



American Planning Association California Chapter Central Section

Media Contact:

Rob Terry
Director for Professional Development
(559) 233-4148 Ext. 222
rterry@fresnocog.org

For Immediate Release
Friday, June 12, 2013

Local Planning Agencies Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

American Planning Association, California Chapter Central Section 2013 Planning Awards recognize the City of Lemoore, the City of Tehachapi, the City of Turlock, the County of Kern and the County of Madera

Five public agencies have been recognized for outstanding achievement in land use planning and best practices. The California Chapter Central Section of the American Planning Association has made the following awards:

- **Outstanding Planning Award – Neighborhood Plan:** To the City of Lemoore for the “*Cinnamon Villas Project*”

“The City of Lemoore’s commitment to ensuring public participation and community based design; plus its efforts to utilize existing infrastructure while leveraging both private and public funds is a great example of responsible planning,” said Ralph Kachadourian, the California Chapter Central Section director.

- **Outstanding Planning Award – Comprehensive Planning: Small Jurisdiction:** To the City of Tehachapi for the “*City of Tehachapi Form-Based General Plan*”

“The City of Tehachapi’s willingness to utilize progressive planning techniques shows a strong commitment to ensuring community design and character through planning,” said Ralph Kachadourian, the California Chapter Central Section director.

- **Outstanding Planning Award of Merit – Comprehensive Planning: Small Jurisdiction:** To the City of Turlock for the “*2012 Turlock General Plan*”

“The City of Turlock’s efforts to incorporate walkable design criteria into new development shows a respect for all development types and encourages a balanced and healthy community,” said Ralph Kachadourian, the California Chapter Central Section director.

- **Outstanding Planning Award – Best Practices:** To the Kern County Planning and Community Development Department for the “*Kern County Vision Plans*”

“Kern County has created an excellent example of publishing a graphically pleasing, easy to navigate and easily accessible public document, created in tandem with an extraordinary public outreach campaign,” said Ralph Kachadourian, the California Chapter Central Section director.

- **Outstanding Planning Award – Planning Project:** To the Madera County Planning Department for the “*River West-Madera Master Plan*”

“The County of Madera’s Plan incorporates previous planning documents, while keeping an eye on the future balancing of urban and open spaces. The public/private partnerships utilized are an excellent example of collaborative planning,” said Ralph Kachadourian, the California Chapter Central Section director.

The American Planning Association, California Central Section Awards program encourages quality and innovativeness in land use planning and increases public awareness of the planning profession through the recognition of outstanding achievements and individuals in the planning field. The eleven county Central Section of the American Planning Association California Chapter is comprised of Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne Counties.

“Without employing good planning principles, local development could lead to urban blight, unmanaged sprawl, and less than desirable aesthetics,” Kachadourian said.

The American Planning Association, or APA, is the national organization that sets performance standards for city, state and regional land use planning professionals through its educational programs. The APA provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and provides the tools and support necessary to effect positive change.

###

For more information about the American Planning Association, California Chapter Central Section Awards, contact Rob Terry, Central Section Director for Professional Development at (559) 233-4148 Ext. 222 or by e-mail at rterry@fresnocog.org.