

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Not on the
AGENDA

**PROPOSED CITY OF ELK GROVE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT
(L AFC# 09-10/ SCH # 2010092076)**

PROJECT RELATED PUBLIC COMMENTS

June 5, 2013

Lockhart. Don

From: Kathleen Claudon [k.claudon@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2013 1:03 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: SOI Elk Grove

In defense of protecting the wild places left in Elk Grove:

<http://blog.childrenandnature.org/2013/04/01/peace-like-a-river-theres-a-time-for-hyper-vigilance-and-theres-a-time-to-pay-a-different-kind-of-attention/>

Regards,
k.claudon

Lockhart. Don

From: Kathleen Claudon [k.claudon@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 9:29 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: To: The LAFco Commissioners

To: The LAFco Commissioners
Re: Elk Grove SOI

My Thoughts following the April 24 workshop this evening in Elk Grove:
Thank you

It was a very informative meeting, just too brief.
I spoke to a farmer, a developer, two First Carbon Solutions consultants, a LAFco commissioner, several homeowners. Each was articulate and helpful in providing a piece of the complex puzzle.

I now feel more optimistic about the future of Elk Grove. The LAFco commissioners have a challenging task in determining if and how Elk Grove should increase its SOI. I learned that if the vote is four or more no votes, then no SOI increase for now. I did not hear a complete argument for that decision, and it may be difficult to say no to an eager city request.

My reservations are perhaps not permitted factors to argue for a no vote, but I will share them.

Those reservations pertain to evidence of poor planning to date, and many empty buildings, and unsold commercial space in the existing boundaries. If the excuse is "the poor economy" then all the more reason to right the ship first.

Perhaps the city is too young to "adopt" more land to steward. Perhaps they need to demonstrate wise stewardship with projects already in various stages of development: Aquatics/Civic Center, SEPA, Soccer Stadium, Shopping Center, Krammerer Rd. In just a few years we will all know if our city is mature enough to be rewarded with an increased SOI. If the above reservations can be factored in along with my concerns for southward sprawl, and a need for habitat protection near the River, then I offer my three preferences:

1. a no vote until the City rights its ship in terms of development and planning

a modified yes vote, allowing for
either:

2. a smaller southern SOI with a binding requirement that land along both sides of the river be preserved forever, and enough open space to help our very poor air quality
or:

3. a Northern SOI which would benefit Elk Grove and Sacramento if developed properly.

Having just moved from the central coast, I look forward to contributing in a positive way to the future of Elk Grove where my three young grandchildren will grow up.

Thank you for all that you do,

kathleen claudon 831-238-0862
just moved to Stonelake
k.claudon@gmail.com

Lockhart. Don

From: Kathleen Claudon [k.claudon@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2013 7:29 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: a model

re: SOI Elk Grove for our Commissioners

a model for growth:

<http://www.sustainablebusiness.com/index.cfm/go/news.display/id/23617>

Southern California Passes Visionary Smart Growth Plan

04/18/2012

SustainableBusiness.com News

Rick Cole, City Manager of Ventura, California wrote this editorial for the LA Times. This is an abstract.

Car loving Southern California has released the "the strongest transportation plan" in its history, says Amanda Eaken of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) about the region's new Smart Growth plan.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) unanimously passed a visionary Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy that will guide the region through 2035. And the \$524 billion plan exceeds even the tough new state standards for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The plan, which is centered around public transit and walkable communities, shows how much the region has changed from its suburban sprawl roots - it ranks #1 as the densest urban area in the US, according to the Census Bureau.

It focuses housing expansion near public transit, gives a big 350% funding boost for biking and pedestrian improvements, and projects 4 million new jobs, mostly within a half mile from public transit. It will also preserve over 400 square miles of open space.

The plan has widespread support from both liberals and conservatives, and from business, labor, public health and environmental leaders.

SCAG is the largest metropolitan planning organization in the US, covering six counties and almost 200 cities.

"The devastating real estate meltdown ended the myth of endless expansion. SCAG's new plan is born of the realization that as a region, we have to grow up, not out, said the late economist Herbert Stein.

