

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLAN**

Camptonville, California

August 2001

This report is a work in progress. It is a living document that will change as the community of Camptonville grows and changes.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Camptonville, California

Introduction

Camptonville, California is a tiny community in the foothills of the Western Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was a busy stage stop at the height of the Gold Rush, and enjoyed decades of prosperity after that as the timber industry thrived. With its demise, jobs have disappeared and with them, many of the people responsible for Camptonville's success. However, in recent years, the community has regained its determination to beat the odds and has succeeded at a wide variety of endeavors. The new Fire Hall was built with local labor and fundraisers, not bond issues or legislative largesse. The multitude of programs serving the members of this community were funded through grants written by local residents, and many of the activities are the brainchildren of volunteers who are responsible for them from beginning through completion. We have created this document to guide us as we continue our journey to economic independence, but it is a living document that we will revise as times change, new people move into our community, and we learn from our experiences.

The majority of the information in this report was gathered by Cathy LeBlanc, a twenty year plus resident of the greater Camptonville community. The primary sources were the people who live in this community. Information was gathered and shared through the Camptonville Gold Pages, public meetings (both formal and informal), surveys, telephone conversations, bulletin boards, flyers, and articles in our local newspaper. This report is the product of innumerable hours of listening to people in this community, and probing them for ideas to revitalize our economy. Additional resources were historical/informational documents and the Internet. Tonie Hilligoss, as project administrator, functioned as the editor. What we discovered is revealed here as a guide to help us more effectively link our many community assets.

Purpose

To create a vision that reflects an inclusive perspective of the economic ideas, projects-to-be, and hopes of the people who live in Camptonville.

Methodology

Initial data was gathered through interviews, Action Team meetings and various community workshops held specifically for this purpose, including a Right Question meeting focused strictly on economic development. We conducted online searches and wrote articles in the *Camptonville Community Courier* to inform everyone of meeting dates. This helped us solicit feedback from the community to let everyone know of the report's progress and remind them that their input was needed to prepare a plan that genuinely reflected this community.

We worked with Camptonville's Economic Development Action Team to collect the ideas and perspectives that were needed to complete a plan that would reflect the opinions of the people who live here. Hal Stocker, Camptonville's county supervisor, has agreed to include the elements of this plan as part of the overall economic development plan for Yuba County, thereby making it eligible for county funds if there is ever a need for that.

With this document, the community of Camptonville, California is adding an economic development component to its community action plan. This project was proposed by the Yuba Watershed Alliance and sponsored by the Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation. Fiscal support and consultation were provided by the U.S. Forest Service. We sincerely thank them all.

Description of the Greater Camptonville Community

Overview:

The greater Camptonville community is peacefully nestled in the Tahoe National Forest. The families here value tree-tops more than rooftops and are willing to sacrifice traditional forms of economic development in order to preserve the natural beauty that surrounds us. The preparation of this plan has been a community-based collaborative process, producing a comprehensive economic development component of Camptonville's community action plan. It was developed to incorporate efforts already underway, build on them, and identify additional directions for future economic development efforts.

The Camptonville community has more than a twenty-year history of successfully securing funds for community projects, and has been represented by the Camptonville Community Services District, the Camptonville Collaborative, and the Yuba Watershed Alliance in spearheading the development of a community action plan through a series of town hall meetings. The community has consistently identified economic development as a priority at focus groups and town hall meetings held within the past six years, and we are committed to developing a plan to address the multiple challenges facing this community. Previous projects have been managed so well that Camptonville now has a completely new water system, an almost-completed fire station, and a number of social and health services to support local families, most of which are the result of the voluntary efforts of community members.

Although Camptonville residents have noticeably suffered from the demise of the timber and mining industries, we continue to work closely with state and county agencies, local U.S. Forest Service personnel, and each other to solve our problems. This collaboration is directly responsible for effectively addressing the water, emergency services, and social services problems of the area.

Yuba County supports our effort to develop our economy and the support services that a strong economy requires. Camptonville's social service projects (particularly the Camptonville Outreach Project and CanWORK in Camptonville) already serve as models for other communities in Yuba County. This project has the potential to serve in a similar capacity for rural communities throughout the nation. This community is well prepared to pool the knowledge and resources of its residents to meet Camptonville's goal of economic self-reliance.

