



Top Two Priorities:

COUNTY: Focus on Development, Support Economic Development **SIERRA CLUB: Focus on Transit, Support All-Income Level Housing**

Priority setting by Placer County determines our ecological, human and economic future. The County has eight other priorities in addition to the first two shown in the headline of this article. Housing shortfall, environmental sustainability and fiscal sustainability are in the middle of these priorities.

The results of these County and similar city priorities are visible around us. This is especially so with highway and thoroughfare improvements built to prepare for and enable development.

PLACER GROUP SIERRA CLUB SOUTH COUNTY ROAD MAP

Placer Group's many years of conservation action is based on longstanding Sierra Club polices. Somewhat in contrast, the elements of our vision come from on-the-ground South County experience.

1. Rail transit back and forth between Lincoln and Roseville as the transit core linked to expanded local including mini transit, biking and walking for new and existing development. See the rail transit options article in this newsletter. A share of developer fees needs to be earmarked for transit infrastructure. Transit is a key component for County and City Climate Action Plans and for reducing air pollution.

2. Adequate housing for all income levels in both new developments, and developments applying for extensions of time for entitled but not started or completed projects. End the use of in lieu fees. Include limited concurrent affordable housing construction in the same community as an off-site part of select projects.

3. Ecological and physical sciences that apply to a project must be engaged at the outset of project concept development, choice of location, and design. From the germ of a project idea through its definition, and forward through each step including funding, filing applications and completion, the necessary scientific expertise must be an integral part of projects. Applicable biological including public health, land, water, air and hazard sciences need to be identified and engaged. This includes but is not limited for ecosystem, wildlife, wetland, vegetation, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI fire prevention), threatened and endangered species, soils, and other biological and physical sciences. CEQA and NEPA environmental disclosure and impact mitigation also result from engaging the needed sciences, but do not replace engaging scientists before the CEQA and NEPA process begins.

4. Greenbelts in and between communities. Measures to recognize, support and continue agriculture and other economic and cultural heritages need to be applied. This means including nature and management of compatible businesses that exist and define existing wild places, rural areas, cities and suburbs. A specific example is to incorporate agriculture, Community Supported Agriculture, community gardens, and landscape and beauty gardens, as part of maintained open space.

5. Inform development project area adjacent residents, property owners and the public at large about each government meeting, service, budget item, expenditure, action and benefit to a project. This includes public notification about and ability to observe Pre-development Meetings, Development Review Committee and other outcome recommending or determinative meetings. Any member of the public needs to be able to request and receive notification of all pending project meetings, recommendations, government actions, and decisions made at all times that affect all aspects of a project.

6. Proposed development projects need to demonstrate (a) that demand exists for the project at the time of project approval, including at all income levels, (b) that all necessary supporting infrastructure is identified and is in place for the project, and if not in place, how and when it will be funded and in place, and (c) that the project has all necessary construction workers for each part of the project. A presumption that current demand exists for a project might be established based on a showing that a certain percentage of entitled parcels in the South County unincorporated area and segments of it are developed. Different kinds of new area workplace job generation, housing, and other demands need to be identified.

Defeat of \$1.6 billion 30-year sales tax increase

Placer County Transportation Changed Course Forever When Ballot Measure M Failed in 2016

The Placer County Republican Party came out early and hard against Measure M in 2016.

Sierra Club supports transit, biking and walking, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Not adding new highway capacity.

New lanes do not relieve congestion, especially in South County where our local boulevards are pretty well located and planned and make the use of SR 65 unnecessary. The 20% of SR 65 drivers that do use local roads instead of SR 65 would fill any temporary capacity that is created, which is what happens now.

The Sierra Club's Measure M opposition process was completed as ballot arguments were being signed.

To no avail, we'd handed out this UC Davis policy brief to County Supervisors and most City Council Members as they voted to put the measure on the ballot:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/newtech/researchreports/reports/2015/10-12-2015-NCST_Brief_InducedTravel_CS6_v3.pdf

Placer Group had also earlier warned a meeting of the Measure M sponsor Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) that they would not succeed in getting sales tax approval for eight Major South County Highway Projects and two elsewhere. Group Chair Mike Garabedian told them from his experience that a highway project gets approval when it's a single priority.

