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## **Fire Safety**

Fire safety is a primary issue facing D2. I support a comprehensive and strategic approach to fire safety.

**Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience**

* Calaveras County does not have a dedicated Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience. The Office of Emergency Services is tasked with responding to local emergencies. OES has taken on many responsibilities to address fire safety but is not equipped to meet the day to day demands of wildfire preparedness and resilience.
* I support the creation of an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience modeled after [El Dorado County’s OWPR](https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Public-Safety-Justice/Wildfire-Disaster/Office-of-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Resilience). In 2022 El Dorado County allocated $420,000 to create their OWPR.
* A Calaveras County OWPR will develop and implement countywide wildfire protection strategies and priorities; coordinate large multi-stakeholder efforts and prioritize and direct funding and resources to help protect our communities from wildfires.

**Fire Resilient Landscapes**

* There are 10,000 acres of strategic fire breaks and fuel reduction projects in District 2 because of the work of individuals like Pat McGreevy and Jan Bray of the Cal Am team, and organizations such as the Fire Safe Council and the Resource Conservation District.
* Long term maintenance of our strategic fire breaks and fuel reduction projects will require treatment of 1,000 acres every year over a ten year period.
* I am committed to maintaining and expanding fire breaks and fuel reduction projects that protect our communities from catastrophic wildfires.

**Firewise Communities**

* [Firewise USA](https://www.nfpa.org/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Firewise-USA) is a program of the National Fire Protection Association providing certification to communities that adopt specific fire safety efforts.
* [Along Highway 4](https://drive.google.com/open?id=15NyykJYteUhhi0qhuWpyry73nF8Bbp2g) there are eight Firewise Communities. In District 2 there are only two Firewise Communities (Sheep Ranch, El Loma HOA).
* As Supervisor I will work with community members to establish [Firetwise Communities](https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/firewise-communities/) throughout the District.

 **Community Wildfire Protection Plans**

* Another important element of community based Fire resilience is the development of[Community Wildfire Protection Plans](https://www.calaverasfiresafecouncil.org/Documents/CWPP%20V2020.1.pdf) for each individual community in D2.
* Fuel Reduction Projects identified in CWPP receive priority for federal funds.
* Glencoe is the only community in District 2 to adopt their own Community Wildfire Protection Plan. As Supervisor I will support Community Wildfire Protection Plans across D2.

**Fire Risk Reduction Community List by 2026**

* The California Fire Risk Reduction Community List is a list of local agencies in fire prone areas that meet the best practices for local fire planning.
* The list maintained and developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.
* Implementing a comprehensive strategy to address wildfire prevention through the creation of an OWPR, developing [Firewise Communities](https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/firewise-communities/) and [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](https://cafiresafecouncil.org/resources/community-wildfire-protection-plans/) to maintain and expand existing fire breaks and fuel reduction projects we will be better positioned in 2026 when applications for the [Fire Risk Reduction Community List](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list/) reopen.

**Defensible Space**

* In addition to landscape and community based wildfire prevention efforts it is essential to protect homes and businesses.
* Existing programs through the [Calaveras Foothill Fire Safe Council](https://www.calaverasfiresafecouncil.org) provide individual homeowner home hardening and defensible space programs, additional resources are available specifically for [senior citizens](https://www.calaverasfiresafecouncil.org/Documents/Seniors%20Application%202024.doc).
* Additional funding for home-hardening may eventually become available through the [Home Hardening Assistance Program](https://wildfiretaskforce.org/home-hardening-assistance/).

**Evacuation Preparedness Plan**

* I support adopting and implementing the [*Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan*](https://calacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/FINAL_Evac_Access_Needs_Assessment_Preparedness_Plan.log_.pdf).
* Improving access for emergency service vehicles and implementing a comprehensive evacuation plan will reduce the risk and mitigate the impact of future wildfires.
* As supervisor I pledge to work to secure funding to implement the plan.

**Effective Wildlife Response**

* Wildfire response in District 2 is covered by the [Mokelumne Hill Fire Protection District](https://www.mokehillfire.org), [West Point Fire Protection District](https://www.westpointfire.org), [Central Calaveras Fire District](https://www.centralcalaverasfire.org), [CalFire](https://34c031f8-c9fd-4018-8c5a-4159cdff6b0d-cdn-endpoint.azureedge.net/-/media/osfm-website/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-plan/2024/2024-tuolumne-calaveras-east-san-joaquin-east-stanislaus-unit-fire-plan.pdf?rev=1317fa4dea484bce990c987fc7786997&hash=0DDD2013A8F2EE56C6508FCC6FB70351) Tuolumne - Calaveras Unit.
* I supported Measure A. I volunteered on the campaign for Measure A walking door to door to get out the vote to support our local Firefighters.
* Maintaining critical infrastructure is essential to effective wildfire response. As Supervisor I will encourage collaboration between the County and Special Districts to make sure we are maintaining our critical infrastructure.