Community Data:

Number of square miles – 56 (all within the Tahoe National Forest)

Estimated population – 650 (350 year-round)

Organizations/associations committed to community revitalization:

- Camptonville School, which has been in continuous operation since 1871
- Camptonville Community Services District (CCSD), which was formed in 1983 to solve the problems of the town's antiquated water system. It has since expanded to oversee the volunteer fire department and the cemetery district.
- Camptonville Collaborative* (the foothills branch of the Yuba Community Collaborative for Healthy Children, whose purpose is to improve the health and well-being of young children and their families.)
- Yuba Watershed Alliance (YWA)*, whose purpose is to improve rural education through school/community partnerships and the integration of place-based teaching strategies.

Through their efforts, residents have developed a Community Action Plan (Appendix A) that initially focused on children, but which soon expanded as it became apparent that the well-being of children is dependent on the well-being of the adults in their communities.

Camptonville's Community Action Plan is short and simple, because it was designed to be a living document that will be read and discussed by members of the community as it evolves. The implementation component consists of six Action Teams (Appendix B). One of those is an Economic Development Action Team whose charge is to take responsibility for revitalizing the local economy. The directions for development are discussed throughout this plan.

Camptonville is a community on the move. From the outside, it is not readily apparent that this sleepy looking town is "on the cutting edge of community development in the country" (Layne Montgomery, Sierra Health Foundation). One might not guess that this community has been repeatedly profiled in both newspaper articles and books,** and that it was a finalist in the All America Cities competition in 1997. But all that is true, because it is populated by people who feel privileged to live here and who are willing to work very hard to make it an even better place to live. Economic development is a major component of that effort.

*These are externally-funded projects that received implementation funding in 1997 and have since actively involved Camptonville residents in a community development process of comprehensively identifying and addressing the needs of people in this region.

** *The Union, Appeal-Democrat, Sacramento Bee, Rural Policy Matters, We Did It Ourselves*

Organizational Structure:

The closest that Camptonville comes to local government is the Camptonville Community Services District and the Camptonville Union Elementary School District, both of which have elected governing boards. Both entities, along with community organizations like the Camptonville Collaborative, the Yuba Watershed Alliance and the Camptonville Community Partnership, are committed to blending resources to creatively address the challenges facing local residents. Whereas the Yuba Watershed Alliance is focused on education and more closely linking school and community, the Camptonville Collaborative has a much broader focus. It is the umbrella organization for many of Camptonville's programs and services, particularly those related to health and social services. Most recently, Camptonville Community Partnership was established as a non-profit organization for the purpose of serving as a fiscal agent for Camptonville's programs. CCP received its official non-profit 501©(3) designation in February 2001 and is governed by a five member Board of Directors.

Economic History:

The Camptonville community was built on the logging and mining industries, particularly the timber resources of the Tahoe National Forest. In recent years, their rapid demise has had a devastating effect on this community. Sierra Mountain Mill, the last remaining mill in the community, closed six years ago, although it was once the region's largest employer with a workforce of 70 employees working double shifts as recently as 1989. That, combined with the elimination of timber-cutting jobs that led to its closing, the concurrent loss of mining jobs, and the consequent reduction in spending at local businesses has resulted in many people having to move out of the area, while others find intermittent employment to feed their families, or rely on Unemployment Insurance or TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families).

The impact on the community is best illustrated by the amount of timber reserve funds that are allocated to Camptonville School. From the 1988/1989-school year to the 1999/2000 school year, they declined from \$46,150 to \$11,794, a decrease of 74%, which is a strong indicator that the timber industry has reached historic levels of poor health. The economic losses would leave the future of this community in question if its residents were not determined to save it.

