Thursday, June 18, 2009 (file cac222)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: Fixing climate, architectural trends, earth imaging, off grid design, wildfire and land use policies

Ref A: T. Flannery, The weather makers, how man is changing the climate and what it means for life on earth, Grove Press 2005

Ref B: W. Broeckner, Fixing Climate, Hill & Wang 2008

Ref C: K. Francke, The Earth art, views from heavens. The earth, the man, the dream. Francke Press

Ref D: Barreneche, Pacific modern, Rizzole 2006

Ref E: L. Riker, Off the grid, Gibbs Smith 2005

Ref F: R. Kennedy, wildfire and Americans, Hill & Wang 2006

Ref G: N.Ross & J. Kinan, Remarkable trees of Virginia, Research Channel 6/18/09 10-10:30

Comments:

1. Ref A & B review the global warming history and mitigation approaches. Ref A makes a case that young vigorous forests in temperate climates less than 60 years of age will have a significant impact on CO2 reduction.
2. Ref C shows the significance of multispectral images in giving people an appreciation for ideal colored views of our world that can lead to better planning.
3. Ref D shows examples of high end residential architecture primarily from Australia and New Zealand that may be a forerunner of design trends in Butte County.
4. Ref E shows examples of off-grid design that may drive design in remote regions of Butte County. As long as we have efficient lighting/communication and fluid pumping systems, gas/biomass fuels for heating/cooling/cooking can handle high demand services. Composting toilets are examined as an option recognizing that many government entities are opposed to their use.
5. Ref F looks at the history of wildfire mitigation and land use policies. Wally Herger's bill to thin the forests needs to be viewed with reference to previous efforts described by Kennedy.
6. Ref G looks at the aesthetic benefits of large trees. Policies that have favored removal of large trees in conjunction with the associated fire risks described in Ref F favor a policy of thinning that insures the creation of a sparse forest dominated by large trees that will shade out dense undergrowth dominated by firs. Note the potential conflict with the policies described in Ref A & B above. This suggests that non-uniformity of spatial distribution may be the key to resolving the conflicting issues.