

County watchdogs form group, seek name

By Tim O'Leary
Neighbors staff writer

1/15/89

Steps to unite a broad range of Placer County community groups under one banner are solidly under way and members plan to flex their political muscle soon on various growth-related issues.

But don't expect to see massive protests or demonstrators chaining themselves to endangered oak trees. Militants need not apply, said Sandy Harris, a Granite Bay resident who has helped spearhead the group.

"We're not rabble-rousers. We're just plain old citizens," Harris said.

A three-hour workshop at Sierra College on Jan. 7 attracted nearly 40 people and

served as the group's fourth function. The workshop proved that the group is up and running.

The only thing that seems to be endangered is its name.

Harris said Roseville activist David Manhart has volunteered to be the group's chairman, but only if the Placer County Coalition of Community Associations changes its name to something less cumbersome.

Fred Yeager, Placer County's planning division director and a guest speaker at the workshop, later referred to the coalition as "the group with the long name." Yeager said it is probably the first group of its kind in the county and that it has the potential to become a political powerhouse.

Auburn-area Supervisor George Beland, who also attended the workshop, said he was "inspired" by the group's goals and positive attitude. Sharon Musgrove, who was appointed to the county Planning Commission on Tuesday, listed her coalition membership on her application for the post.

The idea for the coalition was born several months ago when Harris, Loomis Town Councilman Walt Scherer and others began toying with the concept and discussing the need for an umbrella organization to share information and focus on common issues.

Harris said seven areas of Placer County are currently represented by the coalition and its members want to become a

countywide organization. She said many key community leaders from throughout South Placer have been attracted to the initial coalition meetings.

Harris said she learned of the existence of many community groups by reading newspaper stories and letters to the editor. She and others then embarked on a quest to contact these far-flung groups and recruit them for the coalition.

The coalition's scope now stretches from the Sacramento County line to Applegate and Meadow Vista and members hope to eventually spread their reach to the Lake Tahoe area, she said.

Some of the groups that have joined the

See Watchdogs, Page 6

Continued from Page 1

coalition thus far are the Granite Bay Community Association, Loomis Community Association, West Placer Citizens Committee, Friends of the Roseville Parkway and fledgling community groups formed in opposition to legislative Route 102, the proposed R.C. Collet Inc. aggregate quarry near Rocklin and a request by Joe Chevreux to locate a concrete mixing plant near Lake Combie.

The main goal of the coalition is "to ensure that the growth and development that takes place in Placer County preserves the natural environment and is beneficial to existing residents."

Other coalition objectives include encouraging citizen input and participation in local government, gathering and distributing information on key issues, and acting as a citizens' advocate on issues such as water quality and supply, waste management, air quality, traffic circulation and transportation needs.

Coalition members want to help

'We're not rabble-rousers. We're just plain old citizens,'

— Sandy Harris,
Granite Bay resident

protect farmlands, forested areas, open space, wildlife habitats and scenic vistas and also help communities retain their separate identities.

"It's a diverse group with common concerns," Harris said. "I'm real excited about the group. If we can keep it up and keep people involved. These are exciting times.

"It could be a political power, but that's not our intent," Harris said. "It's just another way of looking at things. There's a lot of grass-roots groups forming. We can get them together, share information and take up an issue and support it. We're interested in getting people to work with us and share information so we don't

duplicate efforts. Now's the time to start organizing."

Harris said the coalition is still a loose-knit organization primarily serving as "an umbrella-type of thing." But even if nothing else is accomplished, the coalition has established a network of valuable contacts, she said.

The coalition does not have bylaws or a board of directors yet, Harris said. Meetings will be held the first Saturday of every month and members hope to use Sierra

College because it is a central location that is easy to find.

Harris said the Jan. 7 workshop was meant to be an invitation-only, low-key event. But the turnout was higher than expected and the workshop ended up as a productive brainstorming session. Guest speakers discussed the proposed agricultural element to the county general plan and also touched on ways to protect open spaces, hiking trails and streams.

"I was very inspired by the positiveness of the group," said Beland, who was elected to the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 8 as an environmentalist candidate. "In addition to discussing the agricultural element, we discussed stream protection and a lot of other environmental issues."

Beland said the coalition is needed in Placer County.

"It's pretty inspirational that this

group is taking such an active interest and encouraging other groups to come in with them on these issues. I look forward to future meetings," Beland said.

They're not just a lobbying group," Beland said. "They're an idea group, I think."

Yeager predicted that the coalition will search for alternatives to development and keep the county on its toes.

"I see it as a group that will keep thinking: 'What is the county up to?'" Yeager said. "I don't know of any other community group like that that is looking for a broader base of support. I think it will be a group that will be very active as it gets involved in the issues."

"It would be a forum that different groups can get together to be a stronger force on certain issues and I certainly get the impression that will happen."

Local grassroots groups try banding together

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal Staff

1/12/89

Placer County's grassroots organizations are joining together to give themselves a stronger political presence.

The Placer County Coalition of Community Associations is so new that it hasn't formed a board or surfaced at any meetings or hearings.

But representatives of local associations have been working since October to identify common objectives and share information, said Sandy Harris, one of its organizers.

Among the organizations taking part in the formation of the coalition are the Loomis Com-

'I get excited about this because people taking part don't have any special interests to put forward.'

— Sandy Harris

munity Association, Rustic Hills Group, West Placer Citizen's Committee, Lake Combie Association, Granite Bay Community Association, Sierra Vista Homeowners Association and the Hilltop Homeowners Association.

Harris, a representative of the 440-member Granite Bay association, said about 35 people attended a workshop last Saturday and

monthly meetings.

"I get excited about this because people taking part don't have any special interests to put forward," said Harris. "We don't have any rabble rousers."

"They're logical-thinking people who see a need to be prepared to say where we want development so that people coming in will know

what to do."

While no executive has been chosen, the coalition's objectives have been established.

Harris said the group wants to encourage more participation and leadership in the planning process while gathering and distributing information on local issues.

The coalition intends to take on an advocacy role on "any or all" issues affecting the county, said Harris. Concerns the group will deal with include water quality and supply, transportation, air quality and waste management.

"Maybe this is conjecture but if we had enough people in the coalition, we could issue

(Please see GRASSROOTS, A-8)

GRASSROOTS

(Continued from A-1)

recalls when a situation warrants it," said Dan Dove, board member of the 60-member Sierra Vista Homeowners Association.

Dove said the coalition will give community associations clout at the county board level that could counteract the influence of developers.

"A large number of groups aren't given equal treatment when opposed to developers," he

said. "But it's not our objective to wield a club over officials."

"Our goal is to have compatible land use because some people like to live in the country."

The coalition has at least tacit support from two county supervisors. George Beland and Susan Hogg attended the workshop on agricultural land.

Conservation and enhancement of agricultural land, timberland and open space is a coalition ob-

jective, said Harris. So is preservation and protection of natural resources like scenic vistas and park lands, she said.

The coalition is also devoted to retaning individual community identities.

"Each area out here is different," she said. "We have a lot of refugees from areas where the rural nature has been lost."

"If we can preserve it now we won't lose it."

County Zoning Administrator reviews two special requests

Questions Meadow Vista service station operator

By John Branch
Auburn Journal Staff

1/9/89

North Auburn resident Roger Imsdahl received approval to add a so-called "granny flat" to his house during a Placer County Zoning Administrator's hearing Thursday.

Service station operator Scot Lohman of Meadow Vista was not so lucky. His request to operate a U-Haul rental service and store the trucks and trailers outdoors was continued to Feb. 2 for more information.

Imsdahl, a planning engineer with the county Public Works Department, asked for a conditional use permit to build a second residential

unit on his one-acre lot in Rock View Estates north of Copper Penny Lane, according to county staff.

Planning Director Fred Yeager, the zoning administrator at the hearing, said a number of neighbors spoke against Imsdahl's plans but they were misinformed in thinking he wanted a rezoning or multiple residential use.

Imsdahl said his opponents were half a dozen residents of the nearby Bell Meadows area who thought he wanted a rezoning or a parcel split.

He explained he wants to add a 640 square foot self-contained flat to his house as permitted by state law and his homeowners association's rules

(Please see ZONING, Page 8)

(Continued from Page 1)

and regulations. Imsdahl said he furnished Yeager with a letter of support from his homeowners' association.