## **Homeowners Insurance**

The cost and availability of homeowners insurance is impacting all of us. Like many District 2 residents we are in the California Fair Plan because no other insurer will provide us coverage. I know it feels like there is nothing we can do however there are tangible steps we can take as individual property owners and as a community to reduce our fire insurance costs as part of the [Safer From Wildfires Initiative](https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm):

* At the County level we can create an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience to build local capacity, coordinate and implement fire safety projects.
* At the community level we can develop [Firewise Communities](https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/firewise-communities/), [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](https://cafiresafecouncil.org/resources/community-wildfire-protection-plans/) and work toward being added to the [Fire Risk Reduction Community List](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list/) by 2026.
* At the level of the individual homeowner we must support home hardening and defensible space programs, particularly for [senior citizens](https://www.calaverasfiresafecouncil.org/Documents/Seniors%20Application%202024.doc).
* Every action taken under the [Safer From Wildfires Initiative](https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm) will help qualify homeowners for insurance discounts.

## **Economic Development**

Calaveras County is a severely economically disadvantaged County, and District 2 is the most economically disadvantaged District in the County. Economic development is a top priority for most District 2 residents who feel the effects of the lack of economic opportunities. As Supervisor I will prioritize economic development that fits the rural and historic character of Calaveras County.

**Agriculture**

Calaveras County is still largely an agricultural economy. Local agricultural producers are the backbone of our economy generating tens of millions of dollars in economic activity drawing in tourists and preserving our small towns, open space and scenic beauty. I support Value-Added opportunities in agriculture:

* The development of local USDA inspected mobile slaughter and packing facilities will create jobs, capture value-added opportunities for local producers. This economic activity is currently lost to outside operators along the supply chain, bringing in revenue and economic activity to other jurisdictions across the State.
* Expanding local farmers markets and direct-to-consumer opportunities for local producers will generate more economic activity, attract visitors and improve access to locally produced food.
* By building a local food supply chain we can ensure greater food security for local residents while also capturing economic activity and revenue that is currently being lost to other counties.

**Resource Management and Recreation**

* **Fire Breaks and Fuel Reduction:** Since the Butte Fire millions of dollars have come into Calaveras County to establish thousands of acres of **strategic** **fire breaks and fuel suppression projects** - the long term maintenance and expansion of these efforts requires ongoing funding, working with local contractors, licensed professionals and equipment operators we can develop fire safe landscapes and support the local economy.
* **Agricultural Lands**: I support rangeland conservation through the Williamson Act. I support address fire safety by working to secure **prescriptive grazing permits** for local ranchers. Supporting sustainable timber and forest land management and resource conservation practices reducing fuel loads, creating jobs in forestry, and developing recreational opportunities. Completing the construction of the cogeneration plant in Wilseyville and supporting the work of organizations like CHIPS.
* **Parks Trails and Recreation:** We have a unique opportunity to develop our parks, trails and recreational facilities throughout District 2, by supporting the work being done around West Point and Wilseyville, expanding the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail, creating useable trails and pathways in and around our historic town centers we can attract visitors and young families, support business and create jobs, and improve quality of life in District 2.

**Preservation of our Historic Town Centers**

* By adopting a **Historic Preservation Ordinance and creating Historic Preservation Districts** like the one in Angels Camp we can inventory our historic structures - which can help property owners access grants through the [Mills Act Program](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21412).
* In Mokelumne Hill the Hotel Leger recently reopened the rooms because of improvements funded by the Mills Act.
* Maintaining and showcasing our historic downtowns attracts visitors, supports local businesses, brings tax revenue into the County and preserves our rural character.

**Tourism**

* People come to Calaveras County because of our **open spaces, scenic vistas**; our **Forests**; our **Rivers** and reservoirs; they enjoy our **Parks and our Trails** and our **Recreational facilities and activities**; they come to see our **Historic town centers**; And they enjoy our **Food, Wine and Hospitality**.
* Expanding hotels and lodging facilities will attract more visitors and capture more revenue.
* By focusing on all of these areas we will attract more people to Calaveras and spur economic growth.

