

**From:** Emily Fisher [mailto:efisher@lsnc.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 08, 2006 11:02 AM  
**To:** DSGeneralPlan  
**Subject:** Additional comments on Guiding Principles

Dear Tim and Dan:

First, I wanted to thank you and Noel, Pete, and the other staff members for your efforts last night, it takes some real bravery to attempt revision of a document by a group process like that. I think it actually went quite well, understanding that further debate and revision is likely for some of the principles.

Just a few more thoughts on Principle 3. I sensed from some folks present that since housing and housing affordability is addressed in its own element with extensive state law requirements, it is "covered" adequately and doesn't need to be specifically addressed in the Guiding Principles. Insofar as these Principles are meant to reflect values we hold in the community I think this is a serious oversight. There are other principles that have a corresponding element in the general plan, yet merited additional mention. I'm hopeful that county planners have (or could be persuaded to develop) a different attitude toward the housing element than what I heard from some planners in Chico, and it was my impression that the housing element tends to be viewed as a "numbers game." It isn't seen as having much connection to realities on the ground or actual impact on the supply of affordable housing for all the people who are going to be working that ag land we want to preserve and staffing our retail businesses and mowing the lawns at the golf course, you get the idea. With due respect to the gentleman who said that people now want to live where they play, some of us still want to live where we work, and still others just need a place to live. I have met homeless people who tell me they grew up in Butte County. I wish they were on the CAC!

Therefore it seems all the more important to send a strong message via the guiding principles that housing for all our residents is a serious concern. The county has an opportunity here to raise the bar a little and show the cities that this is an issue that absolutely impacts everything else we want to do, promoting economic growth, keeping agriculture viable, protecting natural resources, increasing public health and safety, planning for transportation...you name it, there's a tie-in. This is a rural as well as urban growth / development issue so either housing should be mentioned in both of those principles, or it needs a principle of its own.

Thanks again for your efforts to make this process work. I think it's off to a good start and I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,  
Emily Fisher