Although there are no records available to determine the unemployment rate in Camptonville, Yuba County officials freely acknowledge that the area is economically depressed. With the workforce reductions from the closing of the sawmill and the downsizing at the local ranger station and the Sixteen to One Mine (the only mine still in operation), local businesses have cut back the number of employees that they hire. Some are even wondering if they can stay in business. Like the U.S. Forest Service (which lost 36 permanent employees in six years), the Sixteen to One Mine has experienced a decrease in the number of people it employs. It has gone from a workforce of 67 in 1988 to only 18 today. To compound the problem, Doc Willy's Bar and Grill, one of the few local businesses that served the general public, burned down three years ago, leaving 6 people unemployed. Now, both of the remaining restaurants are for sale.

There are no significant industries or businesses in this region other than the U.S. Forest Service and Camptonville School. Within the last four years, the school had to lay off four of its fourteen permanent employees due to a three year enrollment decrease of over 20%, which is directly linked to the economic demise of the region.

Community Resources

Camptonville School and the Wellness Resource Center:

“This old building, has been our constant and will continue to be”(Skip Ness, school secretary). It is where we all meet through our children. It is the hub of the community, because it is a place where partnerships form. Today, as in the past, it provides a place for people to gather for community meetings and, more recently, to participate in programs that are housed in the Wellness Resource Center, which is located on the school campus. Currently, the school and the Wellness Resource Center provide the following resources and services that support economic development:

- library/media center
- computer center
- adult literacy program
- health clinic
- drug and alcohol recovery group
- Twilight School (evening classes open to the community)
- Americorp worker (focus on young children, including those of CalWORKs clients)
- CanWORK program (job preparation training for un- and under-employed adults)
- Camptonville Outreach Program (support services for families)
- Telemedicine program (provides medical consultation to rural underserved patients, continuing education to professionals, and community health education to local residents)
- Camptonville Neighborhood Network (a way to connect those who want to volunteer, trade or find work, with those who want their services, using a computer database of community residents and the Camptonville Gold Pages, a printed directory of local businesses and services which is updated annually)

Other Established Resources:

- Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department (responsible for a community-funded and built firehall that is used for community events)
- *Camptonville Community Courier* (monthly newsletter that is mailed to all local residents at no cost as a means of keeping people informed of community news and events)
- Gold Country Stage (public transportation to and from Nevada City and Grass Valley several times a day – unique because it crosses county lines - a strongly supported service that greatly increases the options of residents who do not have their own transportation)

Newer Resources:

- www.camptonville.com (Camptonville website that provides information about the community and advertises local businesses – identifies the community as “Camptonville – The Little Town That Could” – its webmaster proposes: 1) developing a page with Camptonville’s Highlights - Bullards Bar Reservoir, Yuba River, campgrounds, local businesses, and the Camptonville Historical and Natural History Museum [scheduled to open 7/4/02]; 2) linking to the *Camptonville Community Courier*; 3) linking to other websites to increase visibility (such as Sierra Health Foundation’s Community Partnership for Healthy Children’s website that links us with eighteen other Northern California Collaborative communities); 4) creating a site where cottage industries can present their products, complemented by a local outlet market.); and 5) a newsboard for updated information on activities and opportunities in Camptonville.
- Mill Site (The old mill site, immediately adjacent to the town of Camptonville, has been purchased by a local resident who is planning to use it for both a community center and for private development. Options for private development include a wood products business, an international retreat for Qi Gong [a form of meditation], a facility for the elderly, and low-income housing. In addition, a wood bank could be established which would provide a place for people engaged in fire safing their property through fuel reduction to take the slash to the mill site, where the useable wood could be separated out for wood products and the rest could be chipped and transported to co-generation plants. There are working truck scales already in place that could be used for this purpose. Additional information about wood products development can be found under “Public/Private Partnerships.”)
- Camptonville Family Gardens (cooperative gardening venture resulting in a small Farmers’ Market)
- Prop. 204 Fire Safe Funding (state support for homeowners committed to making their property fire safe – has created several jobs for former loggers)

Economic Development Principles and Strategies

Camptonville residents want to revitalize our community so that it can regain the economic vitality it had in the past, but we want to do that in a manner that will preserve the beauty and serenity we value so strongly. We seek development that is sustainable, holistic, collaborative, asset-based, entrepreneurial, responsive to community needs, and sensitive to the capacity of our environment. That includes tourism, but only to the extent that we can develop it in a manner that respects the uniqueness of our surroundings.