Lohman protested Friday the business license he received from the county building and planning departments 1½ years ago includes permission to run a rental and towing service, which he has been operating.

But county officials now say he cannot park his U-Haul vehicles or tow truck outdoors without a conditional use permit.

Lohman's Mobil service station is zoned C-2, and he expected no problems when he set up in business, he said. Now, he complained, the county is talking about requiring a 12-foot-high wooden fence to screen the vehi-

cles besides a paved rather than graveled parking lot.

But Associate Planner Tom Thompson said Lohman's zoning does not allow him to operate an impound or wrecking yard and his business license specifically says he cannot impound vehicles. Yet there are 40-50 dismantled vehicles and parts stored behind his station.

Lohman may run a tow truck and bring vehicles back to his station for repair, but he must take vehicles for wrecking elsewhere, he added.

As for the U-Haul rentals, Thompson said Lohman needs a use permit to store them outdoors. It is unclear whether the business license is just to operate the service station or covers other uses, he added.

Access road on agenda

1/17/89

MEADOW VISTA — The Placer Hills Union School District will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday to hold a public hearing on road access to the district's proposed third school site.

The hearing and meeting will be in room 17 at the Placer Hills School on Placer Hills Road.

The board of trustees approved several months ago a Placer Hills Road site for a proposed kindergarten through second grades school. The site sits adjacent to the Meadow Vista Park.

Thursday's hearing concerns a negative declaration for establishing Meadow Vista Road as the primary access to the proposed school rather than Placer Hills Road.

The board also will discuss Joe Chevreau's proposed concrete batch plan on Combie Road as well as listen to staff reports and updates.



ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MEADOW VISTA?

For a number of months residents of Meadow Vista have been concerned about our community's future. Among the items of concern are:

- (1) a proposed concrete batch plant at Lake Combie
- (2) location and access to the new school site
- (3) speed limits and widening of Placer Hills and Combie Roads.

Our efforts have formed a new organization, MEADOW VISTA AREA CONCERNED CITIZENS (MVACC), which we hope will develop a voice for our community. MVACC consists of residents and business owners from all parts of the Meadow Vista area, who have united TO PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL MEADOW VISTA AREA.

The Placer County Planning Commission will soon conduct a public hearing concerning the batch plant. MVACC is working hard to participate in the permit approval and environmental review process to make sure our concerns are addressed. We have retained an attorney who specializes in environmental and planning issues to assist us in preparing for this hearing.

A steering Committee has formulated Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for MVACC to become a Non-Profit Association with long-range community goals. We plan to host social events, workshops, and a variety of fundraising activities. For more information contact Stewart Feldman (878-1129) and read Pat Ferguson's Meadow Vista column in Wednesday's Auburn Journal.

RIGHT NOW WE NEED YOU! Your support is vital to MVACC and the Meadow Vista Area. Those of you who have donated funds, thank you! If your pledge is outstanding, please try to fulfill it. If you haven't pledged to date, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Please fill out this form and send with your check payable to MVACC, c/o P.O.Box 872, Meadow Vista, CA 95722 (Terry Oquinn, Treasurer, 878-7808).

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

DONATION: ___ \$15 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 Other \$ _____

I would be willing to work on the _____ committee.

(Publicity, Phone, Social, Fundraising, Legal, Environment)

Neighbors

December 29, 1988

Foes

Continued from Page 1

the findings of the research done by Hellar and the Gateses.

"I never say anything is far-fetched," Winston said. "It's my guess it's a means to give Joe (Chevreux) a black eye. People out there are opposed to anything Joe does."

Chevreux on Tuesday echoed Winston's comment, saying he has no plans to get into the toxic waste disposal business. He reiterated his views that his opponents in Meadow Vista will go to any lengths to discredit him.

"I don't know what they're talking about," Chevreux said. "This is no different from the lake. You remember all the things they said about that."

The allegations add a new twist to the war between Chevreux and residents of the unincorporated community north of Auburn.

They tangled for more than a year over Chevreux's request to expand his dredging operations further out into Lake Combie.

Chevreux has won most of the battles so far, but residents are using a county-ordered delay to intensify their fight against his plan to move his batch plant, where concrete is mixed, from its present location on Highway 49 in North Auburn to the lake.

Chevreux is seeking a conditional use permit to move part of his concrete mixing operations to the Lake Combie area, but many residents and some county staffers contend that he wants to eventually move all of his business operations to the site.

Opponents argue that the concrete plant would pollute the lake and the truck traffic generated by Chevreux's current and future plans would "destroy" Meadow Vista by ruining roads, causing additional traffic congestion and endangering children.

Chevreux argues that his proposal would not harm the environment and that it would actually reduce truck traffic to and from the lake because the concrete would be mixed at the site where the gravel is mined. Chevreux said he also could use an alternate road, one that does not run through the center, for trucks traveling to Nevada County.

He points out that his land has the appropriate zoning and that he built many of Meadow Vista's roads long before developments began to encroach upon his operations.

For about 40 years, Chevreux has had the right to mine and dredge materials from much of the Bear River and the entire length of the 3-mile long Lake Combie. He stores tons of stones and other materials in huge piles near the lake. He also operates a huge open pit mine there.

Chevreux in September submitted his request to the county to move his North Auburn concrete batch plant to a site near Lake Combie and the county Planning Commission was set to review the proposal Oct. 27. But at the last minute Chevreux asked for a continuance.

Armed with picket signs, about 140 angry Meadow Vista residents

jammed the commission hearing to protest Chevreux's request for a continuance. But the commissioners granted Chevreux's request and directed county staffers to hold the review hearing in an Auburn auditorium in January.

But that hearing is in limbo because county officials subsequently ordered Chevreux back to the drawing board to do a more detailed analysis of the potential environmental impacts.

Fred Yeager, county planning division director, has told Chevreux to clarify his batch plant proposal, which had evolved over time and become muddled. Yeager acknowledged that his staff had failed to consider some key environmental impacts and no one had bothered to notify the state Regional Water Quality Control Board of Chevreux's proposal.

Taking advantage of the delay, about 120 residents met on Nov. 21 to bolster the Meadow Vista Area Concerned Citizens group and plot their strategies. Members gave reports on the work done by seven committees and Auburn-area Supervisor-elect George Beland, who takes office Jan. 3, was there to lend moral support.

"I'm here because I think your causes are just causes," Beland told the spirited audience.

Group members said they have hired Sacramento attorney Michael Remy, who specializes in environmental issues, to represent them in their fight against Chevreux. Pam Johnson, who heads the political alternatives committee, said its members are studying the possibility of forming a township to gain more control over land use issues in Meadow Vista.

She called upon the audience to band together in a common front instead of allowing ideological differences to cause friction and possibly lead to rifts among group members.

Carol Gates said she had planned to unveil her toxic waste disposal research at the Nov. 21 meeting, but held her tongue because some residents were afraid that her comments would be premature and unduly alarm the community.

But Hellar and the Gateses subsequently met with a Neighbors reporter to outline the results of their research and air their concerns. They have been combing county and state records that explain the criteria used to decide how communities are picked as toxic waste disposal or incineration sites.

A new state law that can be used to force counties that generate hazardous wastes to dispose of these materials within their boundaries is at the core of their concerns. Assembly Bill 2948, which was passed in early 1987, was designed to protect groundwater sources and lessen the pressure on the state's two remaining toxic waste dumps.

Another new law, which will prevent the disposal of untreated hazardous wastes in any landfill in the state, goes into effect on May 8, 1990, and it will complicate existing disposal practices. The new

statewide emphasis will be to reduce the amounts of hazardous wastes stored in landfills by increasing the use of treatment and recycling programs.

Hellar and the Gateses say they fear that Placer County will unite with nearby counties and decide to jointly incinerate hazardous wastes. They point to the May 1986 report done by Gov. Deukmejian's Task Force on Toxics, Waste and Technology to show that incineration is a preferred disposal method and these products can be burned in a cement kiln.

Their suspicions were fueled by an earlier plan to use a Calaveras County cement kiln to incinerate toxic wastes. Carol Root, who lives near Arnold in Calaveras County, supplied information to the Meadow Vista activists. Root told a Neighbors reporter that widespread public opposition forced Calaveras County officials to temporarily abandon their plans to use the kiln to incinerate toxic wastes.