Read the full editorial:

Website: www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-cole-sustainable-socal-vision-20120417,0,6586761.story

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Lockhart. Don

From: Kathleen Claudon [k.claudon@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2013 4:00 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: Elk Grove SOI

To: LAFco Commissioners
Re: Elk Grove SOI
From: A new resident, not a part of any group, just sharing a perspective

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for considering my recent observations in your important decision.

This new resident has attempted to get the "Big Picture" and answer:
What is the collective vision for Elk Grove?

Reading the news, online, and a newsletter from The Sacramento Farm Bureau regarding the Elk Grove SOI got me researching my new home - Elk Grove.

I tried to identify all "Master Plan" docs (city historical downtown, parks and rec, trails map of 2007, etc.) and compare them to Council "goals", LAFco guidelines, citizen surveys, etc.

Then, I tried to fit all that into the assortment of current projects being planned and considered :

SEPA,
SOI,
Krammerer St,
Aquatic Complex,
Soccer Stadium,
New rezoning maps for low income and industrial sites.

With only a few weeks to research, I have come to wonder if the major reason for the absence of a clear Planning Vision is that an important portion of the planning work is contracted out thus diluting the "vested interest" or the "heart" of the long term vision for the city and its citizens.

The decisions seem to be made "ready, fire, aim". No disrespect intended toward all the hardworking folks. Sometimes a fresh perspective can encourage the right visionaries to step up and create something extraordinary for today and generations to come. Perhaps a no vote is the wise one for now.

Perhaps, leadership could take a breath, create a synthesized Vision, a map with all components, a collaboration of all the invested and creative forces. This synthesis has the potential for as yet undiscovered greatness. The more forward, exciting, cohesive, creative the plans, the more attractive Elk Grove will be to dynamic businesses and talented families. The plans then become the foundation for building great visions.

Signed,
New Elk Grove Resident

(my name is in my email address, feel free to respond, I just do not want my name to be published)

PS : I write this, as my Parkinson's Disease may keep me from your meeting.

The New Nature Movement

Field Notes from the Future: Tracking the Movement to Connect People and Nature

Last Child in the Woods & The Nature Principle

"Last Child in the Woods" introduces the concept of nature-deficit disorder, offering practical actions for families and communities. "The Nature Principle" extends the issue to adults and reports the restorative power of the natural world.

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About the Author

Richard Louv is Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the [Children & Nature Network](#), an organization supporting the international movement to connect children, their families and their communities to the natural world. He is the author of eight books, including "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" and "The Nature Principle: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age." In 2008, he was awarded the Audubon Medal.



By [Richard Louv](#) on April 1st, 2013

PEACE LIKE A RIVER: There's a Time for Hyper-vigilance and a Time to Pay a Different Kind of Attention

[Comments 9](#)

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Thinking about Newtown.

Chased by an unending stampede of 2,000-pound automobiles and 4,000-pound SUVs, we cocoon inside our homes. The assault continues. Unsettling, threatening images charge through the television cable and overwhelm us. Hyper-vigilance trumps mindfulness. Where do we find respite? The poet Wendell Berry offers direction:

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be . . .
I come into the peace of wild things . . .
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

Berry found peace by going to "where the wood drake/rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds..." As a boy, I found peace in the woods behind a suburban tract, when life at home became too difficult, too loud, too much. I found it sitting beside a creek, holding as still as I could, waiting for the leopard frogs to reappear, like ghosts.

Interviewing children and adults for the two recent books, I heard that theme often. I visited my own grade school, in the same classroom where I had once daydreamed while watching the spring branches wave and bow. There, as an adult, I listened to a young girl say softly, firmly: "When I'm in the woods, I feel like I'm in my mother's shoes. It's so peaceful out there and the air smells so good. I mean, it's polluted, but not as much as the city air. It's like you're free when you go out there. It's your own time. Sometimes I go there when I'm mad — and then, just with the peacefulness, I'm better. I can come back home happy, and my mom doesn't even know why."



