## Rocklin Historical Society P.O. Box 752 Rocklin, CA 95677

April 21, 2003

Rocklin City General Plan Advisory Committee City Hall, Rocklin, CA 95677

Dear Committee Members:

We often hear that a reason people join our community is because of the "small town atmosphere". The Rocklin Historical Society has particular interest, and, some would say, responsibility, relative to preservation of the heritage that contributes to our small town atmosphere.

Attached is a vision for Old Town developed from the historical society's perspective. The vision is intended to provide a focus and direction for the society's activities. However, we have found that there is substantial interest on the part of the larger community in improvement of Old Town based on a theme anchored in the community's heritage.

Clearly there is much opportunity for improvement in Old Town – it is also imperative that the community act quickly if we are to preserve "at risk" structures and open space. By adopting and publicizing a vision we feel we can take advantage of the support that exists in the community. By partnering (City of Rocklin, service organizations and commercial interests) we can complete elements of the vision to improve old town and encourage viable commercial development that takes advantage of Rocklin's rich heritage.

We appreciate consideration of the elements of this vision for incorporation in the general plan. We also invite any suggestions that the committee or staff can make on the subject of a vision for Old Town.

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy Labudde Dorothy Labudde President, Rocklin Historical Society

Enclosure: Vision for Rocklin Old Town by Rocklin Historical Society, April 21, 2003.

Cc: Mrs Kathy Lund, Mayor, City of Rocklin Mr. Peter Hill, Councilman, City of Rocklin Mr. George Magnuson, Councilman, City of Rocklin, Mr. Brett Storey, Councilman, City of Rocklin Mr. Ken Yorde, Councilman, City of Rocklin Mr. Carlos Urrutia, City Manager, City of Rocklin,

dl:ej

### To: Rocklin General Plan Advisory Committee

## The Rocklin Historical Society April 21, 2003

As Rocklin and surrounding areas continue to grow, preservation of our local historic and scenic resources becomes ever more important to provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors and to create a sense of place and community pride within our residents.

Substantial open space exists in the center of Rocklin with scenic oaks, pines, granite outcroppings, and historic granite quarries. Many downtown buildings have been lost to fire, however a number of historic structures do remain, for example, on Front Street and on Rocklin Road.

The following are items of historical nature that the Rocklin Historical Society supports and recommends for inclusion in planning related to Rocklin's Old Town. <u>We strongly feel that implementing the recommendations will allow Rocklin to exploit the uniqueness of Rocklin's natural and historic features to create a thriving viable old town.</u>

Some of the recommendations listed below already exist in city planning and are included here to show the support of the historical society as part of an overall plan. Many of the objectives will be achievable only over time, with the support of the community, its leaders, and with the cooperation of property owners.

Signed (at April 21, 2003 RHS General Meeting)

Dorothy Labudde, President Gene Johnson, Board Member Gaynor Morgan, Secretary Kathie Nippert, Treasurer Roy Ruhkala, Vice President James Carlson, D.C., Board Member Bill Woods, Board Member

## **Vision for Rocklin Old Town (prioritized)**

### The Rocklin Historical Society - July 10, 2003

Following is the outline of a vision for Old Town developed from the historical society's perspective. The vision is intended to provide a focus and direction for the society's activities. However, the vision is also being shared with the City of Rocklin as a number of the objectives can only be achieved with our city's support and cooperation.

Note that this is a first attempt at documenting an RHS vision. Please consider the vision as a "living document" that can be changed and updated. Comments and suggestions for future versions are invited from RHS membership as well as the community in general.

## *I.* Adopt and publicize a guiding theme to enable the city and civic groups to work together to achieve common goals.

- OLD TOWN THEME
- FRONT STREET HISTORIC COMMITTEE TO ALL ROCKLIN HERITAGE COMMITTEE
- HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND POINTS OF HISTORIC INTEREST
- OLD TOWN CLEANUP