"If (Chevreux) puts in that concrete batch plant they will be meeting all the criteria for a toxic waste disposal site," Hellar said. Carol Gates said she was told by Miners that Meadow Vista is already targeted for a hazardous materials transfer station and she believes that would just be the first step in allowing waste incineration to occur there.

Carol said she has talked to Beland and many Meadow Vista residents about her concerns.

"I have a wait-and-see attitude," Beland said during a recent telephone interview. Beland said he isn't convinced and he would want to see more evidence and talk to Miners before reaching a conclusion.

Miners said he is dumbfounded that the trio came to believe that Chevreux plans to open a toxic waste incinerator. First of all, Miners said, Chevreux's asphalt batch plant and his proposed concrete batch plant could not operate at temperatures high enough to incinerate toxic wastes.

"I think it's very unlikely that he'd set up a hazardous waste facility there and what he's considering now isn't anywhere close to what I've heard of as a hazardous waste facility," Miners said.

Because it is sparsely populated and near the county's industrial area and existing landfill, Miners said the rural Lincoln-Sheridan area is probably the only place where a hazardous waste treatment or storage facility might be located in Placer County if it is ever decided that one is needed here.

Miners said he recalled telling one woman, whom he described as "very agitated," that it is possible that a metal bin might someday be placed in Meadow Vista so residents could place their unused paint and other household hazardous wastes there temporarily until they could be picked up and disposed of.

"It didn't seem to quell her fears when I said it would be very unlikely that we'd allow (a hazardous waste facility) up there in Meadow Vista," Miners said.

Plant foes again target Chevreux

By Tim O'Leary
Neighbors staff writer

A splinter group of Meadow Vista residents involved in the fight against the proposed move of a concrete batch plant to Lake Combie say they believe their adversary is secretly planning to open a toxic waste incineration facility there.

They allege that Placer County officials are working behind the scenes to help Joe Chevreux, owner of Chevreux Ready Mix Concrete on Highway 49 in North Auburn, set the stage for locating a hazardous waste facility near Lake Combie.

They say they are worried that Chevreux wants to use his existing Lake Combie asphalt batch plant and his proposed concrete batch plant, if the latter is approved, to burn hazardous wastes.

Current and former county officials scoff at the allegations. John Miners, the county environmental health staffer assigned to Placer's hazardous waste management plan, say Carol and Karl Gates and Jim Hellar are misinformed, have misinterpreted information and his statements and have jumped to conclusions.

Martin Winston, who previously served as Placer's environmental health director and now holds a similar position in Santa Barbara County, also discounted

See Foes, Page 15

County toxic waste report called 'workable'

By Tim O'Leary
Neighbors staff writer

The future of toxic waste collection and disposal strategies in Placer County became a little clearer Tuesday, but many important questions remain unanswered, officials said.

The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a preliminary plan that will be used to oversee the stockpiling, management and disposal of hazardous wastes generated in Placer County. Supervisors also directed staffers to forward the plan to the state Department of Health Services before the deadline expires Wednesday.

The 1-inch thick document approved by supervisors Tuesday was the third draft of the county's plan. Efforts to develop the county's first hazardous waste management plan have been an educational experience for government officials, residents and business owners and factory managers, said John Miners, county division of environmental health sanitarian.

"This is our first shot at it," Miners said. "Some of the areas are going to be a little weak." Miner's appraisal of the plan was echoed by Roseville City Councilman Phil Ozenick, vice chairman of the county's 22-member Hazardous Waste Management

Advisory Committee.

Ozenick acknowledged that the plan is not perfect, but he said it is workable. The committee was made up of elected officials from several cities, fire department and local government staffers, industry leaders, environmentalists and public members.

The plan will serve as the principal planning document for hazardous waste management in the county through the year 2000. It also will immerse local government officials in nebulous, rapidly changing regulatory arena.

Hazardous waste management plans developed

See Toxics, Page 1

Toxics

Continued from Page 1

developed by counties must meet several goals and objectives. Counties that decided against preparing a hazardous waste management plan lost the right to oppose a state order to license toxic waste dumps within their jurisdictions.

Hazardous waste plans are used to create the programs needed to implement environmental protection laws passed in the 1970s and '80s that are aimed at preventing the contamination of underground water supplies. The plans are also designed to establish emergency response programs, regulate the storage of hazardous wastes and maintain inventories on the amounts of chemicals and wastes being generated and stored locally.

Four of the six cities in Placer County have endorsed the plan, but the Rocklin City Council withheld its support because of several unresolved concerns. The Lincoln City Council is expected to approve the plan at its Feb. 14 meeting. Auburn council members backed the plan despite reservations centering around the lack of local controls over hazardous substances shipped on Interstate 80.

In order to win state approval, a county's final plan must be

approved by enough city councils to represent the majority of residents in Placer County. But it is uncertain whether the state will approve the county's plan because it includes conditions that could be used to limit the size of hazardous waste facilities located here, Miners said.

Many counties want to limit the amount of future hazardous wastes they will manage to just their "fair share," Miners said. But the state recently rejected another county's plan that contains such fair-share language advocated by the County Supervisors Association of California, he said.

"We're willing to take our fair share, but not be a dumping ground, basically," Miners said.

During a review of one of Placer County's previous draft plans, the state rejected efforts to limit potential sites of a future toxic waste facility to areas in western Placer.

Miners said state officials want to avoid the "not-in-my-backyard" syndrome and reserve the possibility of allowing such a facility in the higher elevations. But he said the combination of rolling terrain and the closeness of the water table to surface soils will probably prevent the siting of a toxic waste facility in the foothills.

Miners said one of the county's chief toxic waste needs will

become a top priority item during the next few months — a program to accept household hazardous wastes for disposal.

"I get calls on a weekly basis with people asking: 'What do I do with my pesticides?'" Miners said. "I haven't had a good answer for them. I don't have an easy or cheap answer." Miners said several other Northern California counties have already implemented household hazardous waste programs.

The county has been trying to put together such a program for more than two years, but the inability to purchase liability insurance for this "extreme hazard" has proved to be a major obstacle, said County Counsel Richard Denhalter.

Jack Warren, county public works director, said it is hoped that a program to accept and dispose of dangerous household chemicals — including pesticides, insecticides, cleaning solvents, paint and turpentine — will be established in six months to a year. He said the county is working with a Bay Area company that operates programs elsewhere that accept and dispose of household hazardous wastes.

Denhalter said it is easier for these companies to get insurance coverage than the county. Regular collection sites must be carefully screened because of the potential

hazards. It was once thought the shopping center parking lots could be used, but the accidental release of a harmful chemical could have disastrous results.

Warren said it would be cheaper and safer to hold regular household hazardous waste collection drives than to be inundated with materials during infrequent events.

Several state laws passed during the last few years have produced a myriad of new environmental safeguards. The laws are being implemented in stages and many counties, including Placer, have raised their solid waste landfill fees to offset the costs of the new regulations.

The regulations are aimed at lessening the pressure on the state's two remaining toxic waste dumps and also reducing the amounts of hazardous wastes stored in landfills by increasing the use of treatment and recycling programs.

The changes will require household toxic waste programs, force counties that generate hazardous wastes to dispose of these materials within their boundaries, and prevent the disposal of untreated hazardous wastes in any state landfill.

CSHS ADIA

Golden Gate Disposal is a private Co. in the Bay area that operates Auburn Disposal & M.V. Disposal

Waste plan for county in place

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal Staff

Wednesday, January 25, 1989—AUBURN JOURNAL—PAGE A-7

WASTE

(Continued from A-1)

"The site should be able to handle its fair share (of toxic waste)," said John Miners, county environmental health division sanitarian. "But it's not meant to be a dumping ground."

Areas east of Auburn were originally taken off the list of potential waste dump sites but put back on at the request of the state of California, which funded work on the plan.

But Miners said many areas opened to the possibility of waste dumps by the state's policy of avoiding "not in our back yard syndrome" would be eliminated on further study.

"Potential sites are identified

on the west portion, west of Lincoln," he said. "But whether a site is actually out there is doubtful.

