

Russian River Redevelopment Project Strategic Plan Solutions Forum Event Summary – All Events

On March 22, 2007 a series of four public events was held to receive input into the Russian River Strategic Plan. Events were held in Monte Rio, Guerneville, and Rio Nido with a common forum held in Guerneville the evening of the 22nd.

A presentation was made at each event and participants were then provided an input form to provide ideas, comments, and potential solutions for addressing key community issues.

This summary is intended report what was said by participants and has not been edited or changed. Blank spaces indicate illegible comments.

Public Health and Safety

- Find system for people who create blight status (like Bustkins mess on River Road).
- Add bicycle lanes
- 4-way stop sign on 116/Drake/Neeley
- Horse patrol
- Have public safety personnel learn to be “tourism concierge.” They can simply keep a visitor guide in their back pocket and use that as a tool to engage visitors. This creates a feeling of safety for visitors who will feel more comfortable and return. This would be appropriate for bike/horse patrol.
- Clean up the “Gateway/Entryway” into Guerneville—the businesses (are they businesses?) are very messy, undersigned (bad signage), and messy buildup. Can we have design standards?
- Sidewalks all around the downtown (not just the main drag). See Image/Appearance below.
- Management of homeless and derelict population so that tourism and potential homeowners are attracted to the area.
- More assistance to fire department.
- A responsive sheriff’s department for low cost _____, etc., complaints
- Increase police presence to keep out cranksters and drunks, panhandlers—make officers tourist friendly.
- Summer crossings in Guernewood Park—put back.
- Improvement of streets to ensure safety for bicycle and pedestrian movement, as well as emergency vehicles
- Remove burned or derelict buildings.
- Larger culverts under side roads for storm runoff
- Wider paved shoulders along 116 for safer pedestrian use
- Increased sheriff’s officers
- Study of total fire/EMS system in the RROC area. Possibility of same study for West County for a new fire/EMS station.
- Clean up substandard trailer parks (fairy-ring, for example)
- Clean up roads leading into town and Armstrong Woods Rd. and Rio Nido Rd.

- Bicycle-walking path along river and to different parts of river area
- Bicycle path on 116
- Increased training of sheriffs to deal more effectively and compassionately with people with mental health problems
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Put curbs and gutters on all residential streets.
- Widen residential streets.
- Have Summer Bridge open all year—this provides ingress/egress to neighborhood on Neeley Road. (Floods close creek near Neeley-116, and residents are landlocked.)
- Enforce laws against loud cars, trucks, and motorcycles.
- A tent city was used in Richmond, California, to reduce violent crime 90%. See: www.anglefire.com/hi/soberskidrow/parkh.html
- Hwy 116 at Drake-Neeley Roads—install stop signs or signals (south end of EV Bridge). Intersection is very dangerous for vehicles entering Hwy 116 from both Drake & Neeley Roads.
- Public toilets—people use river as toilet.
- Public restrooms—look at Lescaux (spelling?) stand-alone, self-cleaning toilets in San Francisco.
- Enough funding for the police, already!
- Focus on removal of garbage, old cars, etc. from properties in the area.
- Repairing of streets
- Cleaning of culverts in neighborhoods prone to flooding (Guernewood Park area)
- Safer crosswalks on Main Street—blinking lights, stop signs?
- Fix broken sidewalks on all downtown streets.
- We need a healthy river study. Our community is dependent on the river for our drinking water, recreation, and economy. We could form a study team of toxicology experts, business leaders, and others to make recommendations regarding the future health of the river.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Assist in improving old water pipes residential.
- Create bicycle path.
- Permanent solution to waste
- Presence of law enforcement
- Sidewalks in certain areas of Armstrong Woods Rd. near library and school
- Strong restrictions on development along the river
- Law enforcement training on how to deal safely and effectively with our diverse population
- Medical access
- Dollars for master leasing programs with services for mentally ill
- OK
- Prove it's needed.

- Improve sewers.
- Eliminate Santa Rosa dumping in Russian River.
- Who defines “blight?” Yes on bike trails, paths
- This area depends upon private water companies that cannot afford or will not replace archaic water systems to provide water to businesses and residences at astronomical prices. For an area that has plenty of water, both in the river and also through springs, etc., I would guarantee that a non-private system or (cooperative system), that had the benefit of not paying for the replacement of the archaic system, would improve the health and wellbeing not only through the lower costs but also through the individual health.
- Need a mental health facility
- Needle exchange program
- A French-style public restroom in town
- Public restrooms and coin-op showers
- Public restrooms and water at parks (especially Drake)
- Connecting walkway between Drake Park & Guerneville River Park
- More speed bumps (especially on Old Car Road and in Rio Nido)
- More sidewalks, especially in Rio Nido, bike lanes.
- Expand Russian River Healthcare to help make up for hospital closings (i.e., alternative for urgent care).
- We need a permanent shelter for the homeless to eliminate homeless encampments.
- Provide additional emergency facilities to house fulltime police and fire rescue staff.
- Install bike/hiking paths to link towns within project area.
- Assist in funding sewer system for Monte Rio as planned—or alternate solutions.
- Support projects that provide social and health facilities for the community. The more services that can be provided to those in need, the better. This community is greatly underserved.
- Bike lanes to the ocean from Mirobel
- Clean port-a-potties for every small park
- There should be a public restroom in downtown Guerneville.
- There should be sidewalks from downtown Guerneville to Old Cazadero Rd.
- There should be crosswalks at the stop signs in Monte Rio at the Rio Theatre.

Strong, Diverse Households

- Build a theater and help us have a youth component (classes/plays, etc.) Invite Guerneville School to use this theater too.
- Can RRROC help fund such community center activities such as ballet/dance classes for kids? We have great parks and a good community center; how can we better utilize?
- More concern on single and _____ have _____
- Does not make sense?
- Improvement of social services for all households—creating daycare, expand healthcare for all. Increase opportunities for youth activities (a teen center).
- Use of Guerneville School for extended education for community (through SRJC?)

- Offering alternatives for community when utilities become excessively expensive—water in Armstrong Valley, _____.
- Maybe solar projects in center of town to supplement electricity
- Skate board park
- Create summer jobs—train some of our kids to be docents at park. Give kids something to do.
- Incorporate Shasta Sh____ training and common toxic chemical exposure sources education to Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Resolve problem areas, like Spooner's, that devalue everyone's property and adversely affect quality of life.
- Do not make area attractive to those who are not willing/able to be good neighbors and good citizens.
- Mobility, a locally-based, alternatively fueled public transit system, serving outlying areas such as Jenner, Cazadero, Occidental, Camp Meeker, etc. and a homeless shelter would be nice, considering the ongoing criminalization of being without housing
- Increase in youth activity (i.e., community center, skate park, before & after school programs)
- Make activities for early childhood development (preschool programs, enrichment classes, i.e., music and movement, gymnastics, etc.).
- Community center with resource and referral services in mid-community
- Youth skate park
- It would be great if the healthy river study resulted in more local jobs.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Focus on developing affordable housing (Burbank)
- Bring back clinic (radical?)
- OK
- Fishing exp.
- Lifelong learning – cooperate with Santa Rosa College for classes associated with computers, Spanish, located in our area.
- Need subsidies for housing low income/disadvantaged
- Skate Park
- Restrooms
- Youth activities
- Teen center
- This is probably our greatest and best feature. This is what makes our community such a unique place.
- Improve local schools
- Do more to fight against the proliferation of crystal meth in our communities. More advertising and public forums on this issue would be nice. Outreach funding support for churches and rehab clinics in the area might be helpful. There are, frankly, a lot of %#@&ed up people around here.