Supporters spent nearly \$1 million in an unsuccessful effort to pass Measure M.

Following defeat of Measure M it has become clear that Placer Parkway and not widening SR 65 is the priority of the Board of Supervisors majority. This 15-mile Parkway is proposed to connect I-80 with SR 99 in Sutter County via the Whitney Boulevard interchange on SR 65, bringing semi and other traffic onto SR 65. Sierra Club opposes Placer Parkway which would be the greatest sprawl-inducing project in the Sacramento region.

Placer County has committed by contract with Caltrans that it will fund Phase 1 of Placer Parkway to Foothills Boulevard. This year the Board of Supervisors reserved \$20 million in County funds for this Parkway. The Board earlier authorized funding design for Phase 1. These expenditures parallel the County takeover from developers of management and costs of the Sunset Area Plan and Placer Ranch Specific Plan projects that would be served by two Placer Parkway Phase 1 interchanges.

PCTPA response to the defeat of Measure M. PCTPA has been seeking legislative authority to have another sales tax ballot measure in South County only. It is also discussing hiring an outfit to educate voters about the need to increase their sales taxes, depending on what happens with Proposition 6 on the November ballot that repeals much of SB 1. Sierra Club opposes the repeal.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and our highways. SACOG's Board has not recognized either SR 65 or Placer Parkway SB 1 Congested Corridor funding. However, Amtrak rail improvements may be in line for this.

North-South Rail Transit And Options for South Placer County

Placer Group is exploring options for developing fixed rail transit service between Roseville and Lincoln. These possibilities range from new internal county to multi county projects and extension of existing light rail and rail services. Our goal is a Lincoln-Roseville transit corridor that is the focus for local transit and transportation.

1. **A Roseville-Lincoln north-south circuit** with transfers to local and regional services in Roseville developed, built and operated by in-county entities. This could be on new track on current UP rail or old, unused right-of-ways.
2. **Extension of Sacramento RT** to Roseville and then Lincoln, including the desirable connection to the Sacramento Airport.
3. **Union Pacific rail line for service to the Marysville area.** The next step for considering this would be to begin Phase 2 review of the December 1995, "Draft Northern Sacramento Valley Intercity Rail Feasibility Study Interim Findings Report." The 2007 Placer County Transit Master plan recommends this.
4. **Extend Capitol Corridor Amtrak service with rail transit to Lincoln.** Bus transit is a currently listed Capitol Corridor future option.
5. **Change Caltrans State Rail Plan** future plan to extend rail service north from Sacramento to be northward though Roseville and Lincoln. At this time the state plan contemplates developing bus connecting transit to Lincoln.

Sierra Club members are encouraged to call with questions, suggestions or comments. 916-719-7296



Calendar of Events

For a complete list of all outings, hikes and activities, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/motherlode>

And in the blue bar, click on the "Outings" tab. Scroll down for current events. Only starred (*) activities below are sponsored and administered by the Sierra Club.

Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, Wed.* Placer Group Sierra Club ExCom meeting for members only. 6:30p.m. Round Table Pizsa, 6111 Horseshoe Bar Rd. E-mail Marilyn or Mike for more information.

Oct 10, Wednesday – Canyon Keepers

Hike 1(A) Lake Clementine Trail

Walk along a mostly level trail paralleling North Fork of American River from the Confluence to Lake Clementine Dam, approx 5 miles. We will eat lunch as we watch the water spill over the dam. Bring lunch, water, and \$ for parking or state parking pass. Meet at 9:00 am at the **Confluence Area, off Hwy 49 in Auburn**, by shade shelter just before OLD (low) Foresthill Bridge. No dogs. Rain cancels. Leader: Sheila Toner 530- 886-0673.

Oct 11, Thurs.

Auburn Dam History Program: The Dam That Never Was

A fascinating program with Steve Hubbard is the result of his lengthy, meticulous research that unravels previously unknown reasons why Auburn Dam was not built. Historic documents reveal how the 50-year struggle over the Auburn Dam influenced history with both intrigue, politics, and tactics used by government agencies. Join us for this very special event: **Thurs, Oct 11, 7 pm**, Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St, Free, Open to the public. For more info, email marilyn.jasper@MLC.SierraClub.org.