"One of the problems is the water table is so shallow," Miners said, meaning there is a danger a dumpsite could contaminate groundwater supplies.

Hazardous wastes are defined as substances which can catch fire; wear away or destroy other materials, including human tissue; enter into a violent chemical reaction; or release toxic substances when leached with a mild acid.

The county plan will be incorporated into a state toxic waste management plan due to be adopted next Nov. 1.

A plan to deal with more than 5,400 tons of hazardous waste generated annually in Placer County is now in place.

The inch-thick Hazardous Waste Management Plan was approved Tuesday by Placer County Board of Supervisors.

"It's not an ideal plan," said Phil Ozenick, vice-chairman of the 22-member, county-appointed committee which helped draw up the plan. "It won't address every issue but it meets the concerns of the county."

The Placer County Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee spent 14 months working with Auburn's Clendenen Engineers Inc. and the county Health Department to draft the 150-page planning tool.

Included in the document is a list of institutions and companies generating toxic waste. Waste oil and sludge waste are identified as the two most common types of toxic residues being manufactured in Placer County.

Slightly more than 3,000 tons of toxic waste left the county in the survey year of 1986. Included in that total were 125 tons of asbestos-containing waste and 18 tons of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The Roseville Joint Union High School and Placer Union High School districts shipped out 90 tons of materials containing asbestos.

Ninety-four tons of contaminated soil left the county.

Plans call for a toxic waste dump site in the county, but do not specify where it would be located.

(Please see WASTE, A-7)

Meadow Vista

1/18/89

By Pat Ferguson

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The PHUSD Board of Trustees will be meeting this Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Placer Hills School in Room 17. A number of items will be on the agenda.

Action will be taken on whether or not the Board will request an EIR for the proposed concrete batch plant. Meadow Vista residents requested this action at a previous board meeting and have submitted information to the board to support their position.

Another action item is the Negative Declaration approval for the new school site access road off of Meadow Vista Road. Residents impacted by the new road proposal have set forth their objections to this access. Concerns for plant life, noise, safety, and aesthetics were outlined.

Other agenda items include special education; report; school closure plan, comments from audience will be heard; WHS Student Body Report; WHS Honors Program Module on Teenage Sexuality; and other items.

1/23/89

Park acreage eyed for school access

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal Staff

Placer Hills Union School District trustees want another shot at convincing the Auburn Recreation District to allow use of the Meadow Vista Park access road as a secondary entrance to a new elementary school.

The board voted 5-0 in favor of pursuing a joint board meeting with the district.

"We're looking at an alternative road to the site because it's far safer," acting superintendent Richard Rogers said Thursday.

The district already has approvals for a main access road off Placer Hills Road. But pressure from the local Safe Access group resulted in a drive for a second road.

The alternative discussed at Thursday's meeting was a new access road proposed on private properties abutting the Auburn Recreation District land. Six residential properties and a tree farm faced losing some land if the road was constructed. The entrance would be off Meadow Vista Road.

In attempts to mitigate the impact of the road construction, Fred Barber, project supervisor for Western Planning and Engineering of Auburn, listed a number of options the board

(Please see ROAD, A-6)

Letters

Couldn't believe it!

Editor,

1/18/89

There could be no better place than Meadow Vista to raise my little girl. For that reason I feel very strong about protecting Meadow Vista from any abuse. I have a great deal of respect and love for this land.

So, today when I applied for a small business license for making country crafts at home, I couldn't believe my ears when I was told I couldn't cut any wood in my garage, by the planning department. It has to do with zoning and the apparent noise it could cause for our neighbors. It didn't matter that we have no neighbors and are fairly isolated. We are not talking a major business corporation here. I am a mother and wife who wishes to stay at home with her baby, while making crafts for a little extra money and enjoyment.

Now, isn't it ironic how the law is set up to protect Meadow Vista from a mother out to protect her own most precious town: versus a Joe Chevreux, whose noise from all those gravel trucks is at times unbearable for us all. Where does it all go wrong?

Randi Alonzo
Meadow Vista

ROAD

(Continued from A-1)

had, including underground wiring and a landscape plan to offset the removal of 20-30 large trees.

Residents have argued the road should be built on ARD land and Western wasn't opposed to the suggestion.

"This is probably true but the ARD board has resisted giving too much of its land for the school access in this location," said Barber.

A meeting within the next two weeks wouldn't be the first time the school district has attempted to convince the ARD board to allow the access road.

Last November, school board staff reported opposition to access off Placer Hills Road by the

Placer County Planning Commission. The board could only offer a small encroachment for access off Meadow Vista Road at the northwest corner of the site.

Other possible access points have been examined and rejected, said the report.

The Grange Road was rejected as an access because it would be too costly to improve and has a worse point of entry than the one on Placer Hills Road.

Another access rejected by the Placer County Public Works Department would have been off Meadow Vista Road just west of its intersection with Placer Hills Road.

Placer Hills

School board uncommitted on Combie plant

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal Staff

1/22/89

The Placer Hills Union School District backed down Thursday from taking a stand on a controversial proposed concrete batch plant at Lake Combie.

Board members voted in favor of delaying any decision until they receive further information from Placer County on school bus stop safety along roads owner Joe Chevreaux's ready-mix concrete trucks will be driven along.

Ken Taylor was the lone dissenting voice against the motion to table discussion.

"I felt we've been putting it off," he said. "I would want an environmental impact review or, at worst, a negative declaration."

Voting in favor of delaying a decision on the matter were board members Tom Nunley, Dr. Richard Hoopes, Robert McElhany and Dave Johnson.

"I understand their position," said Taylor. "They would like more information gathering."

Chevreaux spoke at Thursday's board meeting. Taylor said he was impressed with what he heard.

"Joe Chevreaux seems to be concerned

about Meadow Vista and our school district," said Taylor. "He's interested in doing everything he can to solve the problem."

According to Taylor, Chevreaux said the county would favor a declaration to solve the matter. The alternative is a costly environmental impact report.

Chevreaux said he would use the money saved to upgrade Combie Road, which runs from Meadow Vista to Lake of the Pines and through the Lake Combie area.

"I don't think the board waffled," said Taylor. "The members have a legitimate concern about the effect on the safety of the kids."

Rumors of missed deadline for proposed plant untrue

By Jim Ruffalo
Auburn Journal Staff

3/10/89

MEADOW VISTA — Contrary to rumors circulating in the Lake Combie area Thursday, Joe Chevreaux's plans to build a batch plant in the area have not been short circuited by, of all things, the calendar.

Word surfaced that Chevreaux had somehow let a

March 8 deadline slip past unnoticed. That deadline was for Chevreaux to reply to a Placer County Planning Commission request for more information on his projected concrete materials mixing plant located at the lake.

Chevreaux did not get that information to the Planning Commission, but he had asked for an extension of the

(Please see DEADLINE, A-8)

DEADLINE

(Continued from A-1)

deadline. According to the misinformation, Placer County Planning Director Fred Yeager had allegedly reported that the county had denied Chevreaux's request for an extension.

Yeager was unavailable to comment to a reporter Thursday. But assistant planner Tom Kubik, denied that Chevreaux's extension request had been turned down.

"Mr. Chevreaux's request for an extension has not, I repeat, not been denied," he said, adding that "not" was the operative word. Kubik would not, however, say if the request had been granted.

But another county source, re-

questing anonymity, confirmed that the extension had been granted.

"It is normal county policy to grant extensions when they have been made in good faith. Mr. Chevreaux's extension was needed in order to provide additional information requested by the county," the source said.

"I needed the extension because the Planning Department asked for additional information. They wanted to protect their butts because it was during the election.

"There was criticism of the county at the time, so I think they wanted to take more time, too," Chevreaux said.

Panel says Combie plant clean

Workshop finds Chevreux operation not responsible for mercury

By Jim Ruffalo
Auburn Journal Staff

3/10/89

MEADOW VISTA — Joe Chevreux runs a clean operation at Lake Combie.

That, basically, is what a state Water Resources Control Board will hear at its March 16 meeting at Sacramento.

"I've been saying we run a clean operation for 43 years," Chevreux, a long-time Auburn businessman, said of his sediment dredging and gravel mining operation at the

lake's reservoir.

