



# Yolo County Housing Authority

David G. Serena, Executive Director

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January 13, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Chew:

We are writing 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. We believe that this project will lead to a downtown Esparto that is a model of SACOG's seven smart growth blueprint principles. Our organization has been involved in the hopes and plans for downtown Esparto for several years. We have actively participated in the Housing Task Force; the S.H. Cowell Town Hall meeting; the 2020 Community Planning Project and the Esperanza and partner business discussions. We are currently awaiting appraisals of select parcels that could be impacted by this proposal. These include the parcel referred to as the Esperanza Station.

This project appeals to us because we believe it will serve as a catalyst for the creation of well-designed, mixed-use buildings that utilize downtown Esparto's historic structures and emphasize the community's agricultural character. Bringing quality compact housing units that are affordable to working families or independent seniors and integrated into our downtown is also important to this effort.

There is a great sense of urgency in the community to get started in this planning process. Because of the population growth and the long time that the downtown area has been dormant we are eager to do type of planning that will lead to the rebirth of our regional business and community center. This project is priority and I look forward to the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Hanan H. Bowman, Ph.D.  
Deputy Executive Director

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