**Retail Businesses**

I support existing retail businesses in Calaveras County while attracting and encouraging the development of small businesses and local retail opportunities.

* I support eliminating the requirement that forces local businesses to have a Calaveras County issued business license. County issued business licenses are not required under state law. We have lost local small businesses because of the enforcement of this unnecessary regulation.
* I support the creation of a Local Business Committee bringing together representatives of the business community from across industries to improve collaboration and responsiveness of the County government to local small business’s needs.
* Supporting local business helps preserve and maintain the historic and rural character of our County.

**Calaveras County Airport**

I support economic development at the Calaveras County Airport Maury Rasmussen Field.

* Encourage the development of local tourism centered around Calaveras County Airport Maury Rasmussen Field attracting pilots from across the region to Calaveras County.
* Support efforts to develop vocational education programs at local high schools to create jobs and support general aviation and emergency services in Calaveras County.
* We can target Workforce Development grants from the Federal Aviation Authority to support training programs creating career opportunities for local youth.

Together we can create jobs and opportunities here in Calaveras County to help local families find good local employment and encourage local business to provide the necessary goods, services, and retail outlets to keep Calaveras dollars in Calaveras. Instead of sending our workers, our commerce and our tax revenue to surrounding counties we can keep that economic activity local generating opportunities for Calaveras residents.

## **Budget**

One of the most important jobs of a County Supervisor is to be fiscally responsible and pass a balanced budget that meets the needs of the community. I understand the importance of being fiscally conservative and living within our means. Over the last ten years Calaveras County has maintained a Structural Deficit with General Fund expenditures exceeding revenue by anywhere from $2 million to $12 million annually. During this time the County Budget has been balanced using one-time funds, contingency funds, and reserves.

* As Supervisor I will work to balance the County budget by improving the local economy generating economic productivity and revenue. We can start by eliminating the requirement that businesses have county issued business licenses. We can support the development of recreational tourism in District 2, and encourage businesses to grow and expand value added opportunities.
* I have worked with stakeholders across Calaveras County developing regulations for an industry that generates over $3 million in annual tax revenue for the County. Without this revenue the structural deficit would be significantly larger and the County would be forced to cut services, increase fees and taxes to fill the gap.

## **Senior Services**

**Medical Transportation Services For Seniors**

As Supervisor one of my top priorities will be restoring the medical transportation services for seniors in Calaveras County. Access to reliable transportation for medical appointments for seniors is an essential service.

* On June 30, 2024, Common Grounds Senior Services shutdown ending 25 years of dedicated service providing local Meals-on-Wheels and medical transportation for senior citizens.
* While Amador Senior Center has stepped up and will continue to provide Meals-on-Wheels to seniors in Calaveras County, the closure of Common Ground Senior Services has left a huge void in senior services.
* The Silver Streak Transport Program which provided transportation for seniors to medical appointments has been discontinued and no alternative service provider has been identified to meet the needs of our seniors.
* The lack of healthcare providers in District 2 forces residents to leave the area to access healthcare services.
* We have to provide critical transportation services for senior citizens in Calaveras County. It is unacceptable to allow this program to disappear.

**Cost of Living**

I know the cost of living, with inflation, increases to utility rates, fees, and taxes; the skyrocketing cost of fire insurance has forced senior citizens living on fixed incomes into financial dire straits pushing some out of their homes, off their properties and out of our communities because it’s simply becoming unaffordable to live in California.

**Homeowners Insurance**

* There are steps we can take to reduce the cost of fire insurance as part of the [Safer From Wildfires Initiative](https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm).
* At the County level we can create an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience to build local capacity, coordinate and implement fire safety projects.
* At the community level we can develop [Firewise Communities](https://readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/firewise-communities/), [Community Wildfire Protection Plans](https://cafiresafecouncil.org/resources/community-wildfire-protection-plans/) and work toward being added to the [Fire Risk Reduction Community List](https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/fire-risk-reduction-community-list/) by 2026.
* At the level of the individual homeowner we can support home hardening and defensible space programs, particularly for [senior citizens](https://www.calaverasfiresafecouncil.org/Documents/Seniors%20Application%202024.doc).

