



**Food and Agricultural Focus Group
Meeting #6 Summary
April 2, 2009**

The sixth meeting of the Focus Group was held on April 2, 2009 at the Sutter County Health Department Auditorium. Members that were present include: Jack Poukish, Casey Hoppin, Brian Fedora, Ann Chesini, Sam Nevis, Amerjit Sohal and Matt Conant. Members that were absent include: Steve Danna, James Akin, and Ram Dhanota.

The purpose of the April 2nd Food and Agricultural Focus Group meeting, the last scheduled meeting, was to complete review and comment on the draft Agricultural Element goals and policies, picking up at Goal AG 3. The intent was to arrive at a consensus as to the adequacy of the remaining draft policies and/or any suggested revisions, additions, or deletions.

The title of Goal 3 was changed to "Preserve Natural Resources for Agriculture." In general, Focus Group members suggested that policies regarding the preservation of natural resources, especially water, reflect the work that the Farm Bureau had done in this area. Also, Focus Group members were more comfortable with the terms, "support" or "promote" rather than "encourage." In addition, the Group was concerned that the policies provide the farmer with as much flexibility as possible. The group decided to delete Policy 3.6 regarding the transfer of water because it would diminish the farmer's ability to transfer water from one place where it is not needed to another where it is and would also discourage the use of water conserving irrigation methods and the selling of water that is not needed. The group also decided to delete item "d." under Policy 4.12, which stated that a probable workforce should be located nearby or be readily available when proposing to site agriculture support uses. Other minor word changes were made to some of the remaining policies being considered.

A revised version of the Agricultural Element reflecting the Focus Group's recommendations will subsequently be forwarded to Focus Group members and notifications provided of future GPAC, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors' meetings in which the Agricultural Element will be discussed.