

## Letter: \$4 gas an opportunity for change

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The editorial "\$4 gas could be a tipping point" was perhaps the best I have read in your newspaper. It makes sense that the cost of gas, as well as the results of our carbon emissions, are pushing us to "re-examine our car culture." Actually, that push offers exciting possibilities to create more community, cleaner air, less obesity, and save money as we plan for more pedestrians, bike riders and public transit, and the kind of development that gets us out of our cars.

I couldn't concur more with your "it's imperative to invest in the alternatives to wean us from fossil fuels." We are in anxious, but exciting times. New discoveries of cost-saving, alternative fuels (e.g., harnessing methane gas from our landfill) are arising every day and these make us less dependent upon foreign oil and less vulnerable to terrorism.

My concern is that the county General Plan Citizens Advisory Committee, planning commissioners, supervisors, and the Chico General Plan Advisory Committee, as well as BCAG, will seriously consider "that more money be spent on buses and trains, cities designed with pedestrians and bicyclists in mind, jobs located closer to population centers ... stores spread throughout the city so that people don't have to start up the car just to pick up bread or milk."

Growth should be compact. Sprawl will only compound our transportation problems. How we live and get around for the next 20 years will be decided by these decision-makers now.

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