**Rate Increases**

* Utility rates for power, sewer, and water have all significantly increased for CCWD, CPUD, and PG&E customers.
* There are programs available to provide assistance to cover the rising utility rates for [seniors](https://www.atcaa.org/utility-bill-assistance).
* The County and the Special Districts need to do a better job of working together to coordinate, plan and fund the regular maintenance upkeep of local infrastructure and reduce the burden on local ratepayers.

**Housing**

* We have an aging housing stock in District 2 that requires upkeep and maintenance that many residents, particularly senior citizens, simply can’t afford.
* We can proactively assist seniors citizens by connecting them with the [504 Grant Program](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hb-1-3550_2.pdf) to help maintain their homes.

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## **Housing**

In Calaveras County there is a significant housing shortage impacting the availability and affordability of housing in the area. There is not enough housing stock to meet local [housing demand](https://www.calaverasenterprise.com/articles/news/county-seeks-to-incentivize-affordable-housing-development-with-state-funds-invites-public-input/). New home construction is essentially cost prohibitive for all of us living in California. I understand that we have to do everything we can to reduce the cost of construction to encourage building to meet the demands of our local housing needs.

**Butte Fire Recovery and Title 25**

We still have not fully recovered from the Butte Fire. The Butte Fire destroyed over 900 structures and over 500 homes.

* Butte Fire Recovery and the housing needs of those who lost their homes in the fire is a top priority
* I support reducing costs and streamlining the building process for anyone who is still rebuilding from the Butte Fire.
* After the Butte Fire **I worked with a group of local citizens who were burned out in the fire to get** [**Title 25 of the State Building Code**](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=10338) **adopted in** [**Calaveras County**](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=10337&MeetingID=2270) **reducing regulations and cost of new home construction by eliminating the requirement for in-home sprinkler systems.**
* As Supervisor I will advocate amendments to [Chapter 15.12 the LIMITED DENSITY OWNER-BUILT RURAL DWELLINGS Ordinance](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=10337&MeetingID=2270) to incentivize more property owners to build new homes under Title 25.

**Workforce Housing**

There is a lack of Workforce Housing Calaveras County, forcing people into long commute times, hampering recruitment and retention, negatively impacting the quality of life for working families.

* I support the development of workforce housing in Calaveras County for working families earning between $43k-$98k (60%-120% of the area median income).
* In San Andreas there is a ten-parcel multi-family housing project that has completely stalled. We need to re-engage the Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority to move forward with this project to improve Workforce Housing in the area.

**Housing Element - Land Use and Planning**

* The [Housing Element of the General Plan](https://planning.calaverasgov.us/API/Evotiva-UserFiles/FileActionsServices/DownloadFile?ItemId=46865&ModuleId=6692&TabId=1172) is a mandatory planning document required by state law. The Housing Element is how the County assesses housing as well as infrastructure needs and determines how to meet these needs.
* The [Housing Element](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=24209&MeetingID=2420) must be updated in 2027 - this will determine the county’s access to funding for housing and infrastructure and it will shape local housing policy throughout the County for the next decade.

**Home Improvement and Maintenance Programs**

In District 2 we have an aging housing stock that requires upkeep and maintenance that many of our residents simply can’t afford because of increases in cost of living caused by inflation, utility rates, homeowners insurance, County fees and taxes.

* The County needs to proactively assist homeowners maintain existing and aging homes by connecting them with the [504 Grant](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/hb-1-3550_2.pdf) and [fixed rate low interest loan programs](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1073).
* The County needs to also proactively assist homeowners by participating in the Safer from Wildfires Program to help homeowners qualify for homeowners insurance discounts.

## **Transportation**

Road maintenance and traffic safety are significant issues throughout District 2.

**Medical Transportation for Seniors**

* The closure of Common Ground Senior Services on June 30, 2024, has left a huge void in senior care for Calaveras residents.
* The Silver Streak Transport Program which provided transportation for seniors to medical appointments has been discontinued and no alternative service provider has been identified to meet the needs of our seniors.
* As Supervisor I will work to restore medical transportation services for senior citizens in Calaveras County.

**Evacuation and Emergency Services**

* Maintaining safe open roadways is absolutely essential for our community. Today there are roughly 200 road improvement projects in D2 identified in the draft[Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan](https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d5beeb5f-281a-48d6-8cf3-fd8801167e9a/Calaveras%20Evac%20Needs%20and%20Prep%20Plan_2023-07-25_.pdf).
* As supervisor, I pledge to adopt and implement the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan*and to secure the necessary state and federal funding to complete the projects to address day-to-day transportation as well as emergency service and evacuation needs of D2 residents.

