

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 (file cac204)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: Search of Chico State Library for hydrogeology related documents, sense of the meeting at the Forest Ranch Community Center on General Plan zoning inputs and review of Dwell Magazine

Ref A: John Moore, Field Hydrology, A Guide for Site Investigation and Reporting, Chico State 10023 M 662 2002

Ref B: Fred Pierce, When Rivers Run Dry, The Defining crisis of the 21st Century, Reviewed in Engineering Geoscience, Vol xiv, #1, 2008 pp53-57 (See related material in [www. Geoscience.org/bookstore](http://www.Geoscience.org/bookstore), TA705 A822 Journals, IAH on-line journals, GB 1001X general texts and Government documents I 19.42

Ref C: Dwell Magazine, New Lives for Classic Homes; Dec 08/Jan09, See in particular pp 94-96

Comments:

1. Reference A is a good guide for Butte County stakeholders and individuals/groups who want to characterize the hydrology constraints of wells and likely water bearing geologic structures.
2. Reference B is recommended reading for casual/stakeholder/government entities that are pushing the envelope on water supplies.
3. Ref C is a good reference for upgrading older homes and a new concept of land and home ownership developed in Germany.
4. The third meeting of the Forest Ranch Community Association on general plan inputs was disturbing. The GIS map showing proposed zoning in the Forest Ranch Community membership region brought forth a series of questions about the basis for the zoning partition map and the flexibility that is likely allowable. The contrast between the earlier meetings that debated 2 vs. 2.5 acre minimum zoning for independent water/septic system parcels seems to have blossomed into 160 acre grazing parcels near highway 32. Complaints were registered regarding the effect of deer herd corridors on applications for construction. Hopes for establishing utility districts or well measurements seemed to get submerged in the general feeling that the Forest Ranch Community Association members were not playing a meaningful part in the general plan update. Particular concern was voiced about "motherhood" statements re water quantity and quality in material submitted to the board of supervisors. Mention was made of establishing a more formal status for "Forest Ranch" similar to Durham, that while short of incorporation as a formal city would still have an authoritarian say about major issues that could drive board of supervisors decisions. The original Forest Ranch Community Association boundaries for membership were established before 1995 and reported formally in November 1995 by Robert Cermak. This report funded by the state emphasized wildland fire defense but if updated could form the basis for a more formal organization subject to the Brown Act...I gave Jim Crane a copy of this report for his evaluation.

Potential actions items:

1. Determine the status of the latest parcel map description of Forest Ranch submitted last month.
2. Given that the map in item #1 is likely to establish the final zoning document, what is the procedure for requesting a deviation?
3. Given that future zoning, roads, recharge and wildlife corridors areas are primarily dependent on slope statistics, provide iso-slope contour maps for Forest Ranch and/or this end of the county.
4. Establish the requirements for the formation of a "community service district".
5. Establish a dialog with Chico State and particularly their hydrology department to start a low or zero cost survey of the status of existing wells, vegetation stress and potential location contours for wells in cracked rock aquifers in rural areas of Butte County.
6. Establish a policy re zoning of cluster/cohousing under private and public ownership.
7. Establish public health criteria for isolation of dwellings with special attention to tick and giardia disease vectors.