

Roundtable Helps Turn Visions into Actions

On April 16, representatives from more than 25 groups gathered to present and discuss specific projects to improve the quality of life in the Capay Valley-Esparto region. The daylong community roundtable, hosted by Capay Valley Vision, focused around the areas of agriculture, economic development, education, environment, housing, recreation, social services and transportation.

Projects discussed ranged from concrete improvements such as bus stops, welcome signs, ball fields, and farmers' market pavilions to long-term capacity building that spurs local economic development through a community development corporation or redevelopment zone. Participants highlighted the interconnections among these efforts and sought to identify actions that, once achieved, help to catalyze other positive changes.

Over the past months, and in some cases years, scores of community members have been working together on task forces covering agriculture, housing, recreation, transportation and economic development. The April roundtable brought all the task forces together with local community groups and regional providers to share the projects and proposals they have been working on.

Local groups that participated were Cache Creek Stakeholders, Capay Valley Vision, Community Medical Centers, Esparto District Chamber of Commerce, Esparto Unified School District, Lions Club, RISE, Western Yolo Grange and WYORCA. Many other organizations that provide services or resources in the valley actively participated, including: Community Alliance with Family Farmers, Rumsey Community Fund, UC Davis, USDA Rural Development, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Yolo County Library, Yolo County Office of Education, Yolo County Parks & Resources Division, Yolo Family Service Agency, Yolo Land Trust, and Yolo Resource Conservation District. This was not only an opportunity to hear about community projects but also to build partnerships and support.

The roundtable was hosted by Capay Valley Vision as part of the Capay Valley-Esparto Region 2020 initiative to assist in building our community capacity to positively shape the future of the valley. Daniel Iacofano of MIG, Inc., captured the dialogue so that by the day's end a colorful graphic of great projects covered three walls of the Esparto Community Hall. Many thanks to Bloom Ranch, Full Belly Farm, FreeHeart Farm, and Java Station for donating delicious food and drink. Project support is provided by Yolo County Tribal Mitigation Funds and the Rumsey Community Fund.

Community input is vital so if you are interested in these projects or would like to find out more about the task forces, please contact Capay Valley Vision at 796-4160.