**Traffic Safety Around Schools**

* There is a significant need to address traffic safety around our local elementary schools.
* As Supervisor I will support developing Safe Routes to Schools in West Point and Mokelumne Hill improving traffic safety around all of our schools in Calaveras County.

**Workforce Housing and Job Creation**

* Calaveras residents spend significantly more time commuting to and from work compared with residents in surrounding Counties. Over half of the Calaveras County labor force commutes to work outside of the County. By creating local job opportunities and workforce housing near places of employment we can reduce commute times while improving traffic safety.

## **Public Safety**

Public safety takes many forms. It’s safety from catastrophic wildfires. It’s safe roads and accessibility for emergency services. It’s access to healthcare and mental health services. It’s about access to educational, recreational and economic opportunities. It’s about providing Law Enforcement and our communities the tools to work collaboratively to reduce crime and improve public safety. Public Safety is directly related to the degree to which we as a community embrace a shared commitment to one another’s well being in all facets of our daily lives.

**Fire Safety**

* We need a comprehensive approach to Wildfire prevention that includes the creation of a Calaveras County Office of Wildfire Preparedness, to coordinate between local state and federal partners to maintain and improve **Fire Resilient Landscapes, develop Fire Resilient Communities, and ensure Effective Wildfire Response.**
* We must also work to provide defensible space, home hardening, fire safe vegetation and landscaping programs for local homeowners as part of the [Safer From Wildfires Initiative](https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm) to help reduce the cost of homeowners insurance.
* We need to identify and secure grant funding opportunities for structural fire safety needs of Legacy Disadvantaged Communities in the District.

**Traffic Safety**

* We need to create jobs and opportunities in Calaveras to reduce local commutes.
* We need to adopt the evacuation preparedness plan and complete the more than 200 improvement projects in D2.
* We need to improve traffic safety around local elementary schools.

**Prevention**

* Providing residents with educational, recreational and economic opportunities and constructive outlets to participate in the community is critical to addressing public safety. Healthcare and mental health services are essential aspects of the health and well being of our communities. I will support Health and Human Services to address people’s needs before they’re forced to rely on emergency services. Food, shelter, a sense of community and belonging are all part of our commitment to public safety.

**Public Safety Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

* Addressing recruitment and retention of trained personnel in the Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Services and our local Fire Districts is a top priority. We have to have a holistic approach to attract, train and retrain local first responders and public safety personnel.

**Funding Law Enforcement Impact Fee**

* I support the implementation of a Law Enforcement Impact Fee on all new commercial and residential developments impacting public safety services so we can maintain and improve public safety throughout the County. In 2008 the Sheriff's Department conducted a nexus study to evaluate the impact of new development on local law enforcement. To date the County Board of Supervisors has chosen not to adopt a Law Enforcement Impact Fee. As a result local law enforcement and public safety services are underfunded and over stretched.

## **Land Use**

The General Plan is considered the Constitution of the local land use policy. One of the primary responsibilities of the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors is to adopt and implement local land use policy.

Calaveras County has a long history of inadequate and inconsistent General Plans and controversial land use decisions. The last General Plan Update took over a decade to complete, with waste and mismanagement causing delays and wasting taxpayers’ money.

**Experience and Approach to Land Use Policy**

* I participated in the General Plan Update submitting public comments with the local organizations to help craft the existing General Plan adopted in 2019.
* I have experience developing common sense land use policy moving commercial cannabis activity out of residential neighborhoods onto appropriately zoned parcels helping to create an industry that generates tens of millions of dollars in annual economic activity bringing $3.2 million in annual tax revenue to the County. .
* I believe community input is essential for developing land use policy. I support the creation and implementation of Community Plans for every community in Calaveras County. As Supervisor, I will work with local communities to develop appropriate land use policies that fit the needs and character of each locality.
* I believe all residential and commercial developments must be connected to existing services or pay for the cost of additional services - roads, telecommunications, water, sewer, electricity, schools, parks, fire protection, and law enforcement.

**General Plan Implementation**

* The current General Plan adopted in 2019 contains over 190 implementation measures. The General Plan being implemented on a piecemeal basis.
* I support developing a timeline for Implementation of the General Plan.
* I also support prioritizing the implementation of projects currently underway particularly the Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan.

