

“Planning for the inevitable”

Marcia McQuern – Editor and Publisher
Joel Blain – Editorial Page Editor
Howard H. Hayes Jr. – Chairman Emeritus
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The Press Enterprise

Wednesday, October 14, 1998

Riverside County is expected to get 1 million new residents in the next 20 years. That statistic looses an avalanche of questions. Where will they live? Where will they work? How will they commute if freeways are already crowded? Does this mean another round of endangered species wars?

The goal, of course, should be to settle the big issues like those efficiently. That’s the point of an ambitious effort county supervisors launched last month, and members of the Riverside County Transportation Commission are now positioned to advance in an important way.

Under this plan, new transportation corridors are to be laid out in concert with a General Plan revision and efforts at multiple-species preservation. State and federal transit moneys are available for innovative planning like this, and the transportation work is given a lead role. The county commission’s staff is recommending that it vote today to commit \$1.5 million of state cash to start identifying these corridors. This would put the commission in sync with a state financing cycle, and with a November 16 deadline for seeking federal funding, too.

The Community Environmental Transportation Acceptability Process (CETAP) stacks up as a mindset as well as a plan – a common intent to move promptly and learn from planning mistakes of the past. That makes it worth pursuing in a timely fashion.