

THE COMMUNITY SAYS:

A SUMMARY OF IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE LINDSAY CREEK WATERSHED AND COMMUNITY THE LINDSAY CREEK PROJECT: WATERSHED AND COMMUNITY BASED LAND USE ASSESSMENT November, 2004

I. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following is a summary of hopes and desires expressed by a cross-section of residents in the Lindsay Creek watershed (Fieldbrook-northwest Glendale area community) in Humboldt County, California. Input and ideas were solicited from the community starting in October of 2003 and are still being solicited at the time of writing.

This information was collected by a number of methods, through an iterative process, with the objective of determining important issues and ideas for addressing them. Community hopes and ideas about the future were solicited through:

- **Interviews** of 28 people during late 2003 and early 2004 in and outside the watershed considered to be community 'leaders' (generally well-regarded and/or long-time residents) and decisionmakers whose actions affect those in watershed (Attachment 1A);
- A **community survey** delivered to 123 randomly selected households in February-March 2004 and returned by 96 households (Attachments 2A and 3A);
- In May of 2004, a **community meeting** to describe the project and a **workshop** to solicit input and hold some community dialogue about the future that were attended by approximately 50 and 40 residents, respectively (Attachments 4A and 5A);
- A **town hall meeting** in August of 2004 hosted by the Fieldbrook Community Services District to provide another opportunity for input and dialogue about the project and the County General Plan Update that was attended by approximately 50 residents;
- **Personal communications** with watershed residents via phone, email and personal contact, some of which was in response to information on the **project website**; and
- **Input on this document.**

Notes about the following tables:

- The first table includes land use and watershed-related issues and ideas directly related to the objective of the project from the perspective of the funding source. The second table is a reporting of other community-related issues and ideas we heard from the public that are not directly related to funding source objectives.
- Most 'Related Community Ideas' are derived from group discussions at the May 22, 2004 Public Workshop, however suggestions for addressing issues also arose from other sources of input.
- Issues are lettered for reference purposes. Grey text indicates issues that generally had a secondary level of importance. This is not to say the issues are unimportant, only that of the issues most important to watershed residents, some are generally of lesser priority than others.
- Abbreviations indicate community input provided via **I**nterviews, **S**urvey responses, **P**ersonal communications, and **M**eetings/workshop.
- Many ideas are related to a number of different issues, and are repeated accordingly. Some ideas conflict.

II. WATERSHED-BASED LAND USE

Community Said	Because	Related Community Ideas	I	S	P	M
A. Maintain forested hills and 'open' space.	Significant element of community character; contribute to beauty and privacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Keep large tracts of land intact permanently and focus development on small parcels. 	I	S	P	M
B. Maintain presence of salmon and steelhead in creek.	Part of community identity, concern for health of watershed, interest in maintaining historic nature and uses of streams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health of lower Lindsay Creek reach is the most critical aspect of fisheries health in the watershed. – Need a sediment budget to determine most significant sources of turbidity (residential roads and/or timber management). – Need more habitat and water quality data. – Provide assistance to road associations so they can better manage private roads. – Need a water quality monitoring program and stations on each tributary. 	I	S	P	M
C. Maintain low housing density.	Maintain current quality of life, privacy, open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintain current zoning and large parcels. 	I	S	P	M
D. Maintain the small rural community atmosphere.	Maintain current quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can probably maintain some level of growth and rural character – need to define how much growth is acceptable. – Keep large tracts of land intact permanently and focus development on small parcels. – Consider conservation easements. 	I	S	P	M
E. Do not allow expansion of sewer service.	Do not want increased residential/commercial development that is perceived will occur with associated with sewer service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Address concerns about septic systems without creating a demand for sewer (see below). 	I	S	P	M
F. Reduce septic pollution from aging/failing systems to improve water quality.	Concern for health, safety, water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create incentives for upgrade of aged septic systems. – Consider the possibility of neighborhood septic systems (e.g. Sea View, Monterey). – Research sewer and septic maintenance cost comparison by Manila CSD. – Look into 'alternative' wastewater systems and the possibility of the County providing special permits for them (and also consider the ramifications of such systems on development pressure). – Establish Lindsay Creek watershed as a pilot for testing new wastewater management approaches. 	I	S	P	M
G. Research extension of sewer service.	To have better information from which to decide if such an effort has merit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Specifically, from the west (McKinleyville) and not from the south (Glendale). – Develop a strategy to accommodate only the desired amount of growth, 	I	S		