**Open Space Plan Update**

* [State law requires](https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-government-code/title-7-planning-and-land-use/division-1-planning-and-zoning/chapter-3-local-planning/article-105-open-space-lands/section-655655-updates-to-local-open-space-plan) local jurisdictions to update the Open Space Plans by January 1, 2026.
* As part of this update we must update the Safety Element of our General Plan creating an opportunity to improve outreach, coordination and policy making to ensure public safety.

**Housing Element Update**

* The [Housing Element of the General Plan](https://planning.calaverasgov.us/API/Evotiva-UserFiles/FileActionsServices/DownloadFile?ItemId=46865&ModuleId=6692&TabId=1172) is a mandatory planning document required by state law. The [Housing Element](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=24209&MeetingID=2420) must be updated in 2027 - this will impact the County’s ability to access funding for housing and infrastructure and it will determine local housing policy in Calaveras County for the next decade.

**Recruitment and Retention of Planning Staff**

* The Planning Dept has been woefully understaffed for years. As a result many projects are outsourced to outside consultants, and projects like the General Plan Update have been beset with delays and cost overruns.
* Adequately staffing the Planning Department will add local jobs and save taxpayers money spent in outside consulting firms and it will allow the County to engage in proactive planning which improves long term development, public safety and hazard mitigation efforts.
* This is essential to grow our local economy, address our housing needs, protect our communities and to preserve our rural character and natural resources.

## **CUSD Budget**

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors is not directly responsible for local schools which are governed by the School Districts. Nevertheless the Board of Supervisors has a responsibility to support, encourage and create educational opportunities for local residents.

The Calaveras Unified School District is facing a massive budget deficit. Mokelumne Hill and West Point Elementary have been taken off the chopping block for his school year, we all know that a State takeover and the closure of our schools is still a very real possibility.

**Mokelumne Hill and West Point Elementary**

* As a parent with two kids in elementary school my top priority is keeping West Point Elementary and Mokelumne Hill Elementary open. Our community schools are the heart and soul of our towns and our communities.
* The Board of Supervisors needs to coordinate with local School Districts, School Boards, and Administrators to identify funding opportunities and ways the County can support our students and teachers.
* We must work with the Community Budget Advisory Committee and CUSD to maintain busing services, vocational education and enrichment programs in our local schools.

In the end it is up to all of us to come together as a community to take responsibility for our schools and work together to find solutions to address the fiscal crisis impacting CUSD.

## **Educational Opportunities**

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors can support lifelong educational opportunities for local residents and our communities.

**Libraries**

* Our libraries are a social hub connecting residents with each other and with vital services that make all of our lives better.
* I support the mobile library program expanding library services throughout the county.
* Our local libraries provide enrichment programs, the summer lunch and reading programs for kids.
* As Supervisor I will continue to support our local libraries to ensure we continue to have public learning institutions that serve everyone in our communities.

**Vocational Education**

* I support our existing vocational education programs in Calaveras County. As the Grand Jury report notes Calaveras County Schools provide exceptional job training and skills development programs
* I support agriculture, ranching, forestry, land management, fire prevention, recreation, hospitality and healthcare services to help train and retain skilled labor here in the County. I support developing vocational opportunities at the Calaveras County Airport targeting [Aviation Workforce Development Grants](https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ang/grants/awd/awards) to help create local high skill job training opportunities.

## **Parks Trails and Recreation**

Calaveras has many thriving and revitalized community parks and recreational facilities that serve our communities. I support work being done by local communities to maintain and improve ***their*** local parks and recreational facilities.

**Countywide Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

* Calaveras County is currently working on a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will help the County secure grant funding and plan future development of parks and recreational facilities in Calaveras County.

**Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Plan**

* Calaveras Council of Governance which oversees transportation planning in Calaveras County is currently working on the [Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Plan](https://walkandbikecalaveras.org/the-project/) (ATRTP). The ATRTP will shape future development of trails and active transportation in our towns and surrounding areas. Developing our local trails will improve connectivity, recreational opportunities and quality of living for Calaveras residents.

There are vast tracts of public lands and forest roads that can be opened up and developed to create parks, hiking trails, and recreational facilities throughout District 2 for local residents and recreational tourists. Well maintained parks and recreational opportunities improve the quality of living, attract young families to stay or move to the area, as well as attracting tourists generating economic activity and revenue for the County.

## **Animal Shelter**

The Calaveras County Animal Shelter is inadequate. Decades of neglect and mismanagement by the Board of Supervisors have resulted in numerous scathing Grand Jury reports. The lack of facilities and staff creates dangerous and unsafe conditions for County employees, volunteers and the animals in our shelter.