- Affordable housing, of course. I especially support the sweat-equity home ownership programs, because homeownership encourages stability.
- Trailer parks in which a high percentage of owners (people who have purchased their trailer or modular home, though they don't own the land) as opposed to renters. Can also provide affordable housing.
- Distribute a list of families, health & community services, schools, childcare programs, elder services, etc., so people can get support.
- Low-cost housing
- Fund the construction of youth centers, athletic fields, and community multi-purpose rooms such as gymnasiums, swimming pools, and adult education facilities.
- Support projects that create facilities for all different ages.
- Creation of housing cooperative projects that promote community and support non-traditional housing scenarios.
- Substantial tax subsidies for owners, providing year-round rentals for low income residents
- Bed tax on vacation rentals (infrastructure reimburse)
- Support for struggling families who are working but are on the edge! How about free school bus services for all and free school lunches for all?

Social Issues

- Provide a permanent hall for AA/Alateen/Alanon meetings and help these groups succeed without having to pay rent.
- Use church group (Interfaith organization).
- Research and information to see how other communities have managed homeless population
- Youth facility or youth center—skate park—youth jobs—senior housing
- Youth center and skate park
- Homeless shelter inappropriate—would create more of a magnet than we already have.
- A teen center would go a long way towards giving the youth in this town something to do other than hang out and get involved in the drug culture.
- Improve locally available healthcare—clinic.
- One night a week, free old movies showing. 2/3 English with Spanish subtitles, 1/3 Spanish with English subtitles. Cost: zilch to a few dollars
- Mentoring programs for at-risk youth
- Swimming pool with bathrooms/showers for all to use
- Community gardens for youth with adult volunteers. Learn to sell produce and develop skills.
- Community center (at school)
- Community center development—sheriff patrols at plaza and bridge. Drug traffic is very obvious, and yet sheriff does not use the cameras which are there recording these transactions.
- Build housing with supportive services for special populations.
- Affordable housing
- Consistent, extensive mental health services

- Skate park and/or teen center
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Try to cut down number of “street people” and drug dealing.
- Neighborhood Watch Program promoted as a party—concert, cookouts. Please see “Captains” manual from (?).
- Youth center
- While providing needed services, be mindful of not making Guerneville the mecca for every drug addict homeless person in West County (see Berkeley’s Telegraph Ave. and how businesses have been affected).
- A sustainable community center with referrals to services
- Bolster existing free food pantries.
- Urgent care center
- Homeless service center or transportation, i.e., “Shelter Shuttle” to deliver people to shelters in Santa Rosa.
- We need to work with others to solve the homeless problem.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Create service center—showers/bathrooms/haircuts.
- Develop homeless volunteer opportunities in exchange for food.
- Clinic
- Relocate homeless to cities (Santa Rosa) where more housing and rehab facilities are available.
- Transitional housing for people temporarily in trouble
- Services for homeless
- Rehab dollars for existing non-profit buildings
- Transitional and permanent supportive housing
- Upkeep dollars, repairs, ongoing after purchase
- Assistance dollars
- Showers for homeless
- Restrooms in the downtown
- A community center like Angel’s Camp has
- OK
- Russian River area does not have the resources to take care of the homeless people who are not from this area.
- Advocacy/advocates for SSI and other programs for the poor
- Open vet’s for subzero nights/homeless.
- Find a shower and clothes washing location—coin op like some places. Tokens can be given to poor.
- The social issues brought before the committees are varied, and I cannot help but understand that there are people who are suffering daily from social problems, and it will always be that way. To provide an example: There are areas where teens hang out for the very reason to do drugs, like the Plaza. Well, it isn’t the sheriff’s responsibility but a community and family responsibility to keep the kids away from

the area. Too many times in this area parents are not responsible and chastise public services to take responsibility. There are centers here for parents to receive assistance; however, they neglect their responsibility. I don't see how building a social service center from redevelopment funds would ever solve this problem. ~The history of this area is that in the 1960s the hippies came and made this their home, and there is still a "pseudo self-reliance on others" philosophy, and in some cases it has come to evolve into greater things such as environmental awareness, etc. ~ Another history is that during the AIDS breakout of the 1970s, many gays came to die here in this town, and it was a sober time to lose so many in the 1980s and early 90s. However, this change did bring more of the gay community and offered this town a new direction with some dignity to developing a beautification project, the arts, and new types of businesses that have grown. ~ One of the issues is that the area didn't evolve into a Napa- or Sonoma-type town as many of the owners wished, and I believe in part because the area still has its rustic theme, which I think is its charm and attraction. Also, as with any society, the gay community isn't any different; there are those with class and those who are want-to-be's, and the want-to-be Napa areas were just not that. ~ How could a water project help the social issues facing this area? In many ways—a water project could bring in more revenue for the community to help those issues.

- Homelessness and drug/etole (?) abuse—a homeless shelter and tax options for both groups.
- Figure out a way to deal with the homeless! Ship 'em out. Either that, or FIND A WAY TO FUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND FORCE THEM TO USE IT.
- Also, put together a work center for immigrant labor so we can get the itinerant Latino laborers off the %\$#@ streets of Guerneville. That would be a big step forward. Hey, how about that stupid vacant back/saving & loan building on the corner in Guerneville? That would do nicely?
- More help for meth addicts
- Big public relations campaign to help housing and case workers for homeless/mentally ill/addicts. Some cities do this and actually put chronic homeless people in their own apartments and provide care, workers, health services, etc., because it's actually cheaper than the costs for emergency room visits, jail, damage to public property, lost revenues/business, etc.
- More help and support for families with children. Just because you're not low income doesn't mean you're well off.
- The social issues on the river are reliant on the issues of housing.
- Provide outreach facilities for youth to ensure engagement in community, as well as adult shelters/low income or transitional housing for those who are disadvantaged.
- Institute "Quiet Zones" on Rural River Road. Ticket land vehicles (!) and people.
- Provide programs to enhance use of public parks, i.e., tennis lessons, swimming, contests, and youth picnics.
- There should be a homeless shelter year round, and the homeless nests all over town in the bushes ought to be cleared out, because of garbage and nefarious goings-on. Families don't feel safe!