If we're lucky, these places remain available in our hearts. A psychiatrist who works with children with the symptoms of ADHD related how he sometimes slides into mild depressions. "I grew up fly-fishing in Michigan, and that was how I found peace as a child," he said. "So, when I begin to feel depressed, I use self-hypnosis to go there again, to call up those memories." He calls them "meadow memories." We can create new meadow memories. Tina Kafka, a San Diego teacher, described the impact of a new school garden: "The garden has been much more than simply planting vegetables and taking care of them ... When we go to the garden as a class at the end of the day, there is a strong feeling of shared joy and peace no matter how hard the day has been."

In these times of Sandy Hook and Columbine, such talk of meadow memories and the peace of wildness may seem beside the point. Or frivolous. Erring on the side of fear seems to make more sense.

But ongoing research suggests just how restorative those memories can be, how vital they are to a child's or an adult's resilience. As I've reported elsewhere, earlier studies have suggested a variety of benefits, among them: children who spend time in natural areas show reduced symptoms of ADHD; people who live in proximity to more natural areas produce less cortisol, a stress hormone. And parks with the highest biodiversity offer the most psychological benefits to human beings.

Many other studies point in the same direction, and a new pilot study, published in [The British Journal of Sports Medicine](#), takes science another small step. Researchers in Edinburgh, Scotland used portable EEGs, connected to backpack computers, to measure the brain waves of young adults as they walked through three environments: a pedestrian-friendly historical urban district with light car traffic, a commercial district with high traffic, and a park-like setting. Guess which environment calmed the walkers.

In so many ways, however, society seems to be walking backwards — trusting only the electronic or pharmaceutical fix. Just this morning, [The New York Times](#) reported that "nearly one in five high school age boys in the United States" has received a medical diagnosis of ADHD, fueling growing concern that the diagnosis and its medications "are overused in American children." Why the rise? Over-diagnosis? Or an actual increase in symptoms, which may be due to any number of causes, from the neurological to radical changes in childhood?

There's a time for hyper-vigilance and there's a time to pay a different kind of attention. In a recent [op-ed](#), Larry Rosen, M.D., a champion of the children and nature movement, shared this definition of mindfulness from [The Three Questions](#), a children's book based on a story by Leo Tolstoy: "Realize that the most important time is now, the most important person is the one you're with and the most important thing to do is what are doing right here, right now... that you will never make all the stress in the world disappear.... Take time to look someone in the eyes, listen to her story, and let her know that you hear her. Be willing to sit in the mud until it settles and the water clears."

The path through the woods is not the only route to mindfulness. And nature experience is no panacea. But our kids deserve a break. So do we. To create meadow memories that can last a lifetime, we can start by taking our children and grandchildren on a hike. We can help plant school gardens, rethink the environments of our neighborhoods, prescribe nature, and much more. Even as we debate gun control and a hundred other issues, we can create a more peaceful life for our children — and at least for a while rest in the grace of the world. We can do this.

Richard Louv is chairman emeritus of the [Children & Nature Network](#) and author of [THE NATURE PRINCIPLE: Reconnecting With Life in a Virtual Age](#) and [LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder](#).

Photo from the Swaisgood family.

More reading

[Restoring Peace: Six Ways Nature in Our Lives Can Reduce the Violence in Our World](#)

[Green Havens from Toxic Stress for Students and Teachers](#)

[After the Tragedy: Will we still hear the laughter of play on our school grounds?](#)

[The Whole Child: A Pediatrician Recommends the Nature Prescription](#)

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[Children & Nature](#), [Children & Nature Movement](#), [Children and Nature Movement](#), [Early Childhood Education](#), [Family](#), [Health](#), [Ken Salazar](#), [Last Child in the Woods](#), [Natural Leaders](#), [Natural Teachers Network](#), [Nature Deficit Disorder](#), [Newtown](#), [peace](#), [Sandy Hook](#), [school shootings](#), [The Nature Principle](#)

Comments (9)

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1. [Dan Leftwich](#) says:
[April 2, 2013 at 2:09 pm](#)

We can do this. Nature can help us do this. Thanks for the re-minder Rich.

2. [Patricia Hasbach](#) says:
[April 2, 2013 at 3:00 pm](#)

Rich,

Thank you for this wise and beautiful piece! You make such an important point that not only our children, but we parents and grandparents, need to practice mindfulness – full presence – to the loved one we are with, to the natural world of which we are a part, and to that part of ourselves that yearns to slow down, to breathe, and to create our own meadow memories. It's never too late!