* The Board of Supervisors has allocated nearly $4 million for construction of a new animal shelter voting 4-1 to move forward with the project. While $4m is a good start it does not begin to cover the full projected cost of the first phase of construction.
* There is grant funding available through the California for All Animals, the county must seek out funding opportunities and prioritize completion of this project.
* Throughout the campaign I have expressed support for the animal shelter helping to raise awareness and supporting the work of local volunteers and Gimme Shelter, a local advocacy group raising funds to support the shelter project.
* As Supervisor I will support Animal Services and the completion of the animal shelter project.

## **Maintaining Historical and Rural Character**

I support maintaining and preserving the historic and rural character of Calaveras County. Each of the D2 community plans emphasize the importance of maintaining and preserving the Historic and Rural Character of our communities.

There are a number of ways we can maintain the historic and rural character of our County.

* By adopting a **Historic Preservation Ordinance and creating Historic Preservation Districts** like the one in Angels Camp we can inventory our historic structures - which can help property owners access grants through the [Mills Act Program](https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21412).
* In Mokelumne Hill the Hotel Leger recently reopened the rooms because of improvements funded by the Mills Act.
* Maintaining and showcasing our historic downtowns attracts visitors, supports local businesses, brings tax revenue into the County and preserves our rural character.

## **District 2 Communities**

### **West Point**

* **West Point Elementary:** Support the long term viability of West Point Elementary School by working with the Community Budget Advisory Committee, the West Point community, and CUSD to make sure West Point Elementary remains open.
* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: I am committed to working with the local Blue Mountain Emergency Preparedness Committee and the West Point Lions Club to ensure West Point Community Hall, which serves as the local evacuation center, is able to meet the needs of the West Point community in the case of an emergency. By adopting and implementing the *Evacuation and Access Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service needs of the West Point community.
* **Recreational Economy**: I support the development of the local recreational economy in and around West Point by improving access to public lands; supporting small businesses; developing trails, and recreational facilities to create jobs and attract recreational tourism for people to enjoy the scenic beauty of the upcountry region of District 2.
* **Safe Streets and Walkability**: Through the Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Plan we can develop trails, paths and safe routes to schools, improving the safety and walkability of West Point for all pedestrians.

### **Wilseyville**

* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: I am committed to working with the local Blue Mountain Emergency Preparedness Committee and to ensure West Point Community Hall, which serves as the local evacuation shelter, is able to meet the needs of the Wilseyville community in the case of an emergency. By adopting and implementing the *Evacuation and Access Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service needs of Wilseyville residents.
* **Recreational Economy**: I Support the continued development of the local recreational economy in and around Wilseyville. We can continue to improve access to public lands; support local small businesses; develop trails and recreational facilities in and around Wilseyville to create jobs and attract recreational tourism for people to enjoy the scenic beauty of the upcountry region of District 2.
* **Resource Conservation and Land Management:** I Support the completion of the 3 megawatt Cogeneration Biomass Plant in Wilseyville to create jobs, electricity and heating for local residents, while reducing fuels in surrounding forests, developing a sustainable local economy around fire prevention and land management.
* **West Point Elementary:** I support the long term viability of West Point Elementary School to ensure it remains open so schoolchildren are able to attend a local elementary school in the area.

### **Mountain Ranch**

* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of additional Firewise Communities in and around Mountain Ranch and by developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: I support the effort to get lights on the ball field to provide lighting for emergency medical evacuations and for staging in case of a disaster. By implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service needs of Mountain Ranch residents.
* **Mountain Ranch Community Facilities**: The County has a responsibility to support maintenance and improvements to the facilities in Mountain Ranch Community Club, Mountain Ranch Youth Alliance, and the Mountain Ranch Community Park which are maintained by the community and which serve as a social hub and provide critical services to Mountain Ranch residents. I support Lights in the ballpark which serves as a staging ground for emergency services and landing sight medical evacuations. I support upgrades to the kitchen facilities at the Mountain Ranch Youth Alliance.

### **Sheep Ranch**

* **Sheep Ranch Community Plan**: Implement the Sheep Ranch Community Plan recognizing the community’s stated intention to preserve its rural small town character, low-density non-commercial zoning, open-range grazing for sheep, and support for the creation of an open-space Park in the town center.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: by implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service access needs of Sheep Ranch residents.
* **Fire Safety**: by working with the local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.

