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General Plan Update criticized

Commission postpones
decision on revision
after public comments

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Tulare County's Planning Commission has postponed a decision on whether to recommend approval of the county's 2030 General Plan Update after hearing comments

Wednesday from two dozen people — many critical.

"While the plan states that it is important to direct growth in a manner that will preserve the special agricultural nature of the county, the 20-year plan is extremely vague," Lois Brannan of Exeter told commission members. She said it would encourage where new home and business developments would occur but provide no way to enforce it.

Brannan, representing the Tulare County League of Women Voters, said the update, without revisions, would not prevent urban sprawl along transportation corridors.

"It does not adequately address water, air, climate, land use or transportation issues," she said.

Greg Schwaller of Three Rivers said ineffective policies in the update "do not make clear to the

county's current or prospective residents, businesses or agriculturists what they can expect of the plan or what the plan expects of them."

Schwaller and Brannan were among more than 50 people who attended the Planning Commission meeting during which the commission held a public-comment session on the general plan update, its final environmental impact report and its climate action plan.

The General Plan is a strategy for directing growth and development in the unincorporated county through 2030, along with reports on the potential environmental effects of that growth and ways to mitigate its effects.

Although portions of the plan have been changed over the years, it hasn't been comprehensively revised since 1964.

See PLAN, 3A

'Momentous day' for Libya

Leadership void, other challenges face country after Gadhafi's death



People wave pre-Gadhafi flags as they gather to celebrate the death of deposed Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi in Cairo, Egypt, on Thursday. Gadhafi, Libya's dictator for 42 years until he was ousted in an uprising-turned-civil war, was killed Thursday as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Libya's victorious revolutionaries now face a new threat: Themselves.

The secular and the religious, the politicians and the militants all basked Thursday in the demise of a dictator after fighters killed Moammar Gadhafi and eradicated once and for all his four decades of repression in Libya. But while congratulations poured in from across the world, the Obama administration and others tempered the celebrations with a dose of caution, conscious that Libya's formerly ragtag band of rebels must now avoid falling prey to extremists among themselves, or the type of political infighting that has hijacked the hopes of previous revolutions.



Revolutionary Libyan fighters inspect a storm drain where they claim Moammar Gadhafi was found wounded in Sirte, Libya, on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gadhafi's death clears a cloud over Libya's shaky interim government while focusing new scrutiny on the former rebels and exiles now in charge and on possible candidates to lead a permanent government.

Despite a public embrace of Libya's transitional leadership, the U.S. remains leery of some of the motives of those who have promised a quick move to elections and democracy.

And while no official said



Moammar Gadhafi

INSIDE, 3A

- » World reacts with relief, warily eyes Libya's future.
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it, the fear of an Islamist surge in power hangs over Libya's unsure future.

"This is a momentous day in the history of Libya," President Barack Obama

See LIBYA, 3A

State finalizes plan on 'cap-and-trade'

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California formally adopted the nation's most comprehensive so-called "cap-and-trade" system Thursday, an experiment by the world's eighth-largest economy that is designed to provide financial incentives for polluters to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

State officials said they hoped other states and Washington, D.C., would follow suit, calling the plan a "capstone" among the suite of tools California can use to reduce the pollution

linked to climate change and cut dependence on foreign oil.

"For half a century, every American president has been calling for America to move away from our dependence on foreign oil and become energy independent," said Mary Nichols, chairman of the California Air Resources Board.

"The reason we have not succeeded in addressing our addiction to petroleum is because we did not have the right set of policy tools," Nichols said.

See CLIMATE, 3A

Dennis Cardoza to retire from Congress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing the "harsh tone in American politics," Democratic Rep. Dennis Cardoza of California said he's had enough. He announced Thursday he won't seek re-election to a sixth term representing communities in the agriculturally rich Central Valley.

Cardoza raised just \$23,000 from July through September, sending a strong signal that he was considering retirement. In leaving, he took a swipe at both ends of the political spectrum, saying he was disappointed at the Obama administration's efforts to curb the housing crisis. At the same time, he said there was too much media attention on "screamers" and that it was smothering Congress' ability to address meaningful public policy issues.

"My experience tells me that those who shout the loudest and give the most speeches have the fewest good solutions for America's challenges," Cardoza said.

Cardoza is the 13th Democrat in the House to

announce retirement plans. But many of them are running for the Senate or governor in 2012. Seven House Republicans have announced they will step down.

Cardoza first won office to Congress by defeating then-Rep. Gary Condit in a Democratic primary. Condit was under siege with questions about his relationship to missing intern Chandra Levy. Condit eventually was cleared of any involvement in her death.

Cardoza voted for the Democratic-led health care overhaul and for the economic stimulus package in 2009. Those votes made him a target for national Republican groups hoping to win his congressional seat. He has been active in the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate Democrats.

Dennis Cardoza



High: 76° Low: 51°

Pollen forecast today: 3.9



Saturday: 4.5

Sunday: 4.0

Predominant pollen: Elm and juniper.

Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

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QUICK NEWS

Schools get funds for improving routes

Students at seven Visalia campuses who walk or bicycle to school will have an easier time after the California Department of Transportation awarded \$66 million statewide to improve routes to school.

The Safe Routes to School projects are designed to improve safety for students in kindergarten through eighth grades who walk and bicycle to and from school.

See full story, 1B

Group now sets end of world for today

A California ministry says the end of the world is nigh. Again.

The Oakland-based Family Radio International that stirred a global frenzy when it predicted the rapture would take 200 million Christians to heaven on May 21, now says the cataclysmic event will destroy the globe today.

See full story, 3B

Owner of NYC protest park in spotlight

The New York plaza commandeered by activists who helped birth a global protest is owned by a wealthy real estate corporation with million-dollar properties around the world.

It is, in other words, precisely the sort of company the protesters have been shouting about for more than a month.

See full story, 4A



More light shed in release of animals

The exotic-animal owner from Ohio who killed himself after turning loose dozens of lions, tigers and other beasts was deep in debt, and a fellow big-cat enthusiast said Thursday that he had taken in so many creatures he was "in over his head."

Nearly 50 of the loose animals have been killed by sheriff's deputies.

See full story, 5A

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