Environment and River Preservation

- Do it, and then fund effort to tell the story. This brings a positive regard to the community, which will result in increased tourism. Fund ecotourism.
- Promote ecotourism—perhaps develop united branding effort to this end?
- Help fund the sewer infrastructure in Monte Rio, but also, there are other sewer/septic issues in other areas. Would be great to have funding assistance to help home/property owners upgrade.
- Funding not based on individual voluntary contributions alone to maintain health of the river and supplementation (?) of the Armstrong Woods facilities
- No motorboats on river
- No wastewater in river
- Most important to our community—Aderondex (bamboo) removal from banks of river
- Sudden oak death assistance
- Work to reverse all the known conditions that have contributed to adversely affecting the river watershed.
- Educate residents within 500-1000 feet of watercourses about pesticide, paint/thinner disposal.
- Use green waste bins for tree debris.
- Community-sponsored cleanup days---frequent and for specific locations. Cost: zilch.
- More outside trash cans
- More education about how dumping contributes to pollution
- Groups adopt roadways for kids to keep clean
- Education and adoption of habitat programs for back yards—maybe demonstration habitat
- Educate about ____ /herbicides and artificial fertilizer. Develop “native garden.”
- Promote green industry—WIFI—perhaps a local network.
- Regular cleanup along the river—bridge and streets.
- Perhaps a youth summer program—could involve community gardens
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Fine people who cut down growth along riverbanks.
- Bridge—regular cleaning
- Promote ecotourism.
- Need tree cutting program for sudden Oak death—thousands of tall Oaks are dying in hills
- Santa Rosa’s overpopulation has a lot to do with this.
- Keeping the river clean—preventing dumping in streams
- We need a healthy river study. Our community is dependent on the river for our drinking water, recreation, and economy. We could form a study team of toxicology experts, business leaders, and others to make recommendations regarding the future health of the river.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).

- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Create information points with ending end (?) species, plus ways public can help out to protect
- Info at Chambers with the above
- We do not need a sewer plant at Monte Rio next to the river. It would kill the fish and ecosystem. We are at a max for population versus environment, thus we should halt all new homes and should keep population at its current population or let it diminish. Also, halt the Santa Rosa dumping of their wastewater into the river.
- Continued action to prevent sewage et al from entering the Russian River
- More and better bike/alternate transportation paths
- Path along Dutch Bill Creek
- Do a study on dredging river.
- Restrict the use of pesticides and herbicides, and get the broken septic fixed NOW!
- Most river pollution comes from vast upstream sewer systems. A large lobbying effort needs to be created to implement change with elimination as an absolute goal.
- (Should be under Rec & Activities)
- Riding and walking trail next to Dutch Bill Creek
- Study on dredging river—the mouth has changed due to man—river isn't cleaning itself out. Silt and rock are building, and floods are higher as a consequence.
- RRROC needs to go on record opposing mixing (?) cones from Santa Rosa.
- Potable water lines are concrete/asbestos, some backfilled with cinnabar are from the potential Superfund site.
- Merency/Armstrong Rd. Fife Creek
- This is the key to the water project. I believe a carefully planned water project could produce education and probably spawn businesses by how the project was developed, utilizing new technologies, or even developing technology that could be used as a model for other areas. This is a key issue, because water is becoming a very large issue around the world. A water project funded in part by the RRRP could encompass the issues of preserving the Russian River, and it would also provide a reason for grants and other funding for the project. This project could lead to better funding for studies of the Stewards of the River and other programs that lead to jobs.
- I would ask that we build a walking, jogging, biking path from Armstrong Woods Park to downtown Guerneville, so that would provide both a safer and more environmentally friendly route other than Armstrong Woods Road.
- Two west county operated compactors for trash?
- Two east county compactors (helps keep roadsides cleaner and appliances out of river (suggestion could also fit under Image and Appearance).
- No more dumping Santa Rosa's sewage in our river! Forget the MR sewer; provide funds for septic system upgrades instead.
- Offer funding to households and businesses for rainwater collection.
- Gray water systems (environmental safe cleaning products ONLY) for gardens, car washing, etc.

- Composting toilets – no more black water!
- Shore up eroding areas with tough grasses; no homeless encampments.
- Get rid of illegal camps by making alternatives available.
- Provide funding to complete the Monte Rio Sewer Project. Provide contingency monies for disconnect (abandonment of existing septic systems) and hookups to new sewer system. Provide support for public sewer projects throughout the project area.
- Fight to keep low-flow from becoming a reality. Any and all possible bonding (?) should be made available to defeat this initiative.
- Minimize window of all treated discharges into river. Provide port-a-potties, trash cans, have deputized “river patrol” enforce all current laws!
- River water quality should be improved and maintained; after all, tourism is our biggest source of income!

Economy

- WIFI—cell phone reception improved—bring us into modern age, so tourism, meetings can enjoy and do business in our area.
- Continue to fund and support ecotourism efforts.
- Create (or assist) in creating a strong Visitor’s Bureau in combination with the Bodega and Monte Rio areas. Merge this for strength in numbers and make a cohesive effort.
- Upgrade the visitor centers. They are shabby, poorly located, and need to be more professional.
- Improved tech infrastructure, e.g., WIFI, Internet access options, better cell receptions that would support (better support) entrepreneurial growth companies, as well as modern tourist/visitor expectations and general residential use.
- Look at economic gardening opportunities. What clusters/potential clusters do we have here that can be assisted if developed?
- Regarding #6 have a business emergency preparedness plan in place to be able to get up and running quickly to stabilize town.
- Funding for enrichment of entertainment in the area, i.e., foreign film movie house in Downtown Guerneville.
- Grant to Pegasus for _____ theaters and concerts, Hispanic music, ghost (?) artists, black culture, Russian music, etc.
- Head away from t____-based to local based.
- Keep tourism alive.
- Ensure that the local business district is clean, maintained to attract locals to shop, as well as out of town folks.
- See “Building a Self-Reliant Community” below.
- Develop more food-related businesses—having to do with growing/producing food, e.g., goat farms, other crops than grapes.
- Develop more art venues—local community programs—so visitors come for wine, music, and art.
- Community gallery/visitor’s center with art
- Enlarge plaza for concerts, plays.

- Encourage development promoting environmental events—hiking, biking, kayaking, ecotourism.
- Promote weekend artist fairs with live music/entertainment as a tourist draw.
- Many suggestions could be carried out by youth, i.e., bridge, street cleaning.
- Make the area one people want to visit and spend their money in—attractive aesthetically, financially, safe, fun. Refer to “the River” in the 40s and 50s. Make it a family paradise.
- A hiring center for laborers as an adjunct to the community center?
- Providing a wealth of stores, entertainment venues, restaurants that will attract a progressive, diverse group of tourists, as well as year-round residents.
- Encourage businesses that appeal to and provide services to locals.
- We need a healthy river study. Our community is dependent on the river for our drinking water, recreation, and economy. We could form a study team of toxicology experts, business leaders, and others to make recommendations regarding the future health of the river.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Repave roads, so area looks inviting and thriving, not dilapidated (Monte Rio adjacent to Rio Theater under Welcome to Vacation Wonderland sign, in front of hotels, restaurants on River Road, on Main Street in front of Pink Elephant, etc.).
- Create contract point for local businesses to list job openings
- Partner with Russian River Interfaith Coalition to develop local services, job training.
- There is no problem with the local economy.
- Goals 4 and 5 are appropriate.
- Rehabilitation of homeless to get them back to being productive citizens
- Flood payments should be given once, unless improvements such as raising a house are made. The system is corrupt.
- Public wells have insufficient filtration and testing.
- A skateboard park would bring adults to town to drop off kids.
- We can bottle wine—why not our water? Has anyone looked into seeing how a water project could possibly be used to sustain a bottled water business? I think it is very doable, and the market has such a bright future! The jobs and economic revenues could be very substantial. ~ I like the idea of more access to the river; however, I believe that is the position of the Parks and Rec Department, and as for the Guerneville Parks and Rec, well, I think they are just some good ole boys who really suppress ideas rather than try to follow up on the needs of this community.
- Need to purchase and restore the lodge as a community amenity. Explore the moving of the Pee Wee Golf or selling the property and use a portion of the funds to purchase and improve the lodge. Support the dream tree.
- Supporting our own businesses would be the best way to support our economy—perhaps an idea to push this.

