

## 'Brandau has it backward'

December 17, 2014

Two opposing views on the proposed 2035 General Plan Update were expressed in The Bee between Mark Arax (Dec. 14) and Steve Brandau (Dec. 15), the City Council president.

Arax spoke of where Fresno is after 100 years of bad-to-no planning and the hand of the free market, as shown by the haphazard and ugly development of Blackstone Avenue. Whereas, Brandau only exalted in the free-market philosophy that brought us the mess that is Blackstone. Of course Blackstone is not only a reality of its own, but a metaphor for Fresno's poor layout and non-user-friendly sprawl, visual blight and waste.

Brandau has it backward. The plan is a democratic community's effort to influence the hand of the free market through good government, not "...government to force its schemes upon the community."

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