Sustainability:

Camptonville has been the recipient of many externally-funded grants and is well aware of the dangers inherent in building community expectations for services that cannot be sustained. As a result, the only grants applied for are those that will not create that void, either because they augment already-existing services, or because there is a way to institutionalize them. One of the more recent efforts made to ensure sustainability was the creation of the Camptonville Community Partnership, an umbrella organization which was granted 501©(3) status in Spring 2001 to act as a fiscal agent for many of Camptonville’s projects. These include the Camptonville Collaborative and its projects, The Resource Network, the CanWORK project, the 1,2,3 Grow program, the Yuba Watershed Alliance, and other community health, social services, and recreation projects.

Holistic Orientation:

Economic development is only one of many components of Camptonville's Community Action Plan, so we view it in a broader social context that includes child care, social services, health services, education, transportation, and all of the other factors that affect the economic health of any community. Creating economic opportunities is insufficient if there is nothing to keep personal problems from interfering with the ability of employees to regularly and attentively engage in their work.

Collaborative and Asset-Based Approach:

Camptonville's primary asset is its people. We all have different skills, and we have learned how to combine our talents in a manner that builds on our strengths while minimizing our weaknesses. We strive to work together and to identify who does what best, so that we can produce a collaborative effort that exceeds what we can do as individuals. Ours is a synergistic approach in which the sum of the parts is far greater than the parts themselves. The asset-based approach has taught us that "communities cannot be rebuilt by focusing on their needs, problems, and deficiencies. Rather, community building starts with the process of locating assets, skills and capacities of residents, citizens, associations, and local institutions" (Building Communities From the Inside Out by John P. Kretzman and John L. Mcknight).

Entrepreneurial:

There are very few employment opportunities in the greater Camptonville community and most people would prefer not to commute, so we are proposing to take an entrepreneurial approach. This community is already home to many small businesses run out of people's homes. There are artisans, telecommuters, masseuses, housecleaners, firewood dealers, and many others who have found ways to support themselves without traveling to the same address each day. Proposals for new entrepreneurial ventures are described later in this document.

Responsive to Community Needs:

We are proposing that economic development in this area should serve the community by doing more than creating employment opportunities. Because so many elderly people live here, there is a need for services that would enable them to remain in this community, particularly those who have never lived anywhere else. On the other end of the age spectrum, there is a need for expanded child care options. There is currently one facility, which is almost always filled to its capacity of fourteen children. It is only open during weekdays, so people who need to work nights and weekends have a great deal of trouble finding child care. Other unmet service needs include pet grooming, a laundromat, a motel or bed and breakfast, and restaurants (the two that have not closed are for sale and provide limited service).

Sensitive to the Capacity of Our Environment:

We live in one of the most beautiful places imaginable, but we have learned that not everyone values that enough to protect it. While we are exploring options related to tourism, we are seeking ways to avoid the problems with littering and the irresponsible use of fire-producing products that have plagued us in the past. We are also concerned with substance abuse and the accidents that can cause. We recognize these problems are not limited to tourists, but the incidence significantly increases during the tourist season.

Economic Development Strategies:

- Build on existing relationships
 - * U.S. Forest Service (economic development grants, school projects, and the museum)
 - * Yuba Community Collaborative for Healthy Children Advisory Council (link to foothill communities)
 - * Economic Development Districts (Yuba Sutter Economic Development Corporation for activities within Yuba County; Sierra Economic Development District for activities that include Yuba, Nevada and Sierra counties)
 - * Yuba County Water Agency (school projects and the museum)
 - * Family Resource Centers (Yuba County has three resource centers that were modeled after the
Camptonville Outreach Project. The relationships formed within these partnerships could be invaluable in building new relationships with an economic development focus.)
 - * U.C. Davis (Old Growth Forest project, Telemedicine Program, the museum)
- Utilize available resources
 - * Community colleges (Yuba and Sierra)
 - * Lifetime (a support program that empowers low-income families through education in local colleges)
- Sponsor a Rural Foothill Summit (explore ways to more effectively work together on a wide variety of issues, including economic development)

Economic Overview

The community of Camptonville must diversify its economic base in order to survive. The community is too small to realistically promote extensive tourism, but the local school is in the process of renewing earlier partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, the Yuba County Water Agency, and UC Davis to create an educational attraction--a museum featuring Camptonville's history and natural resources with separate rooms for local history, the changing role of water, and the role of the forest and its products. This effort has been supported through the award of a USFS Spirit Award to Camptonville School, one of only eight awards given nationwide. Cottage industries, particularly crafts and forest products, also hold promise for this area, and we plan to market them aggressively using both traditional and online marketing strategies.