- Mike Reilly and his colleagues scored a MAJOR coup in getting Horizon Airlines to begin operating at Charley Schultz Airport. It creates jobs and helps tourism and provides a valuable service for us. We need to do more of that on a smaller scale to encourage companies to move here and also to help local residents, start businesses. We need more diversity. Tourism's great, but the jobs are low paying and seasonal. Encourage year-round tourism.
- Fun events
- Fund projects proposing building environmentally friendly community to establish model facilities and environmental access points to encourage niche ecotourism.
- Encourage arts and craftsmanship towns with really minimal booth charges—with regular market times.
- Tax breaks for families

Housing

- Single and senior housing
- Create affordable housing options for low-income people along the river area.
- Fix up current housing that is not up to code.
- Create a permanent year-round homeless shelter.
- Low-interest loans/grants for substandard housing
- Improvement for sanitary systems for “campgrounds” where folks live in trailers
- Move long-term residents from trailer parks to housing if trailers are substandard.
- Housing for the homeless
- Funding elevation of housing in flood plane—the single most important item that will prevent victim mentality.
- Build housing for low- and very low-income people.
- Shortcuts to getting rid of “drug houses”
- Permit Resource Development cleaned up, i.e., 1999 Grand Jury Report and subsequent follow-up.
- B___ homes, self-composting toilets
- Use a church for non-confirming use permits—low-income housing
- Let the market operate; enforce health and safety codes.
- Emergency shelter could be portable trailers.
- Solar power for new development, as well as existing public buildings.
- Overall standard of maintenance/appearance for all homes to avoid the decrepit/substandard effect of the entire area
- Affordable and transitional housing needed
- Too many people live without housing. Can we build homes for them?
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Work with Burbank housing to create affordable housing
- Based on construction standards of “age” of original structures, such are not substandard but are of older standards. Wording should be corrected to reflect such fact.

- Everything possible to mitigate flood damage. Incentive to not let things flood (in basements, unraised houses, etc.).
- Raise as much as possible. 4!!
- Low-income housing is often expensive.
- The river is a seasonal recreation area. Permanent housing beyond what exists should be discouraged.
- Transitional housing to assist people for a limited period of time to get back on feet
- “. . . much of the stock is reaching critical age” is opinion, not factual. I object in the strongest manner to this glib and periphrastic set-up for red-tagging.
- “Substandard stock . . . reaching critical age” sounds like P.R. spin to promote teardown and replace.
- Housing in the area is cheap; I moved here because the housing was cheap. As far as affordable housing, it is not just this community that has that challenge, but I don't see redevelopment monies used directly for this issue. I do see that perhaps landlords could try to find some way to invest in their properties rather than let them be blighted. I think this area will always have the element of those that are just getting by—which, aren't we all? But this place seems to be the home of the type of element of society that will keep housing at the lowest the market will bear, and it will look that way, too. ~ Perhaps if a water project were introduced, the jobs were gained through in industry, then the housing market might look better. If you gave people the money for paint around here, I'll bet they would use it for a party. ~ That may sound negative, but look at models in other cities. Take Chicago, for instance, and how they turned the housing projects around. I would hate to see any housing projects in the area, because it just brings in more of the crime, drugs, etc. ~ I would love to see no homeless people, but I know for a fact that you cannot change the core value of most of the homeless that are in our streets. Some were given homes here by their families, but their values and mental health issues have made them lose great homes that are blight. The answer—they are happy to be only responsible to their drinking buddies and how to get the next high—how is giving them anything else going to create a change in their behavior? Studies have been done on this issue, and not a home, clothes, or anything else is going to change them. We just have to do what we can for the children to instill values, so they don't become the same way.
- More Section 8 and/or low-cost housing—landlords made to keep dwellings up to par—no substandard (poor sewage, tec.) allowed
- Housing for homeless on assistance that allows qualifying for loans towards home ownership.
- Affordable rentals AND homeownership. But PLEASE don't cluster really low-income renters who have – um – issues all in one complex or trailer park. Affordable housing projects and trailer parks should be a mix of ethnicities, incomes, owners and renters. Chronic homeless should be given apartments. Homeless families need apartments or houses too, so they can settle down and get back on their feet.
- Nice low-cost housing and a hotel to accommodate tourists. R.V. parks that do not get taken over by year-round. How about year-round motor home parks?

- Continue programs to remove transitional housing “campers” from the roadways and build low-income sustainable transitional real housing. Provide grant programs for homeowners to access monies for home improvement on established scenic corridors.
- Develop a housing planning strategy that does not reflect the FEMA generic solutions. Create new flood elevation (?) construction that is tested through scholastic competition and results in new ideas for flood protective housing types.

Image and Appearance

- Fund a research and branding initiative that the key stakeholders can adopt. Let’s have a unified message and strategy for promoting the area.
- Signage!!
- Code enforcement
- Create design standards that preserve/enhance the historic charm of our town→needs code enforcement! Façade improvements needed.
- Make more pedestrian friendly all around the town—also makes more visually pleasing when there are actually sidewalks. Also gives a kid-friendly feel/safer.
- Better signage/markers/identifiers coming into town—even like Monte Rio’s _____ markers
- Use basic important and attractive publication.
- Banners on Main Street
- Put clock back on Lark’s Drug building.
- Parks on Willow Road and entrance to Rio Nido
- Public restroom in Rio Nido Beach/river access in Rio Nido
- Address abandoned, vacant buildings in downtown:
 - Old bank building (Main and church)
 - Former auto parts and garage (Armstrong Woods Road between 3rd and 4th, across from Coffee Bazaar)
 - Both absentee landlords
- Preservation and enhancement of architecturally and historically interesting buildings
- More public toilets
- Encourage architecturally sensitive construction and remodeling via PRMD.
- Encourage “zero growth.”
- Repair sidewalks in downtown with rubber sidewalks to fix cracking and dangerous concrete.
- Plant more trees for shade on Main Street.
- Clean up gateway to the towns—enforce cleanup of blight—next to rental yard. Can we make County enforce use permits?
- Regarding Guerneville library (25 years old), remodel to keep current with technological advances and make room for special area for teenagers. Store archived footage of newspapers for history of area.
- Public improvements and facilities—Guerneville Regional Library (25+ years old):
 - Update the library by remodeling the library to meet the technological progress (changes) that have occurred over the last 25 years.