The recommendation is the product of a recent workshop involving some members of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region.

Chevreux's granite dredging and mining operation at Lake Combie has been under fire for the last two years by members of the Lake Combie Association, Inc. Among their laments, the group claims Chevreux's operation threatens the lake's water supply with mercury contaminates.

But the recent regional water resources board workshop found that Chevreux's operation didn't use or produce any mercury.

According to a draft of the recommendation: "... the source of the mercury is unclear ... Historically, mercury was used in the Sierra Nevada and its foothills during the Gold Rush. Since these sediments are the residual debris from historic gold mining, this is the probable source of mercury."

Several sources, including the Nevada Ir-

(Please see CHEVREUX, A-8)

CHEVREUX

(Continued from A-1)

rigation District, hastened to add that the mercury level of the reservoir is well below acceptable standards.

The homeowners' association also blames Chevreux's operation with producing hazardous waste, but the workshop's recommendations note that any by-product of the dredging and mining operation "is neither hazardous nor soluble."

The water agency's report also stated that Chevreux's dredging operation and dragline work areas were all isolated from the reservoir and from the Bear River by use of earthen dikes.

"We've always been in compliance," Chevreux said. "We had to be. We have too many people watching what we're doing.

"We don't just answer to the SWRCB, we also have Fish and Game and the (Army) Corps of Engineers, and a lot of other people checking on us."

Another of the homeowners' complaints was that the regional board itself failed to comply with the California Environmental

Quality Act.

The water quality board workshop found, however, that Placer County approved "reclamation plans" in January, 1986, and that Nevada County approved the plan along with a mitigated negative declaration on Nov. 24, 1987.

One Lake Combie resident, Scott Diffenbaugh, who is a spokesman for the association, claims the Nevada County negative declaration just doesn't exist.

"We've had two Nevada County Supervisors (Jim Weir and Joel Gustafson) testify that there never was a negative declaration, but we can't seem to get anybody to listen," Diffenbaugh said.

NID General Manager Jim Chatigny wasn't surprised that Chevreux's operation was found to be in compliance with all rules and regulations.

"We wholeheartedly concur with those recommendations," he said, adding that he has watched Chevreux over the years and found him to be concerned with pollution problems.

"Actually," Chatigny added, "all that granite sediment would have to be cleaned out of the reservoir anyway (in order to keep storage capacity at appropriate levels).

"What he does is provide a service for which we would have to pay to have done, and then he pays us for allowing him to do it. We benefit twice from his operation."

Meadow Vista

By Pat Ferguson

2/1/89

MVACC UPDATE

The Meadow Vista Area Concerned Citizens have been developing their bylaws and organizational structure while trying to keep updated on the concrete batch plant developments.

There will probably be another large public meeting within the next month or so. It will be scheduled prior to any hearing before the Planning Commission.

The Steering Committee is planning on an alliance with the fledgling Placer County Coalition of Community Associations. This group is an umbrella which

includes members from the Rocklin vs. quarry group; the homeowners in Applegate with concerns about the local dump; Granite Bay residents; and other groups. The uniting force, or direction, is to have the residents involved in deciding what happens in their own areas.

The MVACC is planning a number of activities that will be community wide events. Some of which will be fundraising in nature, and others which will be good 'ol get-to-know-your-neighbor-and-community events. They plan to take an active role in Pioneer Day and are looking forward to a community spaghetti feed, or similar project.

MVACC is planning to develop a membership plan which will encompass those residents who want to be active and involved as well as those who prefer to offer moral and/or monetary support. Look for details soon.

An immediate project of the group is to present the PHUSD Board of Trustees with MVACC assessment of the effects of the concrete batch plant upon the school district. MVACC is concerned about the potential safety hazard of increased truck traffic on pedestrians and bus stops. There is also a concern about how road widening will affect the school site itself. Will parking and loading space be eliminated? Will this cause a safety problem?

MVACC is encouraging anyone who has concerns in these or other areas related to how the concrete plant will affect the school or students to write a letter to the PHUSD Board of Trustees. Mr. Chevreux was invited to speak at the last board meeting and has pre-

sented his case. MVACC hopes that the public will also be able to express its case at an upcoming board meeting.

If you have questions regarding this issue or MVACC please call Stewart Feldman at 878-1129.

12/23/88

SAC. BEE

Don't drink the water

It's hard to understand why anyone would build a house in a place where the only water comes from a source that most people would consider an open sewer. But it's harder still to imagine why somebody who's in that situation would fight for the opportunity to keep drinking the stuff.

That's the battle that's going on in the Midway Heights County Water District, which pipes in water to 630 people in the hills above Auburn. The water the district is supplying, however, comes from an open ditch that's polluted with agricultural chemical waste, highway runoff, dead animals, manure and the drainage from a septic tank field upstream. According to tests by the state Department of Health Services, the water running out of the taps in those homes carries amebic dysentery, giardia, infectious hepatitis and a whole host of other diseases.

Placer County officials deserve a lot of the blame for allowing these homes to be built in the first place. For many years, the district and the county tried to avoid compliance with safe drinking water standards by maintaining the legal fiction that the district was only supplying irrigation water. But the district's pipes run right into the houses, and according to state officials, any water that goes for irrigation in that area is strictly incidental to the district's supplies for domestic use.

When hauled into court by the Environmental Protection Agency earlier this year, the district didn't deny that its supplies were unsafe, or that it had committed more than 8,000 violations of state and federal water quality regulations. It simply argued that it didn't have any duty beyond warning its customers not to drink its water. And besides, the district's attorney argued, there's no evidence that the people really are drinking it once they get it inside the house.

Fortunately, it didn't take the federal court long to reject that lame defense and to order the district to clean up its act or shut down. The state stands ready to give the district \$400,000 as a grant toward the estimated \$1.2 million cost of a safe water system. And the district is also eligible for state loans to cover the balance at half the going interest rate. As a result, state officials estimate that upgrading the system might cost the district's homeowners \$5,000 to \$8,000 each over the 20-year term of a loan.

Some residents of the area, however, still resist those offers of assistance as an intrusion on their rights. And while those people may have a right individually to choose to poison themselves, under the law they just can't band together as a public district, with all of the tax advantages, rights and authority that entails, for the purpose of operating what amounts to a suicide pact.

Commission: Developer can't switch rural water districts

By Tim O'Leary
Neighbors staff writer

5/14/89

Midway Heights Water District officials won a big victory last week when they persuaded a county commission to shelve a developer's request to leave their domain.

Midway Heights officials argued that the defection of an 11-acre parcel to a nearby water district would set a dangerous precedent and damage their ability to meet the arduous conditions of the settlement reached in water quality lawsuit filed in 1987 by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

But the landowner and developer, Kenneth Wagner of Meadow Vista, argued that Midway Heights has been uncooperative and the neighboring Meadow Vista County Water District would be able to immediately serve his proposed six-unit subdivision without worrying about joining an assessment district.

Wagner on May 2 appeared before the county Local Agency Formation Commission to ask for permission to remove his land from the jurisdiction of Midway Heights and have it annexed into the territory served by the Meadow Vista district.

Flanked by the district's lawyer and consulting engineer, Emil Pruss, Midway Heights board president, urged LAFCO to reject the request and protect his district's ability to collect enough assessments to pay back the loan that will help build a badly needed water treatment plant.

LAFCO members ended a spirited 40-minute hearing by siding with Midway Heights and voting 4-0 to shelve Wagner's request for at least 70 days.

The trouble surrounding Midway Heights began back in December 1986 when the EPA issued an emergency warning that said its water supply presented an imminent danger to the health of the 630 customers living in the Weimar area.

Midway Heights is an independent district that buys untreated water from the Placer County Water Agency. Midway Heights in turn resells the water to its customers, who either have home treatment systems or drink the water directly from an open irrigation canal system.

The EPA reported that tests of

the water showed signs of human or animal excrement, intestinal parasites and other organisms that cause illnesses such as hepatitis or gastroenteritis. The order called for Midway Heights to take interim steps and also build a permanent water treatment plant.

Downplaying the potential health hazards and arguing that they didn't have the funds to correct the problem, Midway Heights directors disregarded the EPA emergency order. The EPA reacted by filing a civil lawsuit in August 1987 that contended Midway Heights is improperly supplying its customers with severely contaminated water.

