# PROPOSED CHARACTER AREA VISION STATEMENTS

# **Gateways**

## **Silverado Trail Gateway**

## **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Silverado Trail Gateway** will become an important landmark for Calistoga and as such it must convey several strong messages as one approaches town from the agricultural countryside. It should give the feeling of a clear entry into Calistoga and should give anticipation to the unique character of the town that lies within. The design for any improvements within this **Gateway** area may be simple but must be of the highest quality with good design and perfect signage.

This **Gateway's** overall design and landscaping should conform to the qualities of the **Resort Character Area** where it is located and should also provide a preview of the **Historic District** character at the town's center. The Oat Hill Mine Trailhead lies within this **Gateway** and will continue to serve residents and visitors. The trailhead should be showcased and abundant parking should be provided. This **Gateway** should incorporate impressive bicycle/pedestrian trails which are inviting and user friendly. Finally, there should be a strong geothermal element which highlights Calistoga's unique resource.

This Gateway should serve to calm and slow traffic as it enters the **Resort Character Area** and should easily guide the by-pass traveler to avoid the town center and to move on through the intersection.

## **Petrified Forest Gateway**

# **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Petrified Forest Gateway** is best described as a "country crossroads" and an entry point into Calistoga. However, this **Gateway** is highly congested and requires safety improvements to improve circulation and congestion deficiencies. This **Gateway** should remain compact so as to not become the beginning of a typical edge-of-town commercial sprawl. It should serve to advise of the entry into a residential corridor at slower speeds and then reach the destination of the **Historic District.** The commercial uses at this **Gateway** should serve the traveler as well as provide limited services for residents, but should not compete with **Downtown** businesses. This **Gateway** should efficiently guide the bypass traveler through the crossroads, but create awareness of being in the domain of a very special town. The design character should give a preview of the quality and uniqueness of the **Historic District** and should have the characteristics of

country, unique, simple, and quality. This commercial **Gateway** will be the important first impression of Calistoga and its character must be developed to high standards.

## **Lincoln/Foothill Gateway**

#### **Development Character & Objectives**

The Lincoln/Foothill Gateway serves as the traditional entry into Calistoga and as a key intersection for bypass traffic. An important goal of the UDP is to extend the Historic District, which now dies off about the Napa River, so that it extends up to and includes this Gateway. This Gateway will then become the anchor to one end of the Historic District. As an anchor it should have a significant development or feature on the Kortum Canyon side of the intersection which will probably include some kind of shared private and public parking facility. This Gateway should conform to the character and objectives of the Historic District. It should also serve to efficiently move bypass traffic on through the intersection.

## **Corridors**

## **Foothill Corridor**

#### **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Foothill Corridor** is the corridor of land along Foothill Boulevard, (State Highway 128) between the **Petrified Forest Gateway** to the **Lincoln/Foothill Gateway**. When entering the corridor from the **Petrified Forest Gateway** the traveler is immediately aware of entering an established small town boulevard with modest but interesting features. The mixed density residential community that faces the boulevard graciously accommodates heavy flows of traffic and pedestrians while not giving up its peaceful small town character. Traffic should slow and travelers should feel that they are in a community rather than simply traveling through a nondescript area. A scattering of handsome B&B's will signal a visitor destination is ahead.

# **Highway 29 Corridor**

## **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Highway 29 Corridor** is the most established entry to Calistoga for travelers and visitors, coming up State Highway 29 from St. Helena. The **Corridor** will serve as a transition from the agricultural countryside to the **Historic District** entry at the **Lincoln/Foothill Gateway**. This **Corridor** embraces the Napa River on one side and the forested hillside which defines the valley edge on the other side. Calistoga's character as a visitor destination should begin to be developed

in this **Corridor**. Traffic should begin to slow and interesting commercial diversions begin to appear. Architecture, the type of land uses, and friendly bike/pedestrian pathways will set the tone for what is to follow while remembering the wine producing countryside nearby.

## **Downtown**

### **Historic District**

#### **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Historic District** is the commercial core of Calistoga. Lincoln Avenue fronts this **District** which allows building frontages to be aligned at the sidewalk edge. This area clearly defines Calistoga's community heritage of a small town lined with pedestrian oriented shopping and services for residents and visitors. This area should be retained and enhanced with nooks and alcoves to strengthen the unique identity of Calistoga and make it an interactive and inviting place to spend time. The Napa River, as an important natural water feature for Calistoga, should also be redeveloped to create an inviting river promenade that will provide easy access from the Downtown to the Sharpsteen/Police Station and the Fire Station parking lots.

## Fairway/Stevenson

#### **Development Character & Objectives**

The Fairway/Stevenson Area forms a transition area between the Historic District to the south and Resort Character Area to the north. Some structures are of historical and architectural significance and should be retained and enhanced. Given its close proximity to the Downtown, in-fill mixed use development projects should be encouraged to make the neighborhood more vital and interesting. Pedestrian scaled streets should be provided to encourage residents from nearby neighborhoods to walk Downtown.

## Resort

## **Development Character & Objectives**

The **Resort Character Area** lies within the second most established entry to Calistoga for travelers and visitors, coming up from Down-Valley via Silverado Trail. This area should serve as the primary location for our signature resorts that celebrate Calistoga's geothermal resource. Clustered residential developments such as townhomes and condominiums should also be allowed within this area. Other commercial uses should be limited in size and complementary to the signature resorts and residential neighborhoods. Inviting

and user-friendly pathways and road crossings for pedestrians and bikers must be provided to encourage access from the resorts and residential neighborhoods to the **Downtown**.

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# **Lower Washington**

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#### **Development Character & Objectives**

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The Lower Washington Character Area is one of Calistoga's older areas; many of its buildings are in poor physical condition. The Napa River embraces this area on one side. This area offers unique redevelopment potential which lends itself opportunity to address the community's affordable housing needs, to provide leasable space for small start-up businesses to serve local needs, and to allow for the expansion of recreational and municipal service needs. Given this opportunity, this area should be reserved primarily for more intensive mixed use developments to accommodate a variety of land uses. In addition, the Napa River should be made accessible for a friendly bike/pedestrian pathway to provide access to the Downtown and other areas of interesting areas located in Calistoga.

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# **Gliderport**

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#### **Development Character & Objectives**

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The Gliderport Character Area forms the north-east anchor of the Historic **District.** It contains a sizable width of Lincoln Avenue frontage and extends to Down Valley to the east. This area also serves as the transition area for the Resort Character Area. Properties within this area are underutilized and scheduled for redevelopment in the near future. Given this opportunity, much care must be taken so that redevelopment, with respect to intensity, architectural character and type of uses, provides a delicate balance as not to be in direct competition with the Historic District. Due to this area's size, redevelopment of these properties should be divided into three distinct areas - Lincoln Avenue Frontage, Central Portion and Down-Valley Natural Area. Land uses to be encouraged within these distinct areas should include retail-commercial and public facilities, a low intensity high-end full service resort, a residential component, utilization of Calistoga's geothermal resource, a presence of limited visitor-community facilities, and the restoration of natural and open areas that can be accessible to the public to take advantage of the Down-Valley breathtaking views.