- Establish a teen reading area that teens can go to hand out, read, do homework, etc.
- Archive microfilming of local newspapers on an ongoing basis to be stored at the library with access available. Library is currently maintaining a clipping file of local interest that is indexed.
- Improve circulation desk to meet ADA requirements, as well as ergonomic needs and to meet new technological advancements.
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Paint red zones where needed, i.e., near crosswalks.
- Aloha Inn in Seattle. Transitional housing for middle income; hard core homeless could not get in. Raised real estate values.
- Improve the appearance of the “approach” to town.
- Do something about the huge green eyesore with junk piled in front; paint the Mercantile an attractive color as a start.
- Brick sidewalks, lots of flower planters along sidewalks, and bus fronts.
- Clean up all properties in “downtown” area.
- Restore riparian habitat.
- Maintain all historically and aesthetically pleasing buildings in downtown area, making use of them in ways that will benefit the community.
- Green building for any new projects
- More trash receptacles
- Public restrooms in the downtown area
- We need a healthy river study. Our community is dependent on the river for our drinking water, recreation, and economy. We could form a study team of toxicology experts, business leaders, and others to make recommendations regarding the future health of the river.
- Improve debris abatement (immediately take action to remove abandoned RVs, vehicles, refrigerators, etc.).
- Clean up and eradicate drug dealing areas (trash, needles, etc.).
- Clean up, tear down, or repair abandoned or trashed properties (eradicate debris, rodents, blight, drugs, etc.).
- Repave roads, so area looks inviting and thriving, not dilapidated (Monte Rio adjacent to Rio Theater under Welcome to Vacation Wonderland sign, in front of hotels, restaurants on River Road, on Main Street in front of Pink Elephant, etc.).
- Plant low-maintenance garden areas at gateway areas to towns.
- Get info on grants for improving hist. build resort (?)
- Use homeless volunteers to do cleaning projects in exchange for food.
- There is a population of “professional flood insurance collectors.”
- Repeat – incentives not to let things flood.
- Goals as stated are appropriate. The area should continue to be identified as a flood zone and a danger to permanent housing.
- Provide garbage cans
- Community cleanup days twice a year—old cars, junk need to be addressed to occupant to get rid
- Main Street cleaned and one by school—a couple also by the bridge
- Times per year

- Keep small-town image. Design buildings in keeping with old-time look.
- Get restrooms built near bridge. This area is self-promoting.
- I always smile at this issue. My dad and I have debates about people leaving cars on the side of the road, tarps on their roofs, paint color choices, etc. My dad is from England where most of these types of issues have rules and fines. This isn't an issue I believe redevelopment money is going to help. This is an issue that is fragmented by choice, peer pressure, income, and most of all county regulation. If our county supervisors find that it isn't cost effective to run a check on an abandoned vehicle, then I would think that they are right. ~ Diversity is definitely a social make-up of this area, and with the freedom is the cost of having to surrender some of your own values of what is right.
- Beautification of the entrance to Rio Nido—pursue talking to the property owner to see if they will sell or give it to the HOA, so it can be improved.
- I would like to see a “face lift” put in the downtown areas, especially NOT a yuppified but a less dirty look. In Australia many of the towns have a sort of visor/valance for sun which gives the storefronts a more finished look.
- More trees, flowers and greenery in downtown Guerneville and Monte Rio. Give businesses money to fix or replace old, worn out signs and to have their storefronts repainted and awnings fixed or replaced. I don't think we need uniformity (i.e., same color paints and awnings – yuck). Just some freshening up. Lots of readily available trash and recycling cans to discount (?). Public art in parks, on roads and streets, and in other public spaces. Tear down abandoned buildings.
- Keep the small town look, but generate public pride by giving people decent housing.
- Establish service distract and build a maintenance/stormer (?) building to serve entire project area for public restrooms, street cleaning, tree care, sidewalk install and repair and park maintenance.
- No loitering!

Recreation and Activities

- Build a new community theater or use redevelopment funds to rehab the “River Theater.”
- Strategic alliance with existing youth environmental/art groups (or creation of one) that does things like clean up invasive river reeds/general garbage. Then make them into art or do other environmental things with them. Have similar programs in Oakland, for example.
- Public Art Program—helps change look/feel of the town—could be public art commissions/purchases . . .
- Park that would provide trails to walk/job, etc. along the river that would be well lit, well paved, safe.
- Community center with classes, activities for people of all ages
- We love it.
- Community gardens
- See “Economy.”
- Community Theater

- Skateboard Park
- Here's my biggest beef. The parks, frankly, suck. All the existing parks are badly maintained. Drake Park has no freakin' bathroom. The Porta-potty placed there is rarely maintained and kids hate using it – with good reason. All too frequently, the whole park stinks due to lack of maintenance of the portable toilet. I'm a participant in a large tennis group at Drake Park and I can tell you this happens constantly. It smells terrible whenever we're out on the court. Given the level of taxes I pay in this community, this is completely unacceptable. The local Parks & Rec group is doing a terrible job. Also please note that the tennis courts on Old Cazadero Road, in Rio Nido, and in Monte Rio are all in bad shape. The nets are not maintained, and every single court I've mentioned here is in need of resurfacing. I'm extremely unhappy that we had the nerve to spend \$120,000 on a new toilet on the other side of the Guerneville Bridge, for A PARK THAT DOESN'T EXIST YET, and that is exclusively used by homeless bums, while Drake Park, the showcase park of Guerneville, goes begging. After my Thursday night adoption training courses end, I promise to start coming to RRROC meetings and making a lot of noise about this issue. You have been warned.
- Making money with arts, crafts, and music, with weekend fairs promoted to draw tourists
- Public restrooms in Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Some form of facilities where teenagers can hang out
- Skate park
- Support parks & rec—they do a great job with the playgrounds and tennis courts.
- Several small “open-ended” buildings, similar to the Senior Center at Armstrong Woods Road and Watson, where people could get together for meetings, films, potlucks, etc.
- Public put-in point for rafting/canoe/kayak with toilets/parking
- Money to complete park under walking bridge in downtown Guerneville
- Build a skate park for the kids.
- Community theater, possible at former Club Fab/River Theater site
- Support our Parks & Recreation District; they are great!
- Community calendar so that Guerneville is not in serious conflict of _____.
- We need a healthy river study. Our community is dependent on the river for our drinking water, recreation, and economy. We could form a study team of toxicology experts, business leaders, and others to make recommendations regarding the future health of the river.
- Create hiking trails or maintain.
- Possible utilization of the area in Guernewood Park, including Spooner's and Molly's and the lot next to Molly's as a park or otherwise recreation area.
- Park areas made more conducive to family gathering and picnics
- Youth facility
- Enlarge park near old bridge with grass and redwood trees.
- Old Cazadero Road near Highway 116 needs park.
- More river access
- Overnight car parks/homess

- Buy up abandoned properties in the flood plain and return them to the river bed, piecemeal as possible.
- Promote parks
- A tram up a mountain?
- Bike paths
- River access
- This area has great recreation and activities. This is one of the reasons I live here, and I think they are growing. The State Park, County Park, local Parks and Recreation Department, as well as businesses, have welcomed and maintained trails, accesses, activities to bring in tourism. I do think a water project would contribute to these resources.
- River access?
- Make the Rio Nido Firehouse (old) more of a community building.
- See my idea on building a walking path from Armstrong Woods Road to town.
- Little league/softball field – dog walk path – skateboard park behind park and ride by old Surrey Inn.
- Public restrooms and water sources in all parks
- Sidewalk connecting Guerneville River Park and Drake Park
- Docks all along our part of the river so every neighborhood has access to the water
- Trail along river with benches, bike racks, picnic tables, dispensers with baggies for disposing dog poop, trash and recycling containers, water fountains, and workout stations. COMMUNITY GARDENS!
- Dams! Put them up early, and break them down late. Don't push those businesses out.
- Maintenance of park's tennis courts. Improvement of their bathroom facilities, fix drinking fountains.
- Create a youth center, a skate park, a dog park (or at least a dog trail with doggy bag dispensers).
- Create a special assessment district for rec & park maintenance and long term.
- More public access to river via parks/beaches, build softball/baseball complex, build rec facilities for exercise and sport.
- Provide miles and miles of well-maintained trails throughout project area.
- Network of hiking, biking, & potentially equestrian trails (within the project area and connecting to state, county, and local systems—existing and proposed.