Oct 17, Wednesday

Hike 1(A) Little Bald Mt Loop (Senior Section)

Hike starts at Robinson Flat campgrounds. We'll hike up to the ridge via a series of switchbacks (approx 600 ft elevation gain) and have lunch at the top while enjoying the awesome 360-degree views of the Sierra Nevada's. Trail down provides a nice hike through the woods. Hike is approx 4 miles round trip. Have lunch, plenty of water and rain gear in case of afternoon showers. Rain cancels. No dogs. Meet in Auburn at Burger King, on Lincoln Way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 at 9:00 am. Leader: Sheila Toner, 530-886-0673.

Oct 20, Saturday

Auburn Comm Festival : Visit Your Placer Group

Placer Group Sierra Club will have a booth at this annual, fun-filled festival. Drop by to say "Hello," learn about us, and volunteer for interesting projects, support us by purchasing a gorgeous 2019 calendar (if any are left). **Sat, Oct 20**, 10 am to 4 pm (weather permitting) at Recreation Park, 123 Recreation Drive, Auburn (near Auburn-Folsom Road, across from Gold Country Fairgrounds parking lot).

Nov 14, Wednesday - Canyon Keepers Hike

Hike (1A) Olmstead Loop

We'll make an approx 5 mile loop in the southern half of the Olmstead Loop area of ASRA in Cool. Our loop will take us among rolling oak woodlands and meadows and past a large pond on Knickerbocker Creek. Trail may be muddy in spots if recent rains. Meet at Burger King, on Lincoln way at Foresthill Exit off I-80 in Auburn at 9:30 A.M. or at trailhead at 10:00 A.M. If meeting at trailhead, please call for exact meeting location in Cool. Bring lunch, water and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Leader: Sheila Toner, 530- 886-0673.

November 15, Thursday—Placer Land Trust, Annual

Conservator of the Year Award—5:30 p.m., Dinner and Fundraiser for PLT. For tickets, go to www.placerlandtrust.org

Nov 28, Wednesday

Hike (1A) Greenwood Creek/ Magnolia Ranch (senior section)

Pretty, approx 4 mile fairly level loop hike along the South Fork American River. We'll spend some time alongside and overlooking the South Fork. Plan on a long lunch break by the river. This short hike has it all, views, sandy beach, rocky beach, forested trails, open meadow, sun, & shade. Bring lunch, water and essentials. No dogs. Rain cancels. Meet at 9:30 am at Burger King on Lincoln Way in Auburn at Foresthill Exit off I-80 in Auburn. Leader: Sheila Toner, 530.886.0673 Sheila Toner shetoner@att.net

About Us: Placer Group Sierra Club P.O. Box 7167 Auburn, CA 95604

<http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/placer>

Executive Committee

Chair: Michael Garabedian michaelgarabedian@earthlink.net

Vice Chair: Marilyn Jasper (email below)

Secretary: Arlene Jamar

Treasurer: Tony Rakocija amrakoc@pacbell.net

Other ExCom Members:

Two positions Open—

Other Issues/Contacts

Conservation Chair: marilyn.jasper@MLC.sierraclub.org

Renewable Energy: Carroll Nast canasta@colfaxnet.com

Website: marilyn.jasper@MLC.sierraclub.org

Air Quality, Fundraising, and more: [Your name here!]

The Sierra Conservationist is published quarterly:

January, April, July online and printed in October by the all-volunteer Placer Group Sierra Club, a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization. We invite your letters, comments, and input. Newsletter deadline is 15 days prior to the end of each yearly quarter. Publication is the first of each quarter. Our newsletter can also be accessed on our Placer Group website.

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Please consider stepping up and volunteering for the many Placer County issues (incorporated areas, special districts, etc.) that need attention. Attend meetings as a "watch dog"; help keep us informed. At this time, we need members to volunteer more than ever!