			such as a 'schedule of infrastructure improvements'.				
			- 55% of survey respondents said that sewer extension should definitely or possibly be considered for Fieldbrook – 36% said possibly or definitely no.				
H.	Protect working timber and ag lands from development.	Part of the fabric of the community and maintains open landscapes.	- Keep large tracts of land intact and focus development on small parcels. - Consider conservation easements.	I	S	P	M
I.	Collect water quality data in local streams.	Concern for health, safety, water quality.	- Grants or volunteer water quality monitoring efforts. - Need a monitoring station on each Lindsay Creek tributary. - Involve elementary school (interested teachers and administrators, good place-based learning exercises, assistance with needed data collection).	I			M
J.	Maintain privacy .	One of the reasons many people live in the community.	- Maintain low density and large parcels.	I	S		M
K.	Place least possible restrictions on management of private property.	Already enough regulatory burden on the private landowner.	- Encourage a planning system that is clear and simple and a permitting system that is nested. - Concern that this project will potentially increase regulatory burden .	I		P	M
L.	Reduce sedimentation and associated fisheries impacts related to development-induced road proliferation.	Help improve fish habitat and perhaps see a return of historic fisheries.	- Improve road system design and construction standards via land use regulations. - Need a sediment budget to determine most significant sources of turbidity. - Provide assistance to road associations so they can better manage private roads (e.g. low interest loans, state grants).	I	S	P	M
M.	Ensure younger generations and their families can afford to stay in the community .	To maintain diversity and support the Elementary School.	- The following are a few ideas noted about improving affordability of real estate: - Consider ways to allow small clusters of housing development (e.g. Lyman Road) and figure out how to address septic limitations for those areas; - Densify 'town center' area (if wastewater and stormwater infrastructure can be provided); - Develop a Community Land Trust; - Set affordable housing unit requirements; and - See next table.				
N.	Require new commercial activity to be consistent with the existing rural setting.	To maintain rural atmosphere and support existing commercial activity.	- Perhaps focus new commercial development in the 'town center' area. - Future development should be 'cottage' in nature and related to existing operations (e.g. orchards, winery, equipment contractors).	I			M
O.	Maintain ability to have animals on property.	As an aspect of a rural versus suburban or urban lifestyle.	- Require streamside protection zones.		S		M
P.	Maintain presence of wildlife in the watershed.	As an indication that the watershed is a healthy place for animal residents.	- Maintain large parcels and working timber and ag lands. - Some species are of particular concern: Chinook, beaver, frogs.	I	S	P	M

Q. Maintain adequate streamflow.	To provide adequate water for habitat and human enjoyment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Complete summer habitat surveys and determine limits (such as water diversions). – Educate landowners about impacts of water diversion on fisheries. 	I	S	P	M
R. Reduce dumping in the creek.	To reduce pollution and improve aesthetics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Organize more clean up events. 	I	S		M
S. Widen streamside vegetation corridors.	To improve fisheries habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Require streamside protection zones. – 	I	S		M
T. Do not allow expansion of water service.	Do not want increased residential/commercial development that is perceived will occur with associated with water service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No ideas presented. 	I	S		M
U. Ensure good maintenance of public roads.	To provide for transportation needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No ideas presented. 	I	S		
V. Ensure good maintenance of private roads.	To reduce sedimentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide education and resource assistance to Road Associations (see above). 	I	S		M
W. Provide for a mix of housing densities.	To ensure a diversity of people can live in the watershed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider dedicating a couple of areas in watershed to ‘clustered’ neighborhoods as appropriate (re: infrastructure, site suitability). 		S		M
X. Do better than recent development trends in other parts of County.	Don’t like recent development patterns in other parts of county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider ‘smart growth’ principles. – Learn from creative solutions in other areas. 			P	
Y. Reduce flooding in ‘town center’ area.	To reduce flooding problems in town.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improve stormwater management in ‘town center’ area. – Ensure building setbacks from streams. – Clear vegetation and debris from stream channels. 	I	S		
Z. Maintain relatively pristine state and function of lower Lindsay Creek.	A ‘treasure’ in the watershed, most critical part of watershed for fisheries habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conservation easement/s to eliminate possibility of residential development. 	I			M
AA. Glendale should be the focus of redevelopment efforts, not Fieldbrook.	Glendale infrastructure, services, proximity to highway, developable former industrial sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CSD has no wastewater capacity to accommodate increased development. – County and CSD communicate to determine if there are any wastewater options, since it is a good area for redevelopment efforts. 	I		P	M
BB. Extend water service.	To provide better water source and reduce private removal of stream water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No ideas presented. 	I	S		
CC. Densify ‘town center’.	As a place to focus future residential development in the watershed; because some infrastructure exists there; in vicinity of community services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clustering of small subdivisions. – Focus development where it’s most appropriate, in conjunction with infrastructure support. 	I			M
DD. Reduce unpermitted motorcycle use of private road systems.	To manage associated erosion and noise nuisance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Retail outlets often direct buyers to use private land (e.g. Simpson/Green Diamond). – Neighborly encouragement/intimidation can work. 			P	M