All the best,
Pat

3. [Rich Zanelli](#) says:
[April 2, 2013 at 3:02 pm](#)

Awesome! I hope every parent and teacher across the world reads this. I am all in favor of keeping students safe, but "as safe as necessary" not "as safe as possible".

4. [Suzanne Delzio](#) says:
[April 2, 2013 at 3:30 pm](#)

What a lovely essay. I bet you all have read Undoing Perpetual Stress, an amazing book I just accidentally unearthed during a move. The struggle I have is that my 2 sisters and my mother never got the fortitude and respite from nature that my father and I did. I don't know if nature has the same effect on everyone.

5. [Betsy Thigpen](#) says:
[April 2, 2013 at 6:22 pm](#)

This is one of the most meaningful messages I have ever received. So genuine and deep. Thank you. My commitment to connecting children with nature has definitely been reaffirmed.

Note: I am a Nature Based Learning and Development Consultant/Advocate. Currently working with Office of Head Start to encourage Head Start and Early Head Start programs to naturalize their outdoor play environments for the purpose of connecting children with nature. We're talking about over one million children birth to five years of age!! Also, doing a bit of work with Robin Moore and Nilda Cosco (landscape architects) at The Natural Learning Initiative at NC State U., Raleigh, NC.

6. [BuildMolAnÓige](#) says:
[April 3, 2013 at 5:01 am](#)

Wonderful to hear you talking about something that's close to all of our hearts.

Nature is a wonderful thing and both children and parents should realise it's there for all of us, all of the time.

7. [Jeffrey Willius](#) says:
[April 5, 2013 at 12:11 pm](#)

I agree, Richard. While the parental instinct to protect has been shaped by culture, that still-deeper human instinct to connect with and trust Nature is what we have to listen to in order to heal.

(Did you happen to see the post I did on this topic shortly after Newtown? Slightly different angle; same truth. <http://www.onemanswonder.com/2012/12/beauty-lost-and-found-legacy-of-tragedy.html>)

8. *David Verser* says:
[April 5, 2013 at 11:47 pm](#)

Richard,

I am so glad that you are pioneering this very simple concept that we are human beings, a very natural part of this world. If you take that one part of the equation for happy and healthy away, there are bound to be affects. Our M.D.'s, doctors of medicine, can't make a pill to replace nature.

I grew up in the Rocky Mountains with a stream out my back door. I left to go do life for 25 years, became depressed and lost focus on my dreams. Now I am fortunate enough to be back at my childhood home and have found happiness and my focus again. I'm starting a non-profit fly fishing a riparian education center for the local children and couldn't be more excited and back into life.

Thank you again for your work that reminds us that Mother Nature knows best!

9. *Catherine OBrien* says:
[April 6, 2013 at 5:22 am](#)

A few weeks ago, I posed a question on LinkedIn in the Sustainability professionals group in response to my blog "I was a free-range kid." I asked the question, "I wonder how many sustainability professionals were free-range kids?" The responses are still coming in! People are sharing their stories about connecting with nature. They believe it shaped their commitment to sustainability.

<http://sustainablehappiness.ca/sh-extra/i-was-a-free-range-kid/>

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- *"All of us share a sense of common purpose. We represent many, many others; some we know, and others we have never met. People throughout the world are increasingly connected by a resonance and passion, to create a new common sense for the good health of children today and generations to come."*

Cheryl Charles

- **Recent Posts**

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- [ON ANGEL MOUNTAIN: In a Place Beyond Facebook, Time Stops](#)
- [NATURE: A GRANDPARENT'S BEST FRIEND](#)
- [THE FORESTS WHERE WE LIVE: Six Life & Death Reasons We Need Our City Trees](#)
- [CHILDREN & NATURE BELONG DOWNTOWN: Let's Create a New Vision](#)

Video: Richard Louv on Children Outside



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Lockhart. Don

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2013

SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION

From: Thorpe. Diane on behalf of Commission. Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 4:05 PM
To: Lockhart. Don
Subject: FW: Contact Sacramento LAFCo Commission Members
Importance: High

From: webmaster@saclafco.org [mailto:webmaster@saclafco.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 1:20 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: Contact Sacramento LAFCo Commission Members

Contact Sacramento LAFCo Commission Members

This form was submitted on: 05-21-2013 1:19:59 PM

Name:
Theresa Blue

Email Address:
adblue1@comcast.net

Subject:
Elk Grove Proposed Sphere of Influence

Message:
Effective May 1, 2013 CSD has implemented a fire engine brownout for Elk Grove do to financial restrains. This is an important community service that has been reduced. Granting a sphere of influence for additional land annexation without assurance to adequate fire protection does not seem prudent.