2019 Sierra Club Calendar Order Form:

ALERT: At press time, we're almost sold out. Except for those who "pre-ordered," please email marilyn.jasper@MLC.sierraclub.org to **confirm** availability **before** ordering. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST ZIP: _____

Phone and/or email: _____

Price + Shipping* x Quantity = Total

Wall \$16 + \$7 ea* x _____ = \$_____

Desk \$17 + \$7 ea* x _____ = \$_____

Total Calendar Order: \$_____

Additional Donation (greatly appreciated!): \$_____

Check enclosed—Total Amount Due: \$_____

*No Shipping/Postage fees IF you pick up or "meet up." (Sales tax is already included in price.)

Please make check payable to: **Sierra Club** and mail check and form to: **Sierra Club, P.O. Box 7167, Auburn, CA 95604.**

CALL FOR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Help other members know our conservation efforts and the environmental news in Placer County. Hard copy and online newsletter functions like article planning, author finding and mentoring, text editing, layout--all needs volunteers from start to destination. Contact Mike, 916-719-7296, michaelgarabedian@earthlnk.net — Mike

Please VOTE: Placer Group Sierra Club Executive Committee Election

Placer Group's bylaws set its six elected Executive Committee (ExCom) volunteers' terms for two years, and elections for three of those six seats are "alternated" every other year. Placer Group currently has two seats "open."

Monthly ExCom meetings are open to Sierra Club members only, who are encouraged to voice their opinions. However, only the six elected ExCom members may vote on issues. For more info, email: marilyn.jasper@MLC.sierraclub.org.

One member is running for Sierra Club Placer Group's Executive Committee. Please vote and mail your ballots by **December 1, 2018.**

Joint memberships use both "VOTE" columns. To validate your ballot, please include your return ad-

MEMBERSHIP

The Sierra Conservationist comes with your Sierra Club membership. Donations to help defray costs are very much appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone and/or Email (optional) or comments: _____

Check enclosed VISA Mastercard

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Membership

Categories	Individual	Joint
<u>Introductory</u>	\$25	n/a
<u>Regular</u>	\$39	\$49
<u>Supporting</u>	\$60	\$68
<u>Contributing</u>	\$120	\$128
<u>Senior, Student</u>	\$25	\$25
<u>Life</u>	\$1,000	\$1,250

Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to:

F94QW-0910
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL
32142-6417

Note: Contributions, gifts, or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible as charitable donations. The Sierra Club is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c)4 organization.

dress on the envelope and write "**Ballot**" on the envelope. Mail to:

Sierra Club, P.O. Box 7167, Auburn, CA 95604

Candidate Statements

Michael Garabedian: Volunteer Sierra Club observers are needed to attend natural area and community meetings near you. Go online to <https://www.placer.ca.gov/bos/mac>s and watch a Municipal Advisory Council near you. Let Placer Group know If you'd like to observe more or get involved in a conservation issue you learn about. michaelgarabedian@earthlink.net, 916-719-7296

CANDIDATE VOTE 1 VOTE 2

Michael Garabedian _____

Construction cranes by SR 65 viaduct

Sierra Club Does Not Oppose New I-80 back-up Relief Project

Voters in 2016 did not entirely stop the \$300-million Southern California style I-80/SR 65 interchange improvements.

To address the accident prone lengthy back-up of west-bound I-80 traffic exiting onto northbound SR 65, construction started in September on a \$70 million, 3-year long Phase 1 Interchange improvement project. This project for the elevated viaduct and Galleria interchange has final approvals, is funded, and is proceeding as planned without Sierra Club opposition.

This Phase 1 Interchange project is not without problems. Placer Group is monitoring it as a case study of post-project approval environmental management and PCTPA has agreed to meet with us. We are following:

- Construction and tree removal during swallow nesting and related migratory bird treaty and EIR mitigation.
- Ancient oak trees removed with a Rocklin over-the-counter permit and a Roseville Planning Commission permit hearing with a \$1,327 appeal fee,
- Housing impacts of construction and operation by moving viaduct traffic closer to buildings including a low and moderate income apartment complex, and
- Heavy construction including pile driving in Antelope Creek, a salmon stream.



The I-80/SR65 \$300 million sales tax portion interchange Improvements not funded when Measure M failed to pass in 2016. North of I-80, the far right internal curve viaduct over Antelope Creek is now being improved by a \$70 million 3-year safety project.