### **Rail Road Flat**

* **Railroad Flat Community Center**: Ongoing renovations to the Railroad Flat Community Center provide facilities for the community to come together and provide critical services to local residents.
* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: The Railroad Flat Community Center serves as the local evacuation center, By implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service access needs of Railroad Flat residents.

### **Glencoe**

* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and updating the existing Glencoe Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: by implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service access needs of Glencoe residents.
* **Glencoe Community Plan**: Implement the Glencoe Community plan maintaining the historical and rural character of the community. Develop trails and recreational opportunities on public lands around Glencoe to support local families, and preserve the scenic beauty of the area.

### **Mokelumne Hill**

* **Mokelumne Hill Elementary:** Support the long term viability of Mokelumne Hill Elementary School by working with the Community Budget Advisory Committee, the Mokelumne Hill community, and CUSD to make sure Mokelumne Hill Elementary remains open.
* **Safe Streets and Walkability**: Through the Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Plan we can develop trails, paths and safe routes to schools, improving the safety and walkability of Mokelumne Hill for all pedestrians.
* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Historic Town Center:** Maintaining and showcasing our historic downtowns attracts visitors, supports local businesses, brings tax revenue into the County and preserves the historic rural character of our communities. In Mokelumne Hill there is the Community Planning and Design Review Board which helps to preserve the historic character of the town.

### **Paloma**

* **Paloma Community Plan**: Implement the Paloma Community plan maintaining the rural historic character of Paloma. Preserving open space and agricultural uses in and around the town, encouraging appropriate public uses in the town center of Paloma.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: by implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service access needs of Paloma residents.
* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.

### **San Andreas**

* **Safe Streets and Walkability**:There is a significant need to address traffic safety in San Andreas. [The San Andreas State Route 49 Commercial Gateway and Corridor Study](https://planning.calaverasgov.us/Portals/Planning/Documents/Other%20Documents/SA%20SR%2049%20Commercial%20Gateway%20%26%20Corridor%20Study/Final%20Draft%2010-11-17.pdf) has identified a number of short-term and long-term projects to improve circulation, reduce traffic hazards, and implement a complete streets and mobility plan for San Andreas.
* **San Andreas Community Plan**: Implement the San Andreas Community Plan by concentrating all current and future government facilities at the County Government Center, developing commercial and retail opportunities while promoting historic gold rush aesthetic, and meet the critical infrastructure needs of the community.
* **Parks and Rec**: Support the San Andreas Parks and Recreation District, create opportunities for local youth through vocational education programs, sports and recreational activities.
* **Economic Development**: Encourage local retail and commercial development in San Andreas to create shopping options, jobs, capture local spending and generate tax revenue instead of depending on surrounding areas for basic necessities.
* **Historic Town Center:** Maintaining and showcasing our historic downtowns attracts visitors, supports local businesses, brings tax revenue into the County and preserves the historic rural character of our communities. In San Andreas the Historic Main St is being revitalized.

### **Calaveritas**

* **Calaveritas Community Plan**: Calaveritas is the only town in District 2 that does not have a Community Plan. As Supervisor I will support the development of a Calaveritas Community Plan by seeking input from Calaveritas residents to draft a Community Plan that meets their needs.
* **Fire Safety**: Through the creation of a local Firewise Community and developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan we can improve community based fire prevention efforts, helping to reduce the cost of homeowners insurance under the Safer From Wildfires Initiative.
* **Disaster Preparedness**: by implementing the *Calaveras County Evacuation and Access Needs Assessment and Preparedness Plan* we can address the day-to-day transportation and emergency service access needs of Calaveritas residents.

## **Disadvantaged Legacy Communities**

Under California law Calaveras County has a responsibility to identify and address the critical infrastructure and fire safety needs of Disadvantaged Legacy Communities.

**Disadvantaged Legacy Communities**

* The Calaveras County [Housing Element](https://calaverascountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=24209&MeetingID=2420) must be updated in 2027. During this update the County is required to assess the infrastructure needs related to water distribution, wastewater management and stormwater and the structural fire safety in Disadvantaged Legacy Communities.
* This update to the Housing Element will determine the County’s ability to access grant funding for housing and infrastructure projects to support existing and future home construction.
* As Supervisor I will work with the Special Districts to ensure that we assess the structural fire safety needs and develop a plan for how to meet the water infrastructure needs and improve fire safety in our most disadvantaged communities.