Camptonville is home to many small businesses, which allow individual families to remain in this area. In addition, we are continuing to explore ways to transform Camptonville Family Gardens into a viable community-based business. We have recently realized that meaningful economic development will require a carefully formulated plan that will build on small successes to provide jobs for significant numbers of people. Our goal is to move beyond the small-scale, often short-lived businesses that currently characterize this community and move, instead, towards a well-integrated entrepreneurial approach that will capitalize on the skills and talents of local residents while addressing economic niches in this region, as well as in the increasingly accessible global market.

Economic Development Components

- **Job Preparation and Training:**

Camptonville has attracted several grants that have provided job opportunities for local residents. They have been hired in positions such as coordinator, clerical worker, outreach worker, and recreation worker and, although these positions are only funded for the duration of the grants, several people have developed skills that enabled them to find other employment later. Some of these positions have been incorporated into the school's programs. In addition, the Camptonville Union Elementary School District established a charter school which has generated revenue for the District, resulting in the creation of even more jobs. This is an economic development strategy that adds to the social capital of our community. It has enabled local residents to become qualified for higher-level employment at the same time that it has taught them skills that they use to help the community continue to evolve.

One of the skill sets we have identified as valuable is related to computers and the Internet, which greatly expands the potential for creating new economic opportunities. The website provides opportunities to explore this, but Camptonville School is also looking into the possibility of bringing a modular building onto a vacant lot across from the school and creating a computer training and telecommuting center.

Funding Options: Grants, redirecting funds from already-existing sources (e.g. school, USFS); partnerships with privately-owned businesses

Implementation Strategy: Use what is already in place as a model for generating additional placements

Business Options: Public agencies; non-profit organizations; possibly for-profit businesses in the future

- **Public/Private Partnerships:**

Community Center: This would be a public/private partnership in which the Center would be located on private property which will be donated, and the facility and grounds will be developed and maintained through public funds. At Town Hall and Action Team meetings, there is strong support for designing it so that there will be room for private enterprises (café, laundromat, etc.) which would then contribute to the public fund responsible for maintenance costs.

Wood Center: The Wood Center concept, which was developed by the Sierra Economic Development District, is envisioned as an incubator business development park focused on emerging ventures that address some aspects of wood utilization. Anticipated wood center business participation could include:

- Sustainable forest/ecosystem development, management, planning, and consulting
- Traditional lumber production and drying business
- Value-added wood utilization business such as molding and flooring, milling, furniture manufacturing, floor and roof truss construction. and cabinet making

- On-site renewable wood-to-energy production by converting wood products to auto fuel (ethanol), steam energy for electrical generation, heat for lumber drying kilns or wood center business buildings, and/or retail product businesses that would support any form of the region's/wood center's trade and commerce growth

Tourism: There are several ideas for creating public/private partnerships focused on environmentally-friendly tourism.

- 1) **Pelton Wheel Festival** (attract people to the community via a “green energy” festival and contest to promote innovative approaches to creating energy, utilizing the principles of the Pelton Wheel. Camptonville native, Lester Pelton, invented the Pelton Wheel, which revolutionized the use of energy during the Gold Rush.)
- 2) **Mountain Bike Services** (Bullards Bar Trail is considered to be one of the best mountain bike trails in California and has even been featured in Sunset Magazine. Since riders come here anyway, we propose to develop strategies that will provide goods and services to them while providing income-producing opportunities to people who live here. Box lunches and catered bicycle events were two suggestions.)
- 3) **Water Sports/Activities** (Bullards Bar Reservoir and the Yuba River attract people interested in activities such as fishing, water skiing, and gold panning. As suggested above, since they're coming here anyway, it makes sense to provide goods and services to them that are not currently available. This could create jobs for Camptonville residents who are not currently employed.)
- 4) **Camping Supplies** (firewood bundles, fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh bread products)
- 5) **General Camping Activities** (astronomy nights, movie nights, nature walks, live music and storytelling, dances)