Mobility

- Improve and clean up parking lot off of Guerneville Plaza.
- Increase shoulder paving from 3' to 6' or 8' for extra parking for large-draw events (festivals, fireworks) and year-round use for pedestrian use—116, River Road, Armstrong Woods Roads, so folks can walk safely.
- Bike paths strategically located; for example, in Guerneville, River Road, Armstrong Woods Road
- Bike paths—maybe a bike key system like European towns
- Increase Sonoma Co. bus service to and from Russian River area.
- Extended bus schedule

- Gratis trolley through the area
- Bike paths and bike rentals
- Biodiesel Building—we are under-served by Sonoma County Transit
- A sidewalk along the portion of 116 connecting Guerneville Park to Downtown Guerneville, as it is a main pedestrian thoroughfare
- Have written in other areas of the need for sidewalks, even non-downtown residential areas
- Creation of bike paths—too scary to ride bikes on some of these roads
- Bike trails
- Build out fire trail to connect Monte Rio to Guerneville
- Bicycle key system (i.e., Denmark)
- Purchase and rent bikes to visitors so their cars stay parked.
- We need more safe ways to move through our community. Our roads are narrow and dangerous. We also need ways that do not involve autos.
- Improve roads!
- Improvement and addition of bicycle paths
- More and better bike/alternate transportation
- Goals are appropriate.
- CalTrans – push them!
- Insoluble limitation – no room for more/bigger roads
- How to reduce traffic—tunnel from Koret to Overwood Park?
- Public transportation is important, but I think it would take a major bond to produce the services we would need to better the existing transportation needs. Technology such as cell phones, Internet, etc. have grown in this area and will continue to do so. I think we would use a town-wide wireless Internet system.
- I'm not sure what/how to interpret this—transportation within our community—bike paths?
- Better bus service to Santa Rosa.
- Wheelchair ramps at crosswalks and entrances to buildings, bike lanes, alternative to River Road? Access roads? Why doesn't Neelers Road go all the way down the river? Docks, steps and paths for river access in various neighborhoods.
- Better business service—especially in the evenings
- Summer pedestrian bridges: a series of unique structures which would connect the communities and serve as a tourist attraction (similar to Folsom, California). Small clean air mini-shuttles to connect the hill folks with services (can negotiate narrow roads).
- Build a tram from Rio Nido to Duncans Mills that would have local express service, preferably electric, along the river. Small shuttle system for highway areas to accommodate those without cars and the elderly.

Basic Utility and Road Infrastructure

- WIFI
- Yes! Telecom/forward-looking tech infrastructure!
- Reduction of power outages
- Go solar!

- Need for summer revegetation program in Guerneville area, not 18 miles away near Graton.
- Better cell phone reception
- Pave!! Our street was to be paved 23 years ago.
- Put utility poles underground. This will help reduce winter power failures.
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Bring natural gas to this community (not propane)
- Safe bike pathways, perhaps work with open space to develop extensive paths throughout the region.
- Assist in paying for Monte Rio sewer. It is necessary for the area, and cost to locals could be greatly reduced. Help out here.
- One sewer system in redevelopment district??
- Work towards getting utilities underground to reduce power outages.
- Address sewer and septic issues facing community at large.
- We need more safe ways to move through our community. Our roads are narrow and dangerous. We also need ways that do not involve autos.
- Repave roads, so area looks inviting and thriving, not dilapidated (Monte Rio adjacent to Rio Theater under Welcome to Vacation Wonderland sign, in front of hotels, restaurants on River Road, on Main Street in front of Pink Elephant, etc.).
- Improve cell phone service (Monte Rio).
- Cell phone tower
- Focus should be on state-of-the-art septic systems.
- Cell tower
- Bus stop shelter at or near triangle by theater
- Septic/sewer
- Verizon cell tower
- Lower propane costs.
- Fix, don't expect utility upgrades to prevent outages. Bury lines in forest—stop stringing from tree to tree.
- Skip sewer development.
- Repair roads.
- Area is near full of people.
- Water system
- Let's see what could be planned with a water project, and include some road repair through state or county funds to help with that infrastructure.
- Utterly terrible!
- This is very important. Our creek—Fife's along Armstrong Woods Road is not kept clean. This is an example of a lack of infrastructure.
- Sewer system on river for Monte Rio.
- Put electrical and cables and perone (?) lines underground.
- Speed bumps and sidewalks in all residential neighborhoods
- Free WIFI hubs in every neighborhood
- I'm excited about the road repairs (Cal Trans), even though it's a major pain.
- Create a series of water taxis that travel the river (similar to the early water ferries on the Russian River). Would need to account for shallow H₂O conditions.
- Underground electric. Provide access to natural gas, not propane.

