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Letter: Chico should be compact, dense

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Regarding the upcoming revision of Chico's General Plan, I support John Merz's concept of the "C-minus" alternative.

As I study and compare the proposed Alternatives A, B and C with the existing General Plan, it seems Alternative C leaves more than enough room for growth. When considering the proposed Barber Yard residential area, plus the commercial and industrial zones along Park Avenue, Fair Street, Entler Avenue and the Skyway, there is plenty of room for growth in Alternative C.

I am not convinced that California's population will continue to grow as rapidly in the coming decades as it has in the past. Considering the rising cost of gas and our shrinking water supply (now that Phoenix and Las Vegas have taken the better part of the Colorado River water), plus the shrinking value of the dollar, Chico might not grow as fast as some people believe it will.

I personally find high-density living to be an enjoyable lifestyle. It's easy to strike up a conversation with one's neighbors, and transportation costs are reduced. Planning high-density housing helps preserve farmland and zones of aquifer recharge.

In summary, I support high-density growth within the current borders.

— Sharon Fritsch, Chico

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