

Hello. We continue to work diligently through the home stretch of our project application phase. The Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released to the public. The City of Sutter Creek has a schedule of City Council and Planning Commission meetings coinciding with this release which can be viewed on the City's web site: <http://ci.sutter-creek.ca.us>.

We continue to offer Community Workshops at our Sutter Creek office with updates on the project and the current E.I.R. process, a venue to address your comments and questions and extend information about our Site Tours. Friday, September 5th will feature Jim Harnish, Gold Rush Project Manager, at our office workshop. More dates are listed in the calendar below.

We have scheduled Site Tours on Saturdays in August and September. Dates are listed in the Calendar below. We will meet for these tours at the Gold Rush office at 10:00 a.m. R.S.V.P.'s are required for the tours. We are happy to arrange special Site Tours to fit your schedule, so please give us a call to arrange a time that suits you.

Our office address, phone number and web address are included below. We encourage residents to contact us with questions and comments on subjects of mutual concern. As always, we appreciate your support and interest as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

John Telischak, Bill Bunce and Troy Claveran
Project Sponsors

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City of Sutter Creek Workshops cover Gold Rush E.I.R. and Specific Plan



Monday, Aug. 25 th	7-9 pm	Planning Commission Public Hearing
Tuesday, Sept. 2 nd	6-10 pm	Joint CC/PC workshop
Monday, Sept. 8 th	7-9 pm	Planning Commission Public Meeting
Monday, Sept. 15 th	7-9 pm	City Council Public Meeting

Joint meetings of the Sutter Creek City Council and Planning Commission are ongoing. Workshops and public hearings are scheduled through September. You can view the city's schedule online at <http://ci.sutter-creek.ca.us>. Photo courtesy of Amador Ledger Dispatch.

Gold Rush needs "B.I.R."

The following is excerpted from commentary by Jerry Budrick in the Ledger Dispatch Tuesday, July 22, 2008

By Jerry Budrick

In the eight years since the Gold Rush Ranch and Golf Resort project began to take shape, an incredible number of changes have occurred. Back in 2000, 911 was still just the phone number to dial in case of emergency. Prosperity was all around, but hadn't yet ignited the astronomical rise in home prices that would ultimately lead to today's mortgage chaos and real estate depression. Gasoline was \$1.50 a gallon, which already seemed outrageously high.

Now, eight years and something like \$20 million in developers' money later, the city of Sutter Creek has released a draft environmental impact report for Gold Rush. The report contains all the bad things that will happen to the city and the surrounding area if the project developers are allowed to have their way: increased traffic, oak tree removal, violation of the viewshed, school overcrowding, and added burdens on local police and fire departments, among others. The DEIR could be considered a comprehensive document, were it not for one essential flaw: It lists only negative impacts.

Feature continued:

When the concept of an EIR was first introduced, in 1969, as part of the National Environmental Protection Act, it was meant to be "an assessment of the possible impact - positive or negative - that a proposed project may have on the environment."

In deference to the inventors' intent, there really should be a companion document, which could be called the BIR, a beneficial impact report. It would begin with the benefit to Sutter Creek that brought Troy Claveran and his investment buddies here in the first place. The city will have a place to spray the effluent that pours from the city's wastewater treatment plant, effluent that presently allows Castle Oaks Golf Club to maintain lush fairways, full water hazards and soft greens. In addition to providing the spray fields, Gold Rush would also provide the money needed to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to tertiary capability, millions of dollars that are going to need to come from somewhere rather soon. The BIR would show traffic, just not in a negative light. It would show how the thousands of residents of Gold Rush and its well-heeled golf and timeshare visitors would increase traffic over the ridge and down into the towns of Sutter Creek and Jackson, to fill the restaurants, shops and theaters.

Prosperity would be the most beneficial impact. When built, the Gold Rush golf course, driving range, restaurant and other businesses created there will impact the amount of sales tax collected in Sutter Creek. The recently released Municipal Services Review for Amador County pinpoints sales tax loss as the key fiscal element in the city of Sutter Creek's inability to provide adequate services.

The impact on local property taxes is obvious and readily apparent. The beneficial impact on the local job market is beyond estimation. The Gold Rush organization has a proven track record of hiring people from our local community and can be expected to continue to follow that policy when hiring in the future. The devastating economic downturn of the last two years, coupled with (perhaps causing) a dip in county population, is resulting in some shrinkage in student population. Gold Rush, though it anticipates only one-third of a child per home, will bolster the numbers and return the school district to levels needed for adequate state funding.

What definitely should be included in the BIR is the beneficial impact Claveran has had on many of the local hackers' golf game, present company included.

Read Jerry Budrick's entire commentary at ledger-dispatch.com/opinion in July2008 archives.

Calendar

Friday, August 22nd	10:00 a.m.	E.I.R. Community Workshop @ Gold Rush Office
Saturday, August 23rd	10:00 a.m.	Site Tour: meet @ Gold Rush Office
Friday, Sept. 5th	10:00 a.m.	E.I.R. Community Workshop featuring Jim Harnish, Project Manager @ Gold Rush Office
Friday, Sept. 12th	10:00 a.m.	E.I.R. Community Workshop @ Gold Rush Office
Saturday, Sept. 13th	10:00 a.m.	Site Tour: meet @ Gold Rush Office
Friday, Sept. 26th	10:00 a.m.	Community Workshop @ Gold Rush Office
Saturday, Sept. 27th	10:00 a.m.	Site Tour: meet @ Gold Rush Office

Would you like to receive future newsletter issues via e-mail? Contact us at:
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