Lawsuit on SR 65 widening North of Pleasant Grove



Sierra Club is suing Caltrans about the proposal to widen six miles of SR 65 between Pleasant Grove and Lincoln because Caltrans and Placer County Transportation Agency (PCTPA) didn't prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). An EIR would have included alternatives to adding lanes like transit.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires EIRs when there's a fair argument that a project may have a significant negative impact on the environment. Instead, Caltrans and PCTPA, which includes County Supervisors and city council members, prepared a "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (MND). The MND also doesn't address biking, walking, or stimulating sprawl. It dismisses greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and vehicles miles traveled (VMT) issues. **Continued**

Periodic proposals to "streamline" CEQA aim to reduce or eliminate the public, homeowner and decision maker right to know about environmental impacts. Increasing wildfire and heavy weather events demonstrate the need to strengthen CEQA disclosure.

The need for CEQA grows each year. The easiest, flattest, least environmentally damaging and least expensive places to build are long gone.

Chair's Column

Anything Troubling You About Planning in Placer County?

I've hiked the North Fork American River from Discovery Park at the Sacramento River to Pickering Bar near Gold Run, and places beyond. This led to my first planning hearing in Placer County in May 2004 on the environmental document for the County's proposed North Fork American River Trail project.

That trail is not built from the Confluence to Ponderosa Way, but I've scouted an alternate route that might get some recognition in the new Auburn State Recreation Area Plan or the first ever County Parks and Trail Master plan. Both plans are being written.

Those plans will be two or so meetings out of 10 or more that I go to a month. I've seen much to be admired from our hard-working land use staff in Planning and the County Executive's office. But after 14 years I have some troubling observations:

- The project development approval process frequently gains irreversible momentum before the public has an opportunity to become effectively engaged. An example of this is waiting for draft CEQA documents to come out instead of engaging from the start.
- Property rights of those who want to develop are regularly increased at the expense of the property rights of neighbors who do not plan to develop.
- Neighborhoods and rural areas can be destabilized by planning decisions.
- The County regularly uses its discretion to increase project impacts, but adheres to the minimum required by law when it comes to environmental public health, safety and welfare. This is especially true when it comes to applying fire prevention science and engineering to land division decisions, though this has been changing. Land use issues are for other columns.
- Final approved project conditions or other requirements may later be reduced.

What's your experience? Mike 916-719-7296 or michaelgarabedian@earthlink



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INSIDE

- South County future: Sierra Club goals vs County goals, page 1
- 2016 Measure M transportation sales tax loss fallout, page 2
- North-South Rail Transit options for South Placer, page 2
- Calendar of Hikes, Meetings and Events, page 3
- Order form for 2019 Sierra Club Calendars, page 4
- SR 65 lawsuit north of Pleasant Grove Exit: the real story, page 5
- I-80 back-up relief construction on SR 65 viaduct, page 5
- Anything bugging you about Placer County planning? Page 5

Let's Keep Roseville and Lincoln Separate Cities



For most of their history Roseville and Rocklin were distinct cities with agriculture and open space between them. Then they were squashed together and are now indistinguishable along Highway 65.

Development is rapidly filling in between Roseville and Lincoln. Time is ripe to keep these cities separate from each other by establishing a greenbelt between them to avoid this mistake.

A good example is the Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt along Interstate 80

City boundaries are decided by the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission, known as a LAFCO. Its board members are appointed by the county, city and special district governing bodies they are elected to. LAFCOs are independent from the County, and their charge includes maintaining open space.

Let's not create more "Rockvilles and Roselins"

VOTE NOVEMBER 6!



SIERRA CLUB ENDORSEMENTS

Governor:	Gavin Newsom
Attorney General:	Xavier Becerra
Secretary of State:	Alex Padilla
Controller:	Betty Yee
Insurance Commissioner:	Ricardo Laura
Proposition 1 Affordable Housing	Support
Proposition 3 Water Supply	Oppose
Proposition 6 Repeal gas tax	Oppose
Proposition 10 Rent Control	Support
Proposition 12 Farm Animal	Support

<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/2018-endorsements>

House of Representatives

Congressional District 4: Jessica Morse

<https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/endorsements>