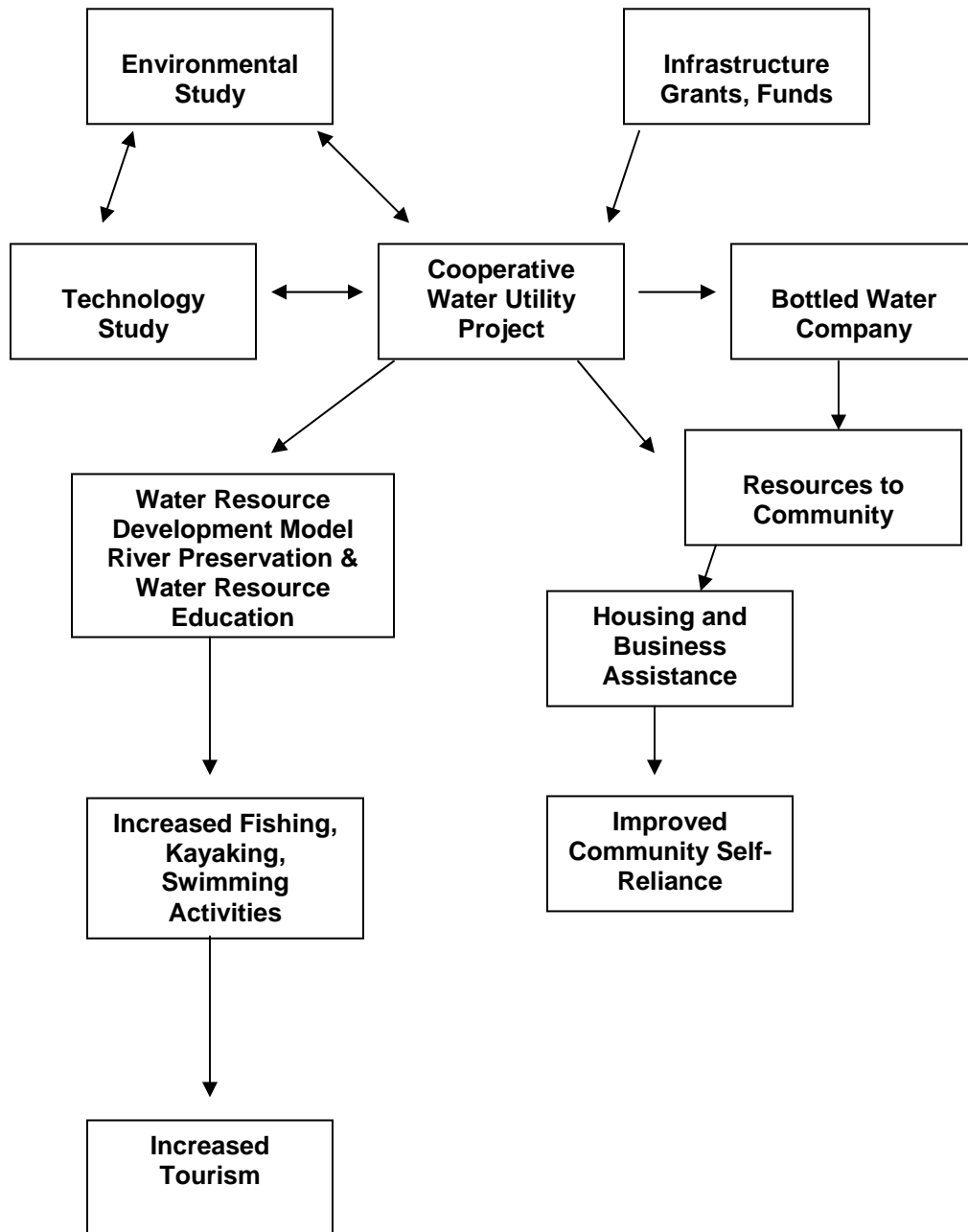
- Sewer connections for all communities in project area.
- Generators for all emergency and public facilities

Emergency Preparedness

- A system for all residents to be notified of river levels, so that everyone has an opportunity prepare their properties and get out before the flood happens
- More grants for community radio
- A mobile tent city for homeless that can serve in emergencies, floods—split funding
- Police/fire/ambulance facilities should be augmented—more substations.
- We are ½ hour from any hospital. If ambulances have to come from Santa Rosa, that is an hour turnaround.
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Library is often commandeered by Red Cross, FEMA, etc. in times of natural disaster.
- Elevate Armstrong Woods Road near school. Dredge creek so school not closed during flash floods, and area residents have exit.
- Provide emergency preparedness training classes free of charge to river residents.
- We need more safe ways to move through our community. Our roads are narrow and dangerous. We also need ways that do not involve autos.
- We lack good fire protection in many areas due to lack of fire hydrants.
- Improve cell phone services (Monte Rio).
- Acquire inflatable shelter currently being developed, which can be used in cold weather/floods/fires, etc.
- Start program to buy out flood-prone housing and convert to Redwood Forest Park land.
- Emergency housing in the different impacted (?) and isolated
- Prepare water system for floods—above flood, safe from forest fire, shelter.
- I'm not really able to discuss this issue, because I am not familiar with the needs of our emergency teams. They are better to discuss this issue. but I know they use water!
- Rio Nido—better flood protection, particularly as it relates to the lodge, so it can be preserved.
- A committee to be formed with all the major players, so that all the information and resources are in one place.
- Get Sheriff substation properly manned.
- Need more alternate routes, more workshops, more neighborhood meetings, website and packet of materials made available
- Help neighborhoods specify meeting place
- Sonoma County is awesome and gets better every year.
- Prepare an overall plan which includes state, county, local fire departments and create new strategies for implementation. Coordinate and support funding efforts with FEMA to gain Homeland Security dollars to improve facilities and create new ones.
- Establish disaster plan and educate residents in new training facilities built for emergency services.

Building a Self-Reliant Community

- Long-term collaborative effort between businesses and the community to ensure a vibrant, fruitful community
- Ongoing community forums (town meeting models)
- Public restrooms—Guerneville, Rio Nido, Monte Rio
- Library is a valuable resource for community in providing self-help books, tax forms, Internet access (free for one-hour/day), public restrooms, etc., plus a forum room available to the community for meetings and programs.
- Solar energy projects and food development projects for local economy and/or tourism
- The City of Havana, Cuba, now provides 70% of its residents' food through a system of locally owned and maintained small organic gardens. We should do the same at very little cost and with tremendous health, economic, and social benefit.
- Being a community that is often faced with natural disasters, it is important to encourage residents to know how to take care of themselves and their neighbors through good advanced preparation and education.
- Put energy and funds into really improving Chamber of Commerce, so that coverage is appropriate. ~ Level of staff encourages people bringing information to offices for distribution to reluctant (?) members of the community. ~ People on staff know the entertainment choices, the kind of restaurant offerings, good times for participation in various activities. ~ Knowledge of cultural groups in community.
- Improve image (see above comments), which should improve tourism, which should improve local jobs, services, etc.
- Bigger, better signage for communication
- Websites for all agencies linked together
- This basically exists now; not much is needed.
- Local library to encourage youth and assist availability to entire community
- No growth. We are of the natural carrying capacity of this land. Further development/infill requires unsustainable and expensive technologies.
- As you have read in many of my answers, I have made a point of stating that this community needs to become more self-reliant. The social issues we deal with have been mainly because this area has been out of touch with growing societies and in many ways have embraced that fact. ~ I do think a water project that encompasses both an environmental aspect, utilizing a developed technology as well as involving resources in place, such as groups and committees that study water issues with social and environmental impacts could benefit this community in many ways. It just takes some creative thought and processes. ~ Think about an African village that walks miles with vessels to fetch water, and when a \$10,000 water well is put into their village, the whole village grows economically as well as socially. ~ Thanks for allowing me to have this input. I am sure I will be thinking about this and come up with other things as afterthoughts. ~ I would definitely enjoy putting together a list of items that I don't wish to be funded, because they wouldn't build a self-reliant community. ~ See next page:



- I feel very strongly about building from scratch or taking over an existing building in order to form a community center. This vision/idea would literally and figuratively provide a place to bring the community together. In this one place could be all of the major resources, i.e., Chamber, West County Health, KGGV Radio, plus a teen center and a place for large public meetings. I think a community center is crucial for bringing our community together in a positive/functional way.
- Develop assistance to local free meals for at least one extra free meal for homeless//needy per month.
- Put together community gardens like they have in Berkeley and New York City. This is an idea whose time has come around here. Solid fencing, locked gates, and community participation. I am willing to spearhead an effort to do this. One on Old Caz Road, one in Rio Nido Go to Berkeley and have a look around (I realize going to New York is a little much to ask). What the hell else is that freakin' money for, anyway?
- More diversity with jobs and businesses
- Co-op community gardens for growing fruit and veggies
- Many of us have no flat yard and little sunlight.
- Windmill farms and banks of solar panels on tops of mountains/hills for a supplemental community power grid.
- Community co-op farm with chickens and goats!
- The bus service to and from the river communities has not changed since I got here in 1984. Bad then, bad now!
- Create a funded center to allow access to grant writers (which would be subsidized) to allow those with good concepts access to grant funding.
- Provide more consistent cell services.
- Design guidelines must be worked through p_____ to ensure applicability and institution of rules. CDC to determine which projects meet redevelopment requirements, as local citizens, even committee members, seem not to know.