The terms of the settlement call for Midway Heights to halt any new connections and build a water treatment plant that will serve all the customers who were in the district when the lawsuit was filed, said Paul Chamberlain, attorney for Midway Heights.

The district was placed on a strict timetable that would impose a \$300 a day penalty if the plant isn't ready for testing by June 15,

1990 and operational one month later.

"The penalties are quite severe to the district," Chamberlain said.

The district has received a \$900,000 state loan and a \$400,000 state and federal clean water grant, funds that will be used to build the treatment plant and install water delivery pipes. Customers must pay assessment district fees to repay the loan and the removal of any property would badly damage the district's ability to collect the needed funds, Chamberlain said.

Chamberlain argued that a decision by LAFCO to allow Wagner to annex to the Meadow Vista water district would open the door for an exodus by other nearby landowners who want to avoid paying assessment fees. LAFCO approves or rejects all county annexation and incorporation proposals.

Wagner countered by saying the 11 acres owned by his development company has never been served by Midway Heights.

Because of this, Wagner said he hasn't received any assurances that the district will be able to serve his land even after the treatment plant is finished. He stressed that the Meadow Vista water district is willing to immediately serve his project.

He said he has borrowed \$500,000 at 13 percent interest and building costs are rising while work has been delayed over the water uncertainty problems.

But Wagner wasn't able to win much sympathy from LAFCO commissioners. LAFCO chairman Alex Ferreira, who doubles as the chairman of the county Board of Supervisors, pointed out that Wagner was aware of the water district's problems when he bought the land in August 1988.

Other LAFCO commissioners agreed with Ferreira, saying that Wagner should give Midway Heights time to solidify its plans to form an assessment district and build a treatment plant.

Midway Heights settles suit

EPA to drop action; district to replace water system

By Gus Thomson
Auburn Journal Staff

3/10/89

A settlement has been reached in a lawsuit filed by the Environmental Protection Agency against the tiny Midway County Water District near Weimar.

The EPA has agreed to drop a U.S. District Court action holding the water district liable for more than 8,000 violations under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In return, the district has promised to replace its ditchwater supply system to its 179

'They got picked on because they had money in the bank.'

— John Mendez

customers by August, 1990, with a million-dollar system meeting EPA requirements.

The settlement with the EPA also requires the district to install a \$62,000 chlorine system by April 1 to disinfect the household ditchwater supply until the

new system is in operation.

The board also agreed in a decision made Jan. 18 to have the district pay a \$37,500 penalty for operating the ditchwater system.

"By agreeing to this settlement, the district avoided a potential lengthy and costly trial as well as the risk of having a much greater civil penalty assessed against it by the court," said John Mendez, water district attorney.

The EPA claimed in its suit that tests conducted by the Cali-

(Please see MIDWAY, A-8)

MIDWAY

(Continued from A-1)

ifornia Department of Health Services starting in 1982 showed the maximum allowable bacteria levels for drinking water were exceeded in nearly every test sample. Animal or human excrement was detected in many of the samples, the EPA said.

The district maintained that it supplied water for irrigation use only, although its customers were using it for drinking water.

Emil Preuss, district director, said the board wanted to install

a proper sanitary water line before the lawsuit was launched but the cost was too much.

The district's plans call for purchasing water from Weimar Water Company and distributing it through separate water lines running parallel to the existing irrigation piping system.

The state is offering the district a \$950,000 construction loan at a 3.37 per cent annual interest rate to finance the project. The state will also chip in a \$400,000

construction grant.

Preuss said that while the new system will help the community as it grows, he himself would rather dig a well rather than connect because of the chlorination.

When the EPA announced two years ago that it was going after Midway Heights on health grounds, federal officials noted that it was a first time they had tried to crack down on a small water district.

Preuss and Mendez both say the Midway Heights district was

made an example of by the EPA.

"They got picked on because they had money in the bank," said Mendez. "They were financially solvent so they decided to go after them with full force."

"The problem for the other districts is they don't have the resources to fight the battle."

With the Midway Heights victory in hand, the EPA now will likely go after other small water agencies, said Mendez.

Government, Midway Heights settle lawsuit

By John Trumbo
Journal City Editor

5/24/89

(Continued from A-1)

WEIMAR — The government will get \$37,500 and Midway Heights County Water District customers will get clean water according to an agreement reached in a two-year-old lawsuit this week.

Lois Grunwald of the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco said the water district will pay a fine as part of a settlement reached Monday was precedent-setting because it was the first case in which the a rural water

district was mandated to clean up its water or face heavy penalties.

Midway district board member Karen Wyatt said she was glad to see the end of the lawsuit, even though it involved a hefty fine.

"They (EPA officials) originally wanted us to pay \$200,000, and we offered \$3,000. So \$37,500 is what it ended up being," she said.

The EPA sued Midway because water being distributed to 630 people was found to be contam-

inated with disease-causing bacteria. District directors resisted a cease and desist order, claiming they were in the irrigation water business, and that customers who used the untreated water for domestic purpose knowingly did so at their own risk.

"This ruling emphasizes that the responsibility of delivering safe water rests with the supplier, not the consumer," noted EPA Region 9 Administrator Daniel McGovern.

In the first ruling of its kind in the United States a federal court ruled in October 1988 that

(Please see MIDWAY, A-8)

Midway Heights' was a public water system, and as such was responsible for delivering safe water to the 250 households in its tiny 4.5 square-mile territory.

Central to the water quality issue was the fact that water was distributed out of an open ditch system that received run-off from Interstate 80, septic tank fields and cattle pastures.

Tests conducted by the state Department of Health showed that Midway Heights' water exceeded maximum allowable bacteria levels for drinking water in nearly every sample tested from 1982 to 1989.

Grunwald said animal or human excrement was detected in many of the samples.

The action filed against the district was based on more than 8,000 violations of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act, Grunwald said.

Wyatt said the settlement, which was lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District in Sacramento, also requires the district to construct a \$1 million treated water delivery system.

"Right now we have chlorinated water at our reservoir," Wyatt said. But that is a temporary arrangement until the new pipeline distribution system is completed.

Wyatt said the district will use a \$400,000 grant, supplemented by low-interest loan money and rev-

enue from an assessment district, to fund the new system.

When completed, Midway Heights will have two water distribution systems; one being the new pipeline to deliver treated water purchased from the Weimar Water Company and the other being the old pipeline for distributing untreated irrigation water.

According to the agreement with EPA, Midway must have its new system in place and operating by Aug. 1, 1990.

Wyatt said some customers initially were concerned about having chlorinated water for irrigation and domestic uses.

"So far we've had three, maybe five, people disconnect because of chlorination. Personally, I don't want to put it in my little pond because it will kill my bluegills (fish)," she said.

The EPA lawsuit in July 1987 followed what had been a years-long struggle by the county Health Department to get Midway Heights to clean up its water system.

A federal court issued a preliminary injunction against the district seven months later, ordering installation of an interim chlorination system. A summary judgment followed in October 1988 and a trial date was set for June 1989.

Wyatt said she didn't know how much money was expended on the lawsuit. "I can only say it was an awful lot for engineering and litigation," she said.

'They (EPA officials) originally wanted us to pay \$200,000, and we offered \$3,000. So \$37,500 is what it ended up being.

Midway Heights board member **Karen Wyatt**

FOOTHILL NEIGHBORS FORM POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

"The Meadow Vista Area Concerned Citizens (MVACC) is a group of M.V. residents who are interested in improving their community and informing the public on topics of general interest to homeowners in the area." So states Stuart Feldman, an active member of the group. Feldman says the group was formed primarily because of concerns over the expansion of the Chevreux Concrete Plant at Lake Combie.

Their concerns now include road improvements, traffic problems, the choice of a new local school site, environmental concerns, sewer and waste problems in the foothills, supervisorial representation, and the possibility of the county's declaring Meadow Vista as a hazardous waste dumping ground.

Recent petitions sponsored by the group have been signed by over 1,000 area residents who have shown interest in MVACC's lobbying efforts.

According to Feldman, "We want to slow down or stop the industrialization of this community. We feel M.V. is losing the village flavor that lured many of us here, and instead is becoming more like the suburbs. MVACC is basically an information gathering and disseminating tool, a place where you can air your concerns in open discussion with others."