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Lockhart. Don

From: Allen Jamieson [jamiesonallen1@gmail.com] on behalf of Allen Jamieson [allenj@macnexus.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 2:46 PM
To: Commission. Clerk
Subject: Elk Grove Expansion

Please stop the expansion plan for Elk Grove. Fill up the housing you now have. Plan to NOT consume more ag land and open space, which cannot be replaced. Better housing plans -- higher downtown density, etc -- is a far better solution no matter how you slice it!

Allen Jamieson
3225 Freeport Blvd
Sacramento 95818

Lockhart. Don

From: Sarah Johnson [sjohnson@surewest.net]**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2013 8:43 AM**To:** Lockhart. Don**Subject:** Elk Grove SOI DEIR

The DEIR lacks good future transportation planning . The California Traction Railroad corridor which is nearby, should be considered for future passenger rail/commuter rail service. Currently, there is a 27 mile segment, Lodi Junction to Elder Creek Road, that is unused, but is designated for future use. In order to properly plan for future use, mass transit MUST be part of the process. The days of auto-centric planning are over and alternative modes, pedestrian, bicycle, and all possible modes must be part of the plan in order to provide service to all new areas.

Sincerely,

Sarah Johnson

9612 Kent Street

Elk Grove, CA 95624

916-686-5858

sjohnson@surewest.net

5/15/2013

Lockhart. Don

From: Bonnie West [bwest4953@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 6:15 PM

To: Lockhart. Don

Subject: Elk Grove Sphere of Influence Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report

Hello Don,

I am writing this e-mail to express my support for the City of Elk Grove proposed boundaries for the Sphere of Influence and the moving forward of the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report. I believe the city's future depends on some opportunity for future growth. I support the cities recommendation and feel it is important to approve the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report and allow for the process to move forward.

Thank You,
Bonnie Morse West

5/14/2013

Lockhart. Don

From: Sharon Helmar [smhelmar@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2013 8:50 PM
To: Lockhart. Don
Subject: Elk Grove City Sphere of Influence

As a property owner within the proposed SOI I support the boundary extension to Eschinger Road. I feel Elk Grove is looking to the future and the options that this extension would provide will be of benefit to it's citizens and we property owners. Our family has owned this property for generations and I look forward to leaving it to my children. I hope LAFCO will take a farsighted look as they make this important decision. Sincerely, Sharon Helmar

Sent from my iPad

SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
1112 I Street, Suite #100
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 874-6458

June 5, 2013

TO: Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Peter Brundage, Executive Officer

CONTACT: Don Lockhart AICP, Assistant Executive Officer (916) 874-2937
[Don.Lockhart@SacLAFCo.org]

RE: **INFORMATION ONLY: PROPOSED CITY OF ELK GROVE
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT (LAFC# 09-10/ SCH #
2010092076)**

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND:

The attached map has been provided by the City of Elk Grove. This map clarifies the information in the Elk Grove Market Study (12/29/10) Figure 56 "Vacant Lands Survey."

EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMMENTS:

This information is provided in response to your staff requesting a larger, more legible map for use by your Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION


Peter Brundage
Executive Officer

Attachment

DL/dl

EG SOIA Mkt Study Map_06_05_13

Elk Grove Market Study

December 29, 2010

Prepared for:

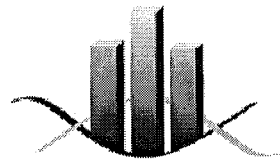
City of Elk Grove

8401 Laguna Palms Way

Elk Grove, CA 95758

www.elkgrovecity.org

Prepared by:



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