Funding Options: Reallocation of existing resources in public agencies; grants; fundraising events; private investment

Implementation Strategies: Support private investment; create opportunities for residents to create businesses through small business loans and sweat equity; promote partnerships between parties with complementary talents and resources; continue working with economic development districts, which have access to resources we would not otherwise know about

Business Options: Primarily for-profit, with some non-profit possibilities

- **Regional Partnerships:**

Camptonville Radio Station: provide on- and off-air training for students and CanWORK clients while benefiting the community by expanding our communication capabilities, advertising local businesses, and providing opportunities for local performers to broaden their audience.

Organic Gardening Cooperative: There is an unmet need for certified organic produce, and this region has many prolific gardeners who could combine their resources to meet that demand where it will be most profitable [e.g. Bay Area, Lake Tahoe]. Camptonville Family Gardens has been the first stage of this enterprise, but they need more growers and equipment such as a refrigerated truck.

Medical Clinic: Oregon House Clinic is scheduled to provide weekly basic health care in the Wellness Resource Center and is interested in establishing a satellite center, possibly on the Old Mill property.

www.camptonville.com: Expand Camptonville's website to include neighboring communities and create online businesses that provide services and products, particularly forest-based products

Funding Options: Reallocation of existing resources; private investment; grants; lobby for state funding initiatives to address regional economic issues

Implementation Strategies: Each of these projects is in the process of being implemented; provide support to the contact people to help them organize others who share that interest and secure the material resources they need

Business Options: Non-profit, for-profit, and cooperative structures are possibilities for each of the listed projects.

Private Ventures:

Youth Retreat: Youth camp and weekend retreat

Bike rental and repair: This would target local residents and campers, as opposed to serious mountain bike riders. It could provide a valuable training experience for young people at the same time that it gives them something productive to do with their time.

Bed and Breakfast: An indoor alternative for tourists who prefer not to camp.

Bottled Water Company: This offers an opportunity to capitalize on the purity associated with forest living, while selling purified water from the wells that feed the Camptonville water system.

Informational Kiosk/Delivery/Crafts Boat: Boaters at Bullards Bar Reservoir could have pizza, coffee and sandwiches delivered from local businesses, find out what is happening in the community, and purchase craft items and T-shirts from a patio boat that circulates around the lake. It would give local residents an opportunity to serve as well as be supported by the thousands of tourists who frequent the lake each year.

Llama Camping and Packing: A private campground that has historically provided low-income housing has been sold and is going to shift its focus to tourists, providing llama camping and packing, gold panning, and trout fishing. It will continue to sell propane and provide the only RV dump station in the area.

Guided Hiking, Fishing and Hunting Trips: Many of the best hiking, fishing and hunting spots are located in places unknown to those new to the area. There are several local residents with the experience and expertise to provide unique experiences to the unschooled enthusiast.

Art Fairs at Rebel Ridge: Camptonville is home to many talented artists, many of whom have limited opportunities to show their work. These could be combined with a giant vegetable contest (since the Farmers' Market is held there during the summer), weekly or monthly flea markets, local crafts and T-shirts, and information about services and events of interest to tourists.

Regional Catering Business: Serving and staffed by people from the communities along the Hwy. 49 Corridor, including Pike and Alleghany

In-Home Care for the Elderly: There are currently no resources available other than a few individual caregivers, but Camptonville is home to many elderly people and even has a mobile home park that will not accept anyone under 55.

Residential Care for the Elderly: There is also a need for a residential facility when people can no longer remain in their homes, one that could provide both assisted living and nursing home care.

Preschool or Day Care Center: Current resources are insufficient to meet demand, particularly at night and on the weekends.

Hospice: Efforts are currently underway to establish this as a non-profit corporation. A facility is available that is overseen by a Registered Nurse who lives there.