The group is planning a booth at Meadow Vista's Pioneer Day celebration where they will pass out literature and gather support.

For more information on the group's activities, contact Stuart Feldman at 878-1129, or attend one of their meetings at Placer Hills School on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m.

3/12/89

Time to get together

A state of constant tension exists around what should be a bucolic setting by Lake Combie. But instead of the birds chirping, the sound that stands out most is the sound of two parties who spend their waking moments locked in combat.

The residents who make up the Lake Combie Association, Inc. see Joe Chevreux as their enemy. Chevreux, on the other hand, sees the Association as a lot of red ink. Both parties have right on their side.

The residents would love nothing more than to have Lake Combie as a year-round reservoir, a site not only devoted to storing precious water, but for its recreational and aesthetic values as well.

Chevreux correctly points out that if he doesn't get the gravel from the lake, then local construction costs skyrocket because then the gravel has to be trucked in from Sacramento.

The Nevada Irrigation District, the lake's governing body, also correctly points out that somebody has to keep getting the gravel out of Combie or else the storage capacity annually sinks.

Now is the proper time for the two sides to sit down together in Meadow Vista. After all, governing agencies keep reporting that Chevreux is doing nothing illegal or immoral out there. And the residents certainly have the right to their pursuit of happiness.

Perhaps the two parties might want to sit down and see what can be worked out, rather than keep a battery of lawyers and consultants fully employed. There's no telling what could come about if only the shouts were lowered to whispers. Then, maybe everybody could hear the birds chirping at Lake Combie.

as part of his Reclamation Plan hearing. Although we had approximately 2½ months to "talk", only one meeting was held. The result of this meeting were 7 so-called compromise items that were full of "ifs" and "maybes" and completely unenforceable. Chevreux made it clear that he would be willing to compromise on anything that would fit in with his own plans — period — as verified by the transcript of that meeting.

Your editorial stated that NID points out that the gravel must be taken out of Combie or else the storage capacity annually sinks. How about the silt? There has been no provisions made for removing the silt, too. Do we remove the gravel to make more room for the silt? And, with the other mining operations in the area, we sincerely doubt that gravel would have to be trucked in from Sacramento if it wasn't coming from Combie.

Lake Combie Association does not view Chevreux as the "enemy", but rather as a businessman who is used to getting his own way and will settle for nothing less. We are not interested in stopping the mining operation. Indeed, we all see the merits of having the Lake cleaned out.

The only thing we have asked is that some controls be placed on the operation in regards to method and time schedule. We would like to know that when Chevreux moves in front of our homes, is he going to be there 1 year, 5 years, or 50 years?

Chevreux may not be doing anything illegal out here, but we're not sure about immoral. Is it moral to disregard the adverse impacts on people and the environment? Is it moral to cause property to be devalued? Is it moral to create such a noise factor that people cannot even converse on their telephone in their home? Is it moral to destroy people's aesthetic enjoyment of their property?

Dear Auburn Journal, Lake Combie Association throws down the gauntlet! If you can arrange a meeting with Chevreux, anytime, anyplace, Lake Combie Association will be there.

Sincerely,

Rory Kammerer, President
Lake Combie Association
Auburn

Meadow Vista

By Pat Ferguson

3/15/89

MEADOW VISTA CAR SIGNS

A number of signs declaring "protect Meadow Vista" have been seen around town in the back of cars. If you would like to get one of your own call Stewart at 878-1129. They are also available at the local video stores.

Logic not reality 3/24/89

Editor,

Your editorial in Sunday, March 13th's paper, entitled "Time to get Together" was certainly logical. However, sometimes logic and reality are not synonymous.

In early 1987, when Joe Chevreux first came out into the residential area of Lake Combie, one of the property owners, who knew Chevreux, called and asked him if he would meet with the homeowners to discuss what he was planning in the Lake, as we were all becoming concerned. His answer was 'no', he would not meet with the residents. This was before any "lawyers" or "consultants" were involved.

In fact, the only time Chevreux has agreed to meet with the homeowners was when the Nevada County Board of Supervisors made it mandatory that a meeting be held between the homeowners. Chevreux, NID and County staff

Meadow Vista

3/29/89

By Pat Ferguson

MVACC NEWS

The Meadow Vista Area Concerned Citizens continue to meet on a twice-monthly basis. Meetings of the steering committee are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. in Room 17 at Placer Hills School.

On April 3 the meeting will concentrate on plans for the Pioneer Day activities. Pioneer Day is held early in June and attracts participation from many local groups.

Everyone who is interested in planning and carrying out MVACC activities for this event is welcome to attend Monday's meeting.

Possible Pioneer Day activities for MVACC include the parade, information booth, food concession, and Meadow Vista items for sale. These are only ideas. The attending members on Monday will be making the actual decisions and plans.

The MVACC steering committee sees the group as being more than a "single-issue" group, according to spokesman Stewart Feldman.

"We want to become a community presence and to heighten awareness of our group and local issues," he said. "We want to become a truly 'community' organization."

Although the April 3 meeting will be primarily a Pioneer Day planning session, residents are welcome to attend to see what MVACC is all about and to contribute their ideas on possible areas of emphasis for the group.

For more information, call Feldman at 878-1129.

More questions 4/24/89

Editor,

Recently, Joe Chevreux made a presentation to the Placer Hills Union School District Board of Trustees. The Board asked that he provide information about his proposed cement batch plant in Meadow Vista.

Part of his presentation raises more questions about the issue. When Mr. Chevreux was asked about doing an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) he said that he was not opposed to doing one. The question is: If the residents of Meadow Vista want an EIR done and Mr. Chevreux is not opposed to it, "Why isn't one being sought by the Planning Commission?"

Meadow Vista

By Pat Ferguson

4/5/89

MVACC NEWS

A planning committee has been formed to work on plans for MVACC to participate in Pioneer Day in early June.

The group will be entering a float in the parade. In addition, members plan to provide information about MVACC and sell Meadow Vista-related articles at an information booth.

A food concession is also in the planning stages.

MVACC wants to become an active part in the community, and Pioneer Day is an excellent opportunity for participation.

A possible answer is that the Planning Commission, itself, doesn't want one. This conclusion could be inferred from other comments made by Mr. Chevreux at the Board meeting. He added that the County has previously developed plans for "road improvements" in the Meadow Vista Area for which they are seeking funding. It seems that he has been told that he could put his funds into this road construction rather than spending it on an EIR for his cement plant.

The County is seeking possible outside funding for the "road improvements." The process, as alluded to by Mr. Chevreux, is a complicated one, but, it sounds like the hunt for funding would be supported by road mitigations listed in a Negative Declaration for his permit request. The EIR would not necessarily mandate road mitigations and, therefore, not reinforce the County's search for funding for their own planned "road improvements."

Now new questions should be asked. What are these "road improvements?" Have the residents of Meadow Vista been involved in the Planning/decision-making process in regard to these "road improvements?" The Meadow Vista General Plan was completed in the early '70's. Were "road improvements" listed at that time? Shouldn't the residents

Members also plan to be active in the Grange-sponsored Meadow Vista Clean-Up Day on May 20.

Anyone interested in assisting with Pioneer Day preparation should call Stewart Feldman at 878-1129.

Any groups interested in participating in the Clean-up Day should contact Ron Miller at 878-1617.

This phone number is a correction of a previously listed number.

The MVACC is also distributing "Protect Meadow Vista" signs for a donation of \$2.

These are available at the Meadow Vista Video and from various community people. If you can't find a neighbor that has them, contact Stewart Feldman at 878-1129.

have been involved in up-dating this plan and in any master planning for "road improvements?"

Would the "road improvements" even be seen as true improvements to the residents of Meadow Vista? Personally, I am not looking for more lanes through our community. If that is part of the plan, then I don't see it as an "improvement" at all. I see it as a detriment. I would be especially concerned if the residents' desire for an EIR has been dismissed because it would not help fund "road improvements" that we don't even want or know about.

Other small communities have their MAC's that speak for the residents in regard to planning issues. I think it is time for something similar for the Meadow Vista area. A lapsed General Plan, plans for roads that may be at cross-purposes to the wishes of Meadow Vista residents, and various development issues require input from the local constituents.