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work with Simpson/Green Diamond to increase enforcement. – Develop education programs at schools about need for respectful riding and impacts. – Are there places where a dedicated riding area could be developed where local kids could ride there, instead of having to truck/trailer there? Localized riding areas around the county? Even a ‘sacrifice’ portion of large private landholders? 		
EE. Too many deer in watershed.	Substantial increase in sightings, problems associated with overpopulation.	– No ideas presented.	S	M
FF. Ensure adequate trash (solid waste) service.	To reduce dumping.	– No ideas presented.	I	S

III. COMMUNITY ACTION PLANNING

Community Said	Because	Related Community Ideas	I	S	P	M
A. Improve the pedestrian and bicycling environment.	Safer streets for youth, access to school, and for families to be able to safely exercise by foot or bicycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Most critical area in need is between store and school: identify potential solutions for sites of most concern and start to address issues at those points. – Work toward neighborhood road connector paths (but motorcycles are an issue). – Long term goals: 1) road-adjacent path like the one in Bayside next to Old Arcata Road; 2) get longer-term project priorities on regional project lists and lobby for them. 	I	S		M
B. Keep it a good place to raise a family.	Like having a good mix for families: school, safe environment, and (in past, not now) affordability of housing for families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land use planning for affordability: look into alternatives for wastewater treatment; allow a couple of small clustered neighborhood developments (e.g. Lyman); need ability to develop mother-in-law units. – Maintain/enhance local elementary school: (see below). – Maintain ‘safe’ feeling for youth. 	I	S		M
C. Maintain sense of community.	Many people live in the watershed partially because of the close-knit, yet independent nature of community.	– No ideas presented.	I	S		
D. Maintain local elementary school.	Value of local educational institution vs. bussing youth to other communities; social values; programs that benefit community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider ways to improve affordability of some housing in the watershed so that families can afford to live here (see housing affordability, above). – Increase/maintain enrollment by: considering redistricting and/or 	I	S		M

			developing 'magnet' programs.			
E.	Maintain local fire, emergency, water and wastewater services.	To provide for safety of and services to local residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More people in the watershed = more fire hazard. - Educate residents about how to reduce fire hazards (when/how to burn, redwood forests do burn). 	I	S	M
F.	Ensure the Fieldbrook General Store continues to serve the community.	Nearly unanimously considered one of the most important places in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (The store was for sale during much of the input portion of this project and is now under new ownership.) 	I	S	
G.	Maintain sense of safety.	Community currently feels relatively safe compared to bigger cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce drug proliferation (see below) and road safety (see above). 	I	S	M
H.	Reduce proliferation of drugs.	Negative effect on sense of community, safety, youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide youth alternative constructive and recreational opportunities. - 	I	S	
I.	Develop community park and trails.	To provide youth and families with exercise, recreation and gathering opportunities. Many community members currently use private lands for trail recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many consider the school grounds adequate park facilities. 	I	S	P M
J.	Increase local recreational opportunities for youth.	Provide healthy activity options for youth within the community so there is less opportunity for unhealthy activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one third of survey respondents supported the FCSD initiating a recreational program (two thirds said they would not support such program and said they would contribute a fee per parcel to such a program). 	I	S	
K.	Ensure safe and sane traffic.	As population has increased, many people have most noticed it by increase in traffic. Need lower speeds for safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See 'bicycle and pedestrian' issue, above. 	I	S	M
L.	Develop or strengthen 'umbrella' organization in community.	To provide structure for organizing events, community efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist Grange with strengthening the institution, similar to what the Bayside Grange has done. 	I		
M.	Reduce community identity schitzophrenia.	Phone numbers, mailing addresses, school districts and fire districts can be based in different communities for Fieldbrook/Glendale residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No ideas presented. 			P M
N.	Extend public transit service to the valley.	Reduce dependence on single occupant vehicles and increase mobility for non-drivers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No ideas presented. 	I	S	