



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Wins Regional Planning Award** General Plan considered best among small cities and counties

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Sacramento Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) announced on May 28, 2010, that it has recognized the Yolo County 2030 General Plan with this year’s “Comprehensive Planning for a Small Jurisdiction” award. The competition was open to local governments within the Sacramento Chapter, which includes 22 counties and 67 cities in a region that stretches from the northern Central Valley to the Oregon border.

The award acknowledges the outstanding planning efforts of those cities and counties with populations of less than 200,000. Nominees were judged on seven criteria, including originality, quality, comprehensiveness and public outreach. “The Awards Committee was very impressed with the Yolo County General Plan,” said Leslie Walker, with the Sacramento Chapter of the APA.

Recognition by the Sacramento Chapter qualifies Yolo County to compete for statewide honors in this category, which will be determined by the California Chapter of the APA. The state award will be announced this November at the APA convention in Carlsbad.

“The General Plan is a reflection of Yolo County’s commitment to innovation and stewardship,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M Thomson. “It’s exciting that others also celebrate this vision and appreciate the hard work that went into creating our updated General Plan.”

The General Plan was developed over six years at a cost of \$3 million. Nearly 70 workshops and hearings were held to accept more than 2,000 public comments on how the plan could be improved. It was also prepared in coordination with the Blueprint Project of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), ensuring consistency with regional smart growth planning principles. The resulting document was unanimously supported by both the Yolo County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

This is only the third time that the county has adopted a General Plan since the Gold Rush in 1850. The last comprehensive update occurred in 1983 and was largely based on the county’s original General Plan from 1958. The main goal of the 1958 was to minimize urban sprawl and preserve farmland and open space. The 2030 General Plan continues the county’s historic commitment to these values.

The General Plan is receiving widespread interest. County staff will be speaking at the APA state convention later this year about the importance of transportation policy, and are also scheduled to speak at the Association of Environmental Professionals conference next year about the county’s Climate Action Plan.

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