active transportation (walking, cycling, etc, via safe and attractive routes). As the transportation method with the least embedded GHG, and possibly highest positive social engagement, I hope this will be pursued with the rigor as if we were in the Netherlands!
2. Support for local agriculture and healthy food: hopefully leveraged with building healthy soils (w/ carbon sequestration) and providing local jobs
3. Regenerative Design: city leads way specifying concrete w/ low GHG cement, aggregate made from sequestered carbon; timber framing instead of steel, etc.
4. Recommendation to shift street design from car-use to active realm (p. 5, column 2)
5. Maintain land outside UGB for ag, etc. (big opportunity for carbon sequestration, w/ benefits of retaining water and soil (enhanced crops; less flooding; river dredging) p. 22
6. River: a total floating trash dump during winter... Yes! on long river trail (p. 23)
7. Electric grid in town: recommend generation (to support new load from bldg electrification) via local rooftop PV rather than imported from elsewhere (many reasons) (p. 24)
8. p. 28: Aha! Economic Development! Ideas above about fostering collective well-being fit in here. Like lots of the ideas, including seeking funding from climate-supportive sources. I'd include worker-owned cooperatives - spectacularly demonstrated in the Basque region of Spain - among favored business designs. Fortunately we have several financial advisers in the County with expertise in Co-ops.
9. Yes! "Green" bldgs -> Carbon Negative (p. 29)... same for 5th bullet point on p. 31

10. p.36: Yes on developments associated with access (hopefully walkable)
to needed services

So much engaged thinking represented in all this work! Time flies though, so I'll stop.

Thank you
Ned Orrett

From: Roger Leventhal
Tue 2/1/2022 10:13 AM
Subject: Feedback on Visioning Materials

Hi David

Work got busy so didnt have time to edit vision statement. I am not really a vision statement kind of guy, I find them not that useful while I get that others find them inspiring. I am more an in the weeds person.

My only comment is to the request to add "stolen" to the statement as to Native lands. I oppose divisive language to a vision statement about the community's future. Its not the correct venue for debates on historical justice IMO and if someone wants to have a historical justice reckoning that is fine, the general plan vision statement isnt the place and will derail the document. I respect their views for sure, and there is certainly a lot of truth and also needs to include the mexican government who I believe was occupying the land then, so I am not arguing the merits - just its placement here. That said, just my opinion and I dont care all that much given how important I think vision statements are to me at least.

I was asked to provide thoughts on the process so far. I think the City and consulting team have done an excellent job overall, its been moving very slowly and IMO we have been in this utopian visioning stage for a long time. I get the feeling that now we are heading into the more contention phase of actual policies. Although I am a democrat and fairly left, I think the lack of diversity in political thought is a little troubling to me. The GPAC has been gerrymandered to be left to far left, something like 45 percent of Petalumas are registered republicans and independents and they have zero voice in GPAC. I worry this will be an issue later so I think the process itself is not really itself so fair. Again, I am a moderate democrat so it fits my viewpoint so far. but as we get into more contentious issues such as say rent control, or right to purchase or real practical issues and not this visioning stuff, there is a lack of voices. I plan to reach out on Next Door and other systems when we get there to let people know. I know you have all done

great outreach but I dont think the average person understands what may be coming in this general plan update that can really directly impact them.

Anyway, I am so busy with work I have a hard time finding the time for all this. So I do what I can and I really appreciate the great work for the City and consultants who are very good and way more patient that I could ever be,

Cheers, Roger

From: Janice Cader-Thompson
Thu 1/20/2022 8:17:15 PM PST
Subject: Draft Vision Statement

A community driven, wholes systems and nature-based solutions approach to all projects, including infrastructure, and development.

Bill Wolpert
Thu 1/20/2022 8:52 PM
Subject: indigenous people of the north bay

In our discussion of the Draft Vision Statement, I respectfully object to singling out the Miwok as the only ancestors of Petaluma. There were many tribes.

"The Ohlone are the predominant Indigenous group of the Bay Area, including the Chochenyo and the Karkin in East Bay, the Ramaytush in San Francisco, the Yokuts in South Bay and Central Valley, and the Muwekma tribe throughout the region. Other Indigenous groups include the Graton Rancheria community (Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo), Kashaya, Patwin, and Mishewal Wappo in the North Bay, and the Bay Miwok in the East Bay."

Again, there are also other ethnic populations that we have abused and mistreated, such as Japanese farmers during WWII.

-Bill

Bill Wolpert
Thu 1/20/2022 8:58 PM
Subject:

...oh, and not to mention that the whole area belonged to Mexico before we stole it from them. -Bill

Ingrid Alverde

Wed 1/26/2022 12:18 PM

Subject: RE: GPAC: Revised Vision Feedback Deadline

Thanks David. Here are some of my thoughts relative to Economic Development:

Advance a forward-looking economic development strategy that focuses on diversity, opportunity, innovation, and resilience.

- a. Recognize that economic development, self-sufficiency, and resilience is vital to the City's overall prosperity and fiscal health – and critical for accomplishing other City goals and programs.
- b. Pursue "green" jobs and industries that help address the climate emergency and advance a closed-loop, circular local economy.

I don't know what "a closed-loop, circular local economy" is. I have also found it difficult to pursue "green" jobs in the past. Not sure we have a strategy for that. Or even know what "green" jobs are.

- c. Support small, local, and BIPOC-owned businesses through a variety of strategies including the potential for incubation spaces and mentorship.

Would we create zoning for incubation spaces? curious how the general plan or any other planning mechanism would guide this outcome.

- d. Support the creative reuse of vacant and underutilized spaces to build the local economy and support other city goals and initiatives.

The challenge here typically is zoning and building codes...

- e. Achieve a jobs-housing balance in the city by expanding job opportunities that match the skills of residents, providing living-wage jobs and affordable housing, and encouraging new work models such as working from home or coworking.

I've also always struggled with the concept of jobs-housing balance. In a macro sense you have enough housing to support the number of employees that work in Petaluma. The key to all of this working is allowing for flexibility in zoning, with minimal discretionary review so that we incentivize what we want. But in that case, I think we need to be very specific about what that is. Otherwise, I think these visions are really just platitudes that won't be realistic. The City doesn't expand job opportunities or provide living wage jobs. Businesses do that. We need to set ourselves up to incentivize that if we expect to have any role in accomplishing this goal. Things like cleaning up our PUDs, updating our zoning to be more flexible and less prescriptive and less discretionary are the implementation measures I would recommend for this vision.

D'Lynda Fischer

Fri, 01/21/2022 5:17 PM

Subject: Vision acknowledgment

This might help you craft the first paragraph of the GP Vision statement.

We acknowledge that the land where we gather is the traditional territory and unceded lands of the Coast Miwok, Southern Pomo, Kashaya, and Wappo peoples. It is also important to acknowledge that the broader region where NBOP meets in Sonoma County and its surrounding lands remain the shared space of the Patwin, Lake Miwok, Southeastern Pomo, Eastern Pomo, and Central Pomo.