

Valley residents weigh in on town's future

By **KIMBERLY WHITE**

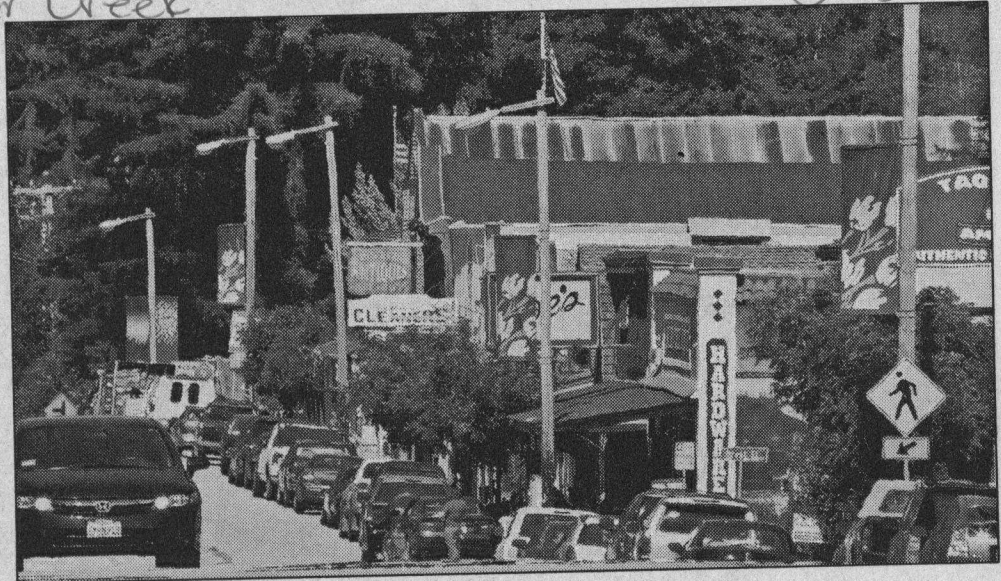
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BOULDER CREEK — If residents here had their way, a now-vacant lot in the downtown area would be turned into a plaza or park, and streets would glow with bright, welcoming lights as darkness begins to fall. Caltrans would quickly approve improvements along Highway 9, the main artery that runs through town, and the business sector would not expand into residential areas.

Those were among some of the suggestions offered at the end of a two-hour meeting Tuesday night in Boulder Creek Elementary School's auditorium. Attended by nearly 100 residents, the meeting was hosted by 5th District Supervisor Bruce McPherson, who wanted to hear from constituents on how best to update the Boulder Creek Town Plan. It has not been updated since it was adopted in 1992.

The plan outlines objectives, policies, recommendations on public improvements, and development standards and design guidelines, and is almost entirely focused on the Village Core commercial area and South Village residential area.

Before they broke into small groups, residents



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Suggestions for downtown Boulder Creek include better streetlights.

broached a wide range of subjects related to economic growth during a lengthy question-and-answer session with Kathy Previsich, the county's planning director, and Barbara Mason, the county's economic development director.

They discussed their work on a plan to pump more energy into the county's economic engine, and the San Lorenzo Valley's role as a tourist destination in developing the Transit Corridors Plan for Sustainable Communities. That plan's goal is to make

it easier to walk and drive in highly traveled areas and reduce carbon emissions. While the plan focuses on Mid-County communities, "some of the goals will be applicable countywide," Previsich said.

Several expressed frustration over Caltrans' control over Highway 9, and their seeming inability to have their voices heard on needed road improvements and new sidewalks.

Boulder Creek resident Skip Matthes even suggested a moratorium on expan-

sion of government services, noting how many parcels are now owned by the water and fire districts. But McPherson said the expansion is necessary to make the downtown area attractive enough for businesses to come to the San Lorenzo Valley "and say, 'I want to do business here.'"

Meetings on the town plans for Ben Lomond and Felton will be held in March and April.

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