



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Receives National Planning Award for South Livermore Valley Specific Plan

“For its innovative approach to balancing preservation and development,” the American Planning Association (APA) announced January 12 that the City of Livermore’s *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan* was awarded the **2005 Outstanding Planning Award for Implementation**. The APA is the recognized national association for the planning profession. The APA’s news release is attached.

The *Plan*, adopted to reinvigorate the South Livermore Valley Wine Country was implemented in partnership with the Tri-Valley Conservancy, and Planning & Design consultants Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC. The Tri-Valley Conservancy is an independent, non-profit public benefit corporation established to preserve and protect important agricultural land and support a viable agricultural economy in the Tri-Valley area.

Vital to saving the Wine Country from encroaching development, the *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan*, adopted in 1997, “was the main reason one of Livermore’s most treasured assets - its Wine Country heritage - was preserved and, in fact, has grown” said City Manager Linda Barton. “The Plan has enhanced the image of the City and created excitement that has drawn many new residents and visitors to the Wine Country to support our local wineries and merchants.”

2-2-2-2 City Receives APA Award for South Livermore Valley Plan

The *South Livermore Valley Specific Plan* was recognized by the APA because of its approach using a variety of innovative planning tools combined into one program. It allowed residential development with unique rural and agrarian design elements. Homebuilders, in turn, were required to plant and permanently preserve with conservation easements, adjacent farm land (primarily vineyards and some olive and pistachio orchards). The easements supported and reinforced the City's adopted South Livermore Urban Growth Boundary. Other components of the plan included the use of Development Agreements to lock in the development rules and a Transfer of Development Credits Program to secure 370 acres of land, which doubled the size of Sycamore Grove Regional Park.

According to Community Development Director Marc Roberts, the *Plan's* success can be attributed to its simplicity. "After failed attempts to create policies to preserve the Wine Country in the 1970s and 1980s, we knew that this *Plan* had to be simple enough to be understood and agreed to by all stakeholders." Roberts added, "We are very proud because the tangible results of the *Plan's* implementation have exceeded our expectations. We have seen the number of acres in planted vineyards increase from 2,100 acres to almost 5,000 acres, and the number of wineries more than double since the *Plan* was adopted."

Attachment- APA News Release

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