

## Template – Letter to the Editor

Chico needs to stand in opposition to the proposed Valley's Edge Development – 2,777 residential units, to include buildings for commercial business, located on 1,448 acres between Stilson Canyon and Honey Run Road.

This is urban sprawl, the kind of short-sighted growth that has led to air-polluted and traffic-congested communities like San Jose and the Bay Area.

It would be built on pristine open space dotted by hundreds of old oaks, inhabited by several endangered species, lead to depletion of water and wetlands, and eliminate a buffer zone to potential wildfires.

Chico will benefit from a vision of smart growth, the kind of growth that enhances our ability to walk, bike and take public transportation to community markets and centers. Rather than sprawling out, we need to be filling in.

Valley's Edge would add 23,000 plus vehicle miles per day to our increasing congested traffic, miles that will add additional greenhouse gas emissions exacerbating the negative impact on our health and on our warming climate.

For decades communities around the US have chosen the "sprawl" model leading to negative impacts on the quality of life.

Chico can choose a better way, not the "same old, same old." Let's do something different, something visionary, for our health and well-being today and for future generations. That starts with not certifying large and sprawling developments like Valley's Edge and planning for smart growth that is clean and sustainable and protects our natural environment.