

Only in Yuba County

In a Jan. 29 Appeal-Democrat article on the proposed 5,100-home Yuba Highlands project, the developer, Gary Gallelli, called the Yuba Highlands' new city "the most environmentally benign project" he had ever seen.

After following this project for more than five years, it is readily apparent that Gallelli has blinders on. That goes for the Yuba County Planning Commission as well, and I'll tell you why. The publication of the Yuba Highlands Draft Environmental Impact Report generated approximately 60 comment letters, about 18 from government agencies. Most of these letters cited serious environmental impacts and concerns; most notable are the comments from the California Department of Fish and Game, who owns and operates the neighboring 12,000-acre Spenceville Wildlife Area.

Gallelli and his Yuba Highlands team paid no heed to these comments and arrogantly pushed the project forward without making any real changes in the proposed project. The planning commission appears to be ignoring the outcry of these responsible state agencies and informed individuals as well and is giving this massive project the rubber stamp.

A comment I have heard more than once over the last few years regarding Yuba Highlands is that this project would never skate through the process in other California counties. Only in Yuba County.

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APPEAL-DEMOCRAT

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