

# Capay Valley Vision

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## For More Information

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## Capay Valley Vision Update

### **Draft Action Plan for the Valley Available**

On May 31, community leaders gathered to discuss an action plan distilled out of a **two-year** visioning process. The *Action Plan for the Capay Valley-Esparto Region* presents a roadmap for our communities to take steps together to address widely held concerns.

Based on two half-day workshops and numerous community meetings, residents from Madison to Rumsey expressed these visions for the future:

- Capay Valley has a strong **agricultural** base with family farms and agriculturally related businesses and jobs.
- Capay Valley has a **vital community center** with shops, services, restaurants and entertainment opportunities.
- Capay Valley is a **safe and healthy** place for children and families to play, learn and grow.
- Capay Valley is a region of rural **communities** with low population, slow development and an emphasis on preserving open spaces.
- Capay Valley **residents work together** to sustain and nurture the community visions for the future.

In order to achieve these visions for Valley, the action plan focuses on four interrelated elements that were noted as being “highly important” to resident satisfaction and well-being.

- Agriculture and Environment
- Economic Development
- Recreation
- Transportation

These areas were prioritized based on community momentum for change and community ability to affect change. Practically, this meant that there were people willing to work on the issues through task forces that have been meeting since fall 2001.

In addition to detailing specific strategies and actions for each of the areas above, the action plan draft includes a review of community assets, ways to engage the community, and more. The plan was prepared by Capay Valley Vision and Harder+Co. Community Research. Project supporters include the California Farmland Conservancy Program and the Calfed Bay-Delta Program.

Copies are available for review at the Esparto Regional Library's front desk, or, if you would like a copy sent to you by email or mail, see contact information below.

**May Transportation Workshop**

The most visible Valley-wide change in recent years is the increase in traffic. By 2025, Caltrans projects almost a doubling of current levels. And with the casino expansion scheduled to open in 2004, many more vehicles will soon be visiting the Valley than today.

On the last Saturday in May, more than fifty Valley residents came to the Community Hall in Esparto to participate in the second of three public workshops to grapple with traffic and a wide range of other transportation issues. These meetings are part of the Capay Valley Vision-led Highway 16 Corridor Study that will result in a plan this fall of transportation-related features our communities want to work toward over the coming years.

Discussion at the May workshop focused on specific concepts – such as highway design features, traffic calming, and transit needs – and identified where there is and is not community consensus. Participants agreed on the need to consider the possibility of bypass alternatives to relieve the increasing volume of traffic along Yolo Avenue in Esparto.

A common thread of discussion was that whatever changes are made should be consistent with the rural character of the Valley. Strong support was expressed for specific designs that facilitate movement of farm equipment, encourage safe driving, and create economic and recreational opportunities for the community. The next public workshop will be held in August.

For more information about Capay Valley Vision, the draft action plan, or the corridor study, contact Thomas at 796-4160 or [thomas@capayvalleyvision.org](mailto:thomas@capayvalleyvision.org).

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