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DOWNTOWN VALLEJO SPECIFIC PLAN RECEIVES AWARD FROM APA

VALLEJO - The Downtown Vallejo Specific Plan has been named a winner of the Northern Section California Chapter American Planning Association 2006 Awards Program.

The City won the award in the Comprehensive Planning, Large Jurisdiction category. The award goes to a comprehensive plan of unusually high merit completed within the past 3 years for, by or within a jurisdiction with a 2000 census population of 100,000 or more.

"Naturally, I'm very pleased that the Downtown Specific Plan was selected for this honor," said former Vallejo Development Services Director John Bunch, who submitted the plan on behalf of the City after retiring at the end of 2005. "A lot of people put a lot of work into that document, so it's nice to be recognized by our peers for this effort."

Among those involved with the creation of the document, Bunch said, were the Vallejo City Council, the Vallejo Planning Commission, the Downtown Advisory Group and other citizens, Triad Developments LLC, KenKay Associates and City staff.

"This award is indicative of the level of collaboration throughout the development of the Downtown Vallejo Specific Plan," said Curt Johansen, Triad Communities Vice President. "For any downtown revitalization effort to truly succeed, sustainable thinking must be integrated with a respect for tradition. The scope and scale of this plan reflects a recognition of downtown Vallejo's historic past as well as its vibrant future."

The Downtown Vallejo Specific Plan specifies the physical form and future uses for the downtown core, and immediately surrounding areas. The plan includes detail design guidelines and standards for private development and the downtown streetscape. Bunch felt this honor would bring a new level of recognition to the City's effort to revitalize its core.

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“It is significant in that a lot of people, including potential businesses and developers, would likely take notice that something special is going on downtown,” Bunch said.

Vallejo’s submission had to meet a variety of requirements in the following categories: Originality: Innovative concepts or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures; Transferability: Potential applicability in other areas or to other projects; Quality: Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics, and character of presentation; Implementation: Effectiveness of the work; proposals have been carried out or show promise of being carried out; Comprehensiveness: Planning principals have been observed, especially in considering a projects effects on public objectives.

“In our application we had to discuss every single one of those criteria,” Bunch said, adding that as a winner at the regional level, the City’s entry can now be submitted for possible statewide recognition.

The Downtown Vallejo Specific Plan specifies the physical form and future uses for the downtown core, and immediately surrounding areas. The plan includes detail design guidelines and standards for private development and the downtown streetscape. To look at the plan go to <http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/uploads/155/1575.pdf>.