Other Comments:

- Removal of dangerous trees on Main Street and repair of sidewalks
- Improved cell service
- Keep the summer dams!!! Please.
- Thanks to everyone for taking your time to make redevelopment work for us!
- Board members, please try to see the 53 minute DVD, "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil." I would be glad to donate copies; just email me or call me at 707-479-3913 (Fred Wolters).
- The composition of a community is the people; that is, rich, middle class, poor and homeless . . . and every person should be treated equally! With that in mind, the attitude of helping those who need mental health, shelters, public toilets, etc. should be a priority!! I think you get what I'm saying. Thank you.
- More visible results

- As you can tell, I'm extremely incensed about the woeful park system in the area. This really motivates me, and I intend to be a major pain in the %\$# about this issue. You have not heard the last of this from me – not by a long shot.
- There is always room for improvement.
- The cited web page includes simple Google searches.
- Many social problems corrected with Neighborhood Watch—domestic abuse, child abuse . . . too much to list here.
- Good luck!
- Thanks for visiting our beautiful, diverse, and vibrant community. We'd like to keep it small.
- I do not like repeating myself, but my concerns and comments seemed appropriate in many key result areas.
- These issues can and should be addressed now if the long-range vision of a vibrant, inviting, and welcoming river community is to be achieved. Most of the same issues affect many key result areas. They do not take millions of dollars or several years to implement, and they will make a significant short- and long-term impact on our community.
- A major goal should be to improve our community in all respects, but to retain the atmosphere, culture, and appearance that we have come to enjoy.
- Our small communities need to “consolidate” more efforts.
- Do a study on dredging river.
- Don't gentrify, change the character, urbanize, and don't destroy the scale of the towns. Big structures, big sidewalks, big parking lots will change the look of Monte Rio and other towns.
- Priorities include:
 - River pollution
 - Environmental and wildlife preservation and restoration
 - Reducing traffic
- We are hamstrung by redevelopment's prohibitions regarding what can be funded and how.
- Before I provide specifics in the Key Result Area of this questionnaire, I would like to add the following overlying theme that would enhance each area—WATER!!! All of the areas have more or less common value in the area of water. I propose specifically different projects that can be enhanced by one or more larger projects that would include an overhaul in the Lower Russian River's water system which is our most valuable resource, because we have lots of it and sometimes too much of it! ~ Also, I value something my late Uncle Bob (career researching the possibility of life on Mars), used to tell me, along with other mentors in my life: “There are no dumb questions or ideas, because usually those are the very points that provide the opportunity to think differently and spawn the ideas that lead to answers.” ~ So to look at this Redevelopment project as an opportunity to be utilized and encompass ALL of a community that is, yes, diverse, but yet never quite fit in with other societies, I propose specific ideas that would either be spawned from a water system project or benefit from such a project. ~ I would also like to add as someone that moved to this area in 1989, that I know the residents of all different cultures quite well, and the underlying theme is not just the diversity,

but that these residents have long placed a sort of core belief that they are not privileged as other societies. Some believe that they need to be a “have” to be accepted by tourists, etc., and others fight the “haves” and are quite content to believe in handouts and that they are the “have nots.” ~ I believe this point is more likely the cause of sustaining rather than growth in this community, rather than the diversity. ~To bring up the point in your Executive Summary of the Vision, I would like to point out that as you took into consideration the values of this community, I would go further and list the COMMON VALUES of the community, because when you’re dealing with a diverse community, not only are you going to have a wide spectrum of opinions, but you can bridge them with bringing forward the common values shared in the community. I think this questionnaire will assist as you read them, but I would like to see these common values publicized, so that the community can feel like there is something that brings them together.

- This building—this meeting room is inadequate. It should be a community—more community access.
- Lodge—needs to be repurchased/restored.
 - Hub for Rio Nido
 - 47 police actions now
 - Year-round
- Different community agencies not working together; shouldn’t be wasting precious resources
- Lack of flooding protection by the County
- Representative for parks & recreation reps. Community Center for kids so they don’t have to go to Guerneville.
- Pee Wee Golf—Interior Building (built in 1950s)—low end of the flood plain—homeowners association owns the property. Is there a way to sell some of the land to private investors and then use some of it to purchase the lodge?
- Entry to Rio Nido (someone smashed into it)—used to be the old post office (private beautification)
- Trees that are foreign to the area should be removed.
 - Safety, disease, etc. that need to be addressed
- Culverts on Hidden Valley Road
 - The street turned into a river.
 - Public Works Department doesn’t seem interested in keeping the culverts cleared. A private driveway collapsed into the culvert because of lack of maintenance—not maintained for the last ten years. They claim they are only responsible for the culverts under the road. The whole system breaks down if it is not maintained. To have them all cleaned out benefits all folks.
 - There is a map showing responsibilities, and we can identify the problem areas.
 - During the flood they backed up. The county had to redo the road because of the damage. It was worse than ever seen previously.
- Rio Nido needs better drainage.
- Question: Is there redevelopment funds using or partnering with raising housing FEMA funds? Answer: Dan said to a certain degree—assisting low-income folks on matching funds.

- Rio Nido entry
 - Pond restored (by swimming pool)—bring it back to be a natural pond; there are issues related to property boundary.
 - Less and less sunlight due to the trees getting larger and larger. Is there anything that can be done? It needs to be a community effort to trim the higher tops of the trees to get more sunlight.
- Beach (owned by Harris's)
 - Enhance it for more public access
 - Clean up the beach
 - Both sides of Rio Nido beach are privately owned—the tunnel is public.
- River access is very important—need to have more and cleaned up.
 - County planted trees, but they died.
 - Overgrowth is tremendous—need to be maintained.
- Private property owners have been messy with the river—that triggers state law.
- Specific suggestions:
 - More sheriffs' patrol of the Rio Nido canyons—day and night. Presence important!
- County maintenance of brush and overgrowth along canyon roads. Downed signs—see Eagle Nest Lane; road sign down for three years.
- Why use an Arizona group as opposed to local?
- The deadline for submitting this form **NEEDS TO BE MOVED UP**. There was **ZERO** publicity for the importance of these forms for providing input. The only paper that has reported on this so far, The Russian River Monthly, just arrived in our mailboxes on **THURSDAY, April 5!!** Thank you.
- Establish procedure for communities to work together, not against each other. Promote conversation, not adversarial, “them vs. us” attitudes. Promote projects that unite (?) the communities into the lower river community to take advantage of group efforts.