Hardware Store: Two local stores carry a few hardware items, but there is not enough demand to justify a full-time hardware store with more inventory. However, there is a need for this resource on an as-needed basis. It could be housed in a locked storage unit with keys held by a small number of people who are generally in the area.

Bakery: Bread products could be stocked in stores, sold to campers and other tourists, and made available to local customers who contract to buy weekly (which has been done successfully in the past).

Laundromat: People currently have to travel to Grass Valley to wash clothes.

Qi Gong Center: An international meditation retreat center which could also be used for other purposes, so it has the potential to attract groups seeking a facility for weekend workshops, etc.. Funds are currently being raised in several countries.

Bocci Ball Tournaments: Draw on the large number of retirees in the Grass Valley area to create a center for this environmentally-friendly activity.

Funding Options: Most of the ventures will be developed with private funds; international fundraising is currently underway for the Qi Gong Center; state funding is a possibility for scarce resources such as residential care for the elderly and child care.

Implementation Strategies: Individuals and small groups are taking the initiative in starting these businesses; economic development districts have access to resources that may be available to some of them

Business Options: Most will be for-profit businesses, although some will apply for non-profit status.

Support Network:

People do not live compartmentalized lives, so when there are problems in one area of their life, it invariably affects the others. That is why we are proposing to take a holistic approach to economic development in Camptonville. By addressing needs related to child care, health services, transportation, and other issues which directly affect employment, we hope to develop an economic infrastructure that can withstand the vagaries of everyday life.

Funding Options: Grants; reallocation of existing funds (such as funding for preschool children from the school's budget)

Implementation Strategies: These services are already established and are available through the Wellness Resource Center. Efforts to develop additional services will be made as needs are identified.

Business Options: Non-profit; public agencies.

How to Evaluate the Success of this Plan

The five components of this plan (Job Development and Training, Public/Private Partnerships, Regional Partnerships, Private Ventures, and Support Network) are all essential to our success. With the exception of private ventures, the development of each of them will be overseen by the Economic Development Action Team, and periodic updates will be provided at general Action Team meetings and in the *Camptonville Community Courier*. The questions generated in the process of completing this project (Appendix C) will continue to be addressed as we work towards the economic vitality we all know is possible. Elements of this plan will be reviewed on a regular basis at Action Team meetings and revised at the next bi-annual Town Hall meeting. The success of the plan will be evaluated on the basis of each proposal, recognizing that time and changing circumstances will produce constant revisions to the overall plan.

Appendix A

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN CAMPTONVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Camptonville held its first Town Hall meeting in August 1995 and identified five community priorities. That was followed by a series of other gatherings and surveys, culminating in a second Town Hall meeting on August 23, 1998 and a vote on the identified priorities at the Fire Department Picnic on September 12, 1998. The third, and most recent, Town Hall meeting was held on August 6, 2000, at which time the priorities were updated.. The following issues, which are intentionally in no particular order, emerged as the primary elements of Camptonville's community action plan:

- Preserve our rural environment
- Build a community center and park (including a health clinic and child care center)
- Create local jobs and job preparation activities (including environmentally-friendly tourism)
- Create more activities, services and support for seniors/elders; for young children, teens and young adults; and for all ages (intergenerational)
- Improve the quality of our infrastructure
 - * Complete the Fire Hall
 - * Increase available housing
 - * Build a laundromat
 - * Beautify the entrance to Camptonville
- Reinstate local voting (i.e. return the polling booth to Camptonville)
- Create a Farmers' Market
- Provide more childcare

Some elements of the Community Action Plan are being addressed through existing organizations, while others are being implemented through Action Teams. The teams that are already in operation address the issues identified in parentheses (as well as others that did not surface in the action plan):

- Health Care (2, 4)
- Young Children (2, 4, 8)
- Recreation (2, 4)
- Economic Development (2, 3, 5, 7)
- Seniors (4)

There is also a Communication Action Team which does not directly address any of the priorities, but which is essential for all of them. It is responsible for the *Camptonville Community Courier*, the monthly newsletter mailed to all residents that keeps them informed of issues related to all of the teams and the community in general. It also oversees the community website, www.camptonville.com.