#### *II. Preserve* 19<sup>th</sup> century structure, improve historic Front St and Rocklin Road area.

- ST MARY'S PRESERVATION, PLAZA & PARKING
- ROCKLIN HISTORY INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT IN NEW TRAIN STATION
- ROCKLIN FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE MEANS OF FUNDING COMMUNITY PROJECTS
- *III.* Preserve "at risk" quarry buildings and properties and exploit Rocklin's unique granite quarrying heritage.
  - OLD TOWN HERITAGE PARKLANDS
  - CIVIC CENTER GRANITE QUARRIES, REFURBISH QUARRY SHEDS AND MAINTAIN DERRICKS INTERPRETIVE, ARTISIANS, NONPROFITS CENTER COUNTY OR STATE PARK FUNDS?
  - QUARRY SAFETY
  - GRANITE FENCE POST ORDNANCE
  - STONE BARN IN VICINITY OF TUTTLE ROAD AND COKER PLAZA
- IV. Protect and/or encourage maintenance of historic artifacts and areas.
  - FRONT ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT REGISTRATION
  - TRAIN DEPOT CAR COMPLEX AT PACIFIC AND GROVE STREETS
  - LINCOLN HIGHWAY, HIGHWAY 40 AND PACIFIC STREET
  - ROCKLIN ROAD AND FIFTH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT (OTHER?)
  - NATIVE AMERICAN BEDROCK MORTARS, VILLAGE MIDDEN AND HUFF SPRING
  - OLD TOWN DESIGN GUIDELINES VOLUNTARY
- V. Future projects.
  - ROCKLIN HOSE CO/CITY HALL/MARSHALL'S OFFICE BLDG RECONSTRUCTION -FRONT ST
  - ROUNDHOUSE PARK
  - FUTURE MUSEUM EXHIBIT GALLERY (BUILD)
  - CITY HALL IF OR WHEN AVAILABLE REFURBISH AS CALIFORNIA GRANITE CO STORE

Note: Additional text describing each of the line items will be available at our Web site www.rocklinhistory.org.

# <u>Priority I</u> Develop, adopt and publicize a guiding theme to enable the city and civic groups to work together to achieve common goals.

#### **Old Town Theme**

Adopt Rocklin old town development "theme" ca 1905 granite quarrying, railroad history, JP Whitney/Spring Valley Ranch, ("Rock, Rails and Ranches"). Exploit unique ethnic heritage of that time.

#### **Front Street Historic Committee**

Expand Front Street Historic Committee charter to address cultural heritage and natural scenic considerations throughout the entire city of Rocklin and rename appropriately such as "Rocklin Heritage Advisory Committee".

Revise membership criteria to include representatives of partnering organizations e.g. Rocklin Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce. Committee to generate and maintain a guiding vision for heritage properties.

#### **Historic Structures and Points of Historic Interest**

**Rocklin Historical Society to maintain an inventory** of structures and points of historic interest. Request City of Rocklin to include the Rocklin Historical Society in the review of actions affecting the listed properties.

#### Old Town Cleanup

Establish twice a year free cleanup in old town until the job is done. Provide containers in Old Town. Encourage service clubs to participate by contacting property owners and providing volunteer labor and donated equipment to remove unwanted materials.

Establish or enforce ordnance to remove dilapidated structures.

# <u>Priority II</u> Preserve 19<sup>th</sup> century public building. Improve historic Front St. and Rocklin Road areas.

<u>Preserve Saint Mary's Church</u> dedicated in 1883, Rocklin's oldest remaining public buildings and develop as rental facility for wedding chapel / meeting hall, presentations, small theater , etc. Rehabilitate, rebuild steeple install bell (available from Covenant church if it will fit), landscape. If necessary, relocate to "town square" area (see below).

**Encourage development of block between Rocklin Road and B Street as commercial with store fronts replicating those of early 1900.** Porter's Hall, Barudoni Butcher Shop, House of the Peacock etc.

**Town Square** - Develop open area between Rocklin Road and C streets adjacent to tracks for parking and public events such as farmer's market, street fairs etc. (ref: photo of the area ca 1900 with band playing in the "square").

#### New Train Station

The Rocklin Historical Society expects to maintain a display at the new station recognizing the contribution of the Rocklin Roundhouse (1866 - 1908) to the development of California transportation. The display will also indicate other local historic sites and where information can be found.

#### **Rocklin Foundation**

Encourage the establishment of a <u>Rocklin Charitable Foundation</u> to assist in funding non-profit projects benefiting the Rocklin Community. Act as a focal point for grant applications etc.

<u>Priority III</u> Stabilize or preserve "at risk" quarry buildings and properties and exploit Rocklin's unique granite quarrying hereitage.

#### **<u>Old Town Heritage Parklands</u>**

Inventory remaining property in Old Town that is best suited for open space and heritage parklands – proceed to acquire these properties by partnering with commercial and volunteer groups.

The current guideline of 5 acres of park / open space per 1000 persons population. It is understood that the Roseville guideline is 9 acres/1000 persons – the same guideline is being proposed in Lincoln.

