



**Tuesday, June 08, 2004**

## **County tries to finish General Plan**

*Petition circulating to stop Supervisors' latest efforts*

**By Ryan Rose**

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General Plans and El Dorado County do not go together well.

While the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors attempt to write a new General Plan, another citizens group is trying to take the process hostage.

Their ransom: no more traffic gridlock in El Dorado County.

Calling themselves the No Gridlock Committee, the group began circulating a petition last week in an effort to halt approval of a new general plan.

El Dorado County District Four Supervisor Charlie Paine, Placerville Mayor Kathi Lishman, and former El Dorado County Supervisors Sam Bradley and Bill Center signed the notice of intention to circulate the petition.

According to a letter issued by Paine, Lishman and Bradley, the group claims the board will approve the defunct 1996 General Plan, calling it the 2004 General Plan. The group claims that after voting to approve the plan on a preliminary basis, the board has in essence agreed to "allow 40,000 more new housing units, beyond the 20,000 housing units that have already been approved, but are not yet developed."

The No Gridlock Committee claims this general plan will make traffic jams as common as foothills in El Dorado County.

"This action blatantly flies in the face of what residents have repeatedly said they want for this county," the letter reads. "The 1996 General Plan (allowing the most growth and the least requirements for adequate infrastructure to support the growth) was rejected three times."

They claim past and present boards have failed to meet infrastructure needs while proceeding with developments.

If the initiative makes it to the November ballot and is approved by voters, it would amend the El Dorado County Charter preventing supervisors from adopting a general plan that allows "traffic congestion" and postponing approval of new single-family residences until Highway 50 has been expanded to eight lanes.

Petitioners are asking for support from residents. Interested parties can write the No Gridlock Committee at 685 Placerville Dr. PMB 391, Placerville, CA 95667.

The movement, however, is already meeting with resistance.

In a letter to the No Gridlock Committee, El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce Chairman Wayne Lowery raised objections on behalf of the chamber members.

"Although we share your concern the existing roadway system is inadequate and lacked the necessary planning and implementation of funding mechanisms to prevent the traffic congestion we face today, we do not believe that shutting down residential development in El Dorado County will correct the problem," said Lowery. "Managed growth, in fact, is much more likely to cure the vehicle overload on our streets and highways. Measure Y (a law that forces developers to pay for traffic mitigation) was adopted to assure that new development would address traffic circulation issues."

Lowery also said the current board is meticulously sculpting a general plan to avoid repeating past mistakes.

He also stressed the chamber rejected Measure G as means to institute a General Plan. "The El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce Board opposed Measure G because it believes that planning by initiative results in poor planning," Lowery said.

The chamber believes the No Gridlock Committee is taking "undue liberty to interpret the defeat of Measure G," Lowery noted adding they "hope you will rethink the ramifications of such a draconian measure."

For more information on the general plan process, visit the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors online at [www.  
http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html).