



RISE, Inc.

Rural Innovations in Social Economics, Incorporated

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January 03, 2006

Gregory Chew, Community Designer/Program Manager
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Chew:

Please consider this letter in support of the Esparto Downtown Revitalization Planning project that Yolo County and its partner Capay Valley Vision have submitted for consideration for funding by the SACOG Community Design Fund grant program. The project is essential to the planned renewal of downtown Esparto and successfully models SACOG's seven smart growth blueprint principles. RISE has carefully tracked the revitalization vision for the historic downtown Esparto for two decades; the timing of this project application is perfect - it enjoys the momentum of broad-based community support together with sponsorship by a sound local partnership.

This project is crucial as a catalyst to involve Esparto's historic structures in the creation of well-designed, mixed-use strategy for downtown rejuvenation. Local implementation will work importantly to protect and emphasize the community's agricultural character. RISE Inc. strongly supports the concept that quality, affordable compact housing units for working families or independent seniors be integrated into our downtown.

There is a great sense of urgency in the community to get started in this planning process. Population growth and frustration with the dormancy of the downtown area have created a definite eagerness to do the type of planning that will lead to the rebirth of our regional business and community center. This project is a priority and we are committed to the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

I am available to further discuss this project at any time. I can be reached at 530.787.3433 or by email at rise.cathie@prodigy.net.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cathie M. Wicks', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Cathie M. Wicks
Executive Director

*"A non-profit public benefit corporation serving the rural community
to enhance the quality of life and opportunity for self-sufficiency..."*