Increase Rocklin guideline of 5 acres per 1000 as needed to capture the heritage and scenic areas of old town. Rewrite guideline for locating parks to allow flexibility in designating heritage park areas.

#### Granite Quarries, Quarry Sheds and Derricks ca 1900.

Granite Quarries, Quarry Sheds and Derricks are Rocklin's most visible, unique historical artifacts. Restore "Big Gun Quarry" buildings to the extent it is practical. Develop use of the facility by artists, stoneworkers as well as visitor/commercial. Exhibit granite mining equipment, quarry tour (artifacts being assembled & stored). Maintain the two remaining derricks. Return to earlier name: California Granite Co. Investigate possibility of being a state park similar to grist mill park.

Include Deer Creek, Big Gun and Ruhkala artifacts when (or if) they become available.

**Provide special interpretive marker for quarry overlook** at City of Rocklin office building – for example a large granite plaque. The historical society can provide a design for this.

Develop park and walks around picturesque, water filled Anderson quarry and 2 quarries located on adjacent properties (Civic Center Plan) . Consider development of Big Gun quarry in a manner similar to the Bouchart Gardens quarry, if practical include an amphitheater in the quarry.

#### **Quarry Safety**

There is a continuing concern regarding the safety of children around open quarries. As we have more visitors to Old Town the possibility of a regrettable accident will increase.

Establish requirements for safety barriers where needed at all quarries. Provide guidelines for barriers designed to blend with the surroundings with minimum impact on the appearance of the quarries and the natural landscape.

#### **Granite Fence Post Ordnance**

The Granite Fence Posts contribute much to the unique character of our community. If it does not exist, an ordinance is recommended to protect the granite posts and require they remain in place along public streets. If this is determined to be impractical by the owner, the planning department and "historical commission" the posts may be donated to the City of Rocklin for maintenance of other fences or for use in other public places.

#### Stone Barn in vicinity of Tuttle Road and Coker Plaza

Develop preservation plan, possibly as a neighborhood park.

#### **<u>Priority IV</u>** Protect and/or encourage maintenance of historic artifacts and areas.

<u>Front Street Historic District</u> Register as a historic district for both state and national registers.

#### Train Depot Car Complex at Pacific and North Grove Streets

Encourage public use and maintenance of antique cars included in this facility (originally intended to be a RR car museum).

#### Lincoln Highway, Highway 40 and Pacific Street

Signage to reflect the historic Lincoln Hwy/ Hwy 40 added to Pacific St.

To preserve the rural feeling of Pacific Street, develop a building "set back" requirement that allows the vistas of the surrounding trees and hills to be seen from Pacific Street. The United Rentals facility is an excellent example.

#### **Rocklin Road and Fifth Street Historic District (and other similar groups of homes)**

Encourage registration of the group of four ca 1900 houses as historic district.

#### Native American bedrock mortars, village midden and Huff Spring

Clean to reveal full granite lining of spring, clear channel to allow normal flow, surround area with fence, for example, using granite posts or boulder rock fencing, provide interpretive marker.

#### **Old Town Design Guidelines**

Establish general guidelines and design review for old town improvement re fencing, landscaping painting, property maintenance etc to guide those who wish to participate in preservation and improvement of old town. (Do not include chain link as a recommended material for front yard fencing.)

Establish uniform street directional signing for historic and public services e.g. brown street signs for museum, library, parks.

**Establish standard design(s) for permanent markers** at historic points of interest (for example similar to the rough edged granite marker placed at the Brigham-Hawes quarry on Pacific Street). Encourage installation of additional markers.

#### **<u>Priority V</u>** Future Projects

#### **Rocklin Hose Company**

The small, picturesque building that served as the Rocklin firehouse, marsha\_ll's office and city hall was located on Front Street near Rocklin Road until ca 1940. Build a replica to complete the town square "picture" and to (possibly) house Rocklin's classic 1936 Dodge fire engine.

#### Roundhouse Park ca 1866

Landscape and partial restoration of roundhouse stalls. Install 1879 Central Pacific rails, and RR flat car with huge granite pieces (including one with Rocklin engraved) and gondola car with granite rip rap. A memorable sight for rail passengers traveling to Rocklin. Encourage commercial development of area adjacent to roundhouse site using RR theme.

#### Exhibit Gallery & Storage (New)

Preferably adjacent to Fletcher-Moon House if property becomes available (~3600 sq. ft Exhibit, ~1200 sq. ft Storage)

<u>Include current city hall as part of the Rocklin museum</u> if the city government functions are moved from the building. Refurbish to its original use as the California Granite Co. company store.

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