The following elements of the action plan are being addressed by all interested community members, primarily at Action Team group meetings. The organizations listed below are addressing the following issues:

- Community center and park - Camptonville Community Service District, Camptonville Collaborative, Yuba Watershed Alliance
- Fire Hall - Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD), CVFD Auxiliary
- Camptonville entrance - CVFD, Camptonville Collaborative, Yuba Watershed Alliance
- Polling booth - Communication Action Team, Yuba Watershed Alliance
- Farmers' Market – Camptonville Community Gardens, Economic Development Action Team
- Childcare – Young Children's Action Team, Camptonville School

Preservation of the environment is a guiding principle which is addressed by all community groups. Housing and a laundromat are clear needs, but ones for which a solution has not yet been identified. It is likely that attempts to address the issue will be led by the Camptonville Collaborative and the Yuba Watershed Alliance in partnership with private parties within the community.

Appendix B

Camptonville's Action Teams

Recreation Action Team

Summer Recreation Program
Evening Recreation Program
After-School Enrichment Program
Twilight School Activities
Inter-generational Field trips

Young Children's Action Team

Primary Play School for after-school enrichment, Grades K-4
Twilight School Activities
Summer Recreation
Connection with nearby Head Start
Field trips for Camptonville Preschoolers
1, 2, 3, Grow Preschool Playgroup

Health Care Action Team

Wellness Resource Center for local medical care, counseling, recovery support
Weekly medical clinic
Telemedicine
Training for local EMTs

Communication Action Team

Creation of a volunteer-based community Newsletter – *Camptonville Community Courier*
Volunteer & Community Resource Network, including The Gold Pages, a printed directory
of businesses and services
Camptonville website – www.camptonville.com

Economic Development Action Team

Expansion of The Gold Country Stage across county lines
Support development of local and regional businesses
Welfare reform programs

Seniors Action Team

Working to blend Nevada and Yuba County resources to serve Camptonville and North San
Juan seniors
Granny program in Camptonville School

Appendix C

Questions Generated By the Community

- Can we purchase a tourist-friendly building where local artisans could showcase and sell their products?
- Could local artisans form a co-op and take turns selling their products at fairs and other events?
- Can the former Doc Willy's Bar & Grill property be used for a community purpose?
- Can either of the two restaurants currently for sale be purchased for a community purpose? –
- How can we sustain businesses in the off-season?
- Do we have enough bulletin boards, and which ones are official?
- Can we develop a visitors' guide brochure?
- Can we build an old style (non-automated) bowling alley? (Camptonville was once a thriving stage stop with a bowling alley carved out of a tree that had been cut in half longitudinally, so this could be an historical off-shoot.)
- Can we generate interest in bocci ball, maybe create a bocci ball contest? (This is a popular sport among senior citizens, and Grass Valley is the fastest growing retirement center in California.)
- Can we market nature walks?
- Can we market night walks using night vision devices to see nocturnal creatures?
- Can we create family arts and/or environmental camps?
- Can we establish an herb growers co-op?
- Can we establish a micro loan system to help people start small businesses that do not require much capital?.
- Can we draw on the business expertise of retired business professionals?
- Can we influence the Small Business Development Council in Grass Valley to cross county lines and provide assistance to us since it is fifteen minutes closer than Marysville.
- Is there a clean form of energy that we could develop to support the town?
- How can we bring people together to form economic partnerships with residents of adjacent communities?
- How can we expand our child care options to include weekends and evenings?
- Can we establish a contract with the US Forest Service to hire local residents when they need help?
- Has anyone explored starting a business incubation for small business start-up?
- Do we know what Camptonville residents buy? (Have consumer expenditures been mapped?)
- Can the town water system sustain the growth of the Community Center Project? Or additional homes?
- How can we sustain the forest, the animals –deer etc. while growing into a somewhat larger community?
- How can we become a satellite of one of the community colleges?
- Have we thought about strictly an art and craft festival as an annual event? (advertising)
- How can we add value to our natural resources and sell for a greater price? (e.g. wood products, mining, etc.)
- Could we form our own “temporary agency” that would handle payroll, workers' compensation, etc...?