Although Mr. Chevreux's presentation was to be on his proposal for a cement batch plant, his insights into the County's plans for our area raise more far-reaching issues. It is time for cooperative planning between the residents and the County in order to prevent an issue-by-issue confrontation situation.

Pat Ferguson
Meadow Vista

New MAC may form

5/8/89

AUBURN — A public meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Placer Hills School, 16801 Placer Hills Road, to evaluate community interest in forming a Municipal Advisory Council for Meadow Vista.

Placer County Supervisor George Beland, whose district includes Meadow Vista, said he would like public input on the advisability of forming a MAC. Members to MAC groups are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for two-year terms. Members mainly act in an advisory capacity on matters involving land use, public health, law enforcement, public works projects, planning and recreation.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Beland's office at 889-4010.

Meadow Vista

By Pat Ferguson

5/10/89

MV PUBLIC MEETING

Local support for a Meadow Vista MAC (municipal advisory committee) has been growing. Various residents have been examining the possibilities of establishing a MAC for our area. County Supervisor George Beland from our district, will hold a public meeting to see just how much support exists in the community.

The meeting will be held in the Placer Hills School cafeteria today, Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m.

All residents are invited to attend. This is an opportunity to speak up on the future of Meadow Vista.

MAC members are appointed by the Placer County Board of Supervisors to give advice on land use, public health, planning and recreation. The general plan for Meadow Vista has not been updated since the mid 70s. This would be a prime project for a Meadow Vista MAC.

For more information call Beland at 889-4010 or come to the meeting tonight.

Meadow Vista may get MAC

By Emily Darby
Auburn Journal Staff

5/11/89

Questions and comments raised during an informal Meadow Vista community meeting Monday indicated that residents may soon have their own municipal advisory council.

About 45 people attended the meeting called by District 3 Supervisor George Beland to answer questions about what an advisory council is and does.

Although Meadow Vista resident Susan Kauk said she wouldn't describe Wednesday's turn out as "rousing," Board of

Supervisors assistant administrator John Marin said the projected interest seemed to warrant a MAC.

"It takes a three fifths vote by the Board of Supervisors to create a council," said Marin. "But ... there seems to be

(Please see MEADOW VISTA, A-11)

(Continued from A-1)

enough interest here."

Beland said during Wednesday's open discussion that he had a strong desire to form a Meadow Vista advisory council before he actually arrived at the Placer Hills School meeting place.

"A MAC is a real value to people," said Beland during his opening statements Wednesday. "It provides structure and opportunity for people to address issues of their community."

Marin and Beland fielded questions ranging from boundaries of jurisdiction for the proposed entity to how to implement a recall vote.

Before anyone actually inquired about how an advisory council functions, several people wanted to know how to get rid of a council that didn't act in the community's interest.

Marin explained that people in the defined MAC area have to apply for a position on the council. Beland would make his

recommendations and the Board of Supervisors would have to approve the members.

Marin suggested that if Meadow Vista formed an advisory council, it should consist of no more than five members and probably meet every other month. He warned that serving on a council required many volunteer hours and extensive homework on issues.

Marin repeatedly pointed out that advisory councils take no actions but simply advise the Board of Supervisors on issues pertaining to that particular community.

"A MAC is the avenue to the county that we haven't had before," said Kauk. "I think a MAC would be great."

Issues commonly dealt with by MACs include land uses, public health, law enforcement, public works and special projects said Marin.

People attending Wednesday's meeting asked several questions

about Meadow Vista's general plan but Marin cut them short, explaining that advisory councils may or may not be involved in general plan updates.

The Meadow Vista General Plan was last updated in 1974 and is scheduled to be reviewed in 1993.

However, Marin noted that advisory councils often can effect the outcome of developments in scope or particular details.

As of 9 p.m., members of Wednesday's audience had gathered around maps to determine where the MAC boundaries should lie.

Marin said it was possible that another meeting would be called to focus on boundary placements.

The county currently has 11 municipal or area advisory councils. Another MAC was approved last month for the Horse-shoe Bar area outside of Loomis although members are still to be appointed.

Meadow Vista

By Pat Ferguson

5/17/89

MEADOW VISTA CLEAN UP DAY

5/17/89

The grange-sponsored Meadow Vista Clean Up Day will be Saturday, May 20, beginning at 9 a.m. All participants will be rewarded with a free spaghetti lunch at noon provided by the members of the grange.

All community groups are invited to participate. Contact Ron Miller at 878-1617 to sign up.

Members of Meadow Vista

Area Concerned Citizens who are planning to participate should contact Stewart Feldman at 878-1129.

Supervisor begins push for Meadow Vista advisory council

By Tim O'Leary
Neighbors staff writer

5/18/89

Returning to the area responsible for putting him in office, freshman Auburn-area Supervisor George Beland left a spirited Meadow Vista town meeting May 10 promising to form a municipal advisory council for the unincorporated community.

The forum attracted nearly 50 people, including many foes of Joe Chevreux, an influential business leader and county commission member whose projects have sparked community activism and become a lightning rod for public outrage.

But Beland was satisfied that advisory council proponents aren't simply lobbying for a government-sanctioned panel to battle Chevreux.

"I think there's a real diversity of interests, but (Chevreux is) one example," he said afterward. "It's good for people to know when and where they can meet."

Many others who attended the meeting said enough community issues exist to prevent the advisory council from just focusing on the battles surrounding Chev-

reaux's existing aggregate mining operations and rock quarry at Lake Combie and his plans to someday move part or all of his Highway 49 concrete making operations to the lake.

It was Chevreux's concrete batch plant proposal, a request that has been shelved pending further environmental review, that sparked the growing support for an advisory council.

Many residents fear the proposed move of the concrete batch plant would lead to an influx of heavy concrete trucks, an impact that might endanger children and disrupt the area's rural lifestyle. His aggregate mining operations have also sparked numerous complaints from lakeside residents.

Chevreux responds by saying his operations were at the lake long before Meadow Vista existed and the newcomers simply don't understand the importance of his work. He has offered materials to help the county widen Placer Hills Road if his batch plant is moved there and he argues that such a move would decrease, not increase truck traffic to and from the lake.

"I think we can see there are many issues in the community, many more than have come out in the media recently," resident Stewart Feldman said during the meeting. His views were seconded by Bev Armstrong, who lives next to the lake.

Armstrong said she doesn't think Chevreux would be the sole focus of the advisory council. Beland wouldn't allow that to happen, she said after the meeting. But longtime resident Jim Hellar privately doubted whether enough serious issues exist.

Citing some of the local issues, Hellar said there are community concerns over growth, future lot splits, building designs and plans to build a new school and widen roads.

"I think the main issue is Chevreux at this point," Hellar said. "But his issues do have a major impact on the community."

Hellar's main worry has been Meadow Vista's rapid growth rate, but it soon will no longer be a concern of his. Hellar is selling the house and land owned by his family since 1947 and moving to a rural island off

the coast of Washington state.

"Meadow Vista is moving too fast for me," he said.

County senior planner Dean Prigmore, a Meadow Vista resident, said he attended the meeting for personal and professional reasons. He predicted that Meadow Vista, with an estimated population of about 6,000 people, will probably grow by another 500 housing units during the next few years.

He agreed that Chevreux wouldn't be the only issue on future advisory council agendas.

"I would say not at all," Prigmore said. "It's the town meeting that the town needs." His views were shared by fellow resident Michael Murphy.

"We're growing up," Murphy said. He said there are many people who are primarily concerned with single issues. His is the perceived problems surrounding the construction of a new elementary school. An advisory council would create a forum to uniformly look at a broad range of topics and prevent the ebb and flow of apathy and activism over major issues.



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NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Leslie Vodden

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT E.I.R. FOR
JOE CHEVREUX BATCH PLANT ADJACENT TO COMBIE
RESERVOIR

APPLICANT : Western Planning & Engineering
11860 Kemper Road
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County Community Development Department, Planning Division, will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is ___ is not * attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Tom Kubik at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date May 24, 1989


Tom Kubik, Associate Planner

Telephone (916) 889-7470

* A copy of the document is available for review in the Planning Division

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