

Preserving open space

Regarding the Nov. 30 article, "Foothills growth divides residents," and coverage of the Yuba Highlands public meeting: Some of the residents who spoke at the Nov. 29 meeting expressed the idea that growth is coming, like it or not, and we must plan for it. I don't disagree; we must make intelligent plans for growth, including preserving open space. People need places to get out and experience the natural environment. It's fundamental, but the problem is that open space is disappearing fast in California. Yuba County holds a real asset for its citizens and the citizens of California: the 12,000-acre Spenceville Wildlife Area.

The 5,100-home Yuba Highlands project, if approved, would route a good portion of its traffic, 7,000 cars per day, right through the middle of the Spenceville Wildlife Area, drastically diminishing the area for wildlife and visitors alike. This is an illogical way to manage such an important ecological resource, and I do hope the Yuba County Planning Commission will carefully consider the future of the Spenceville Wildlife Area as it ponders whether to go forward with Yuba Highlands.

Tim P. Smith
Sheridan