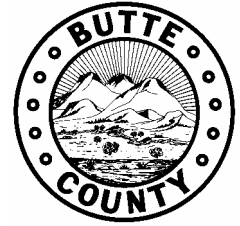


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ADMINISTRATION * BUILDING * PLANNING

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BUTTE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN UPDATE A PRIMER FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

A General Plan is a collection of county policies regarding long-term development in the form of maps and accompanying text. Under California Law, the General Plan is considered the "constitution" for land use and development and represents a jurisdiction's own vision and **policy** for the future. The General Plan is shaped by the citizens of Butte County and adopted by their elected representatives serving on the Board of Supervisors. The General Plan is considered a master "blueprint"; all other County regulations are required to be consistent with its instruction and policy.

A special subset of regulations, such as the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, Specific Plans, and Capital Improvement Plans, serve to **implement** the General Plan's **policies** and programs by providing more detailed and specific information not contained within the General Plan.

A County General Plan is generally more regionally connected and focused than a City General Plan, and for that reason interaction with a variety of local agencies and interests is required. The following County Departments and local agencies would potentially be involved (this list is not meant to be exhaustive): Assessor, Agriculture, Air Quality Management District, Butte County Association of Governments, Butte County Fire/CDF, Community Action Agency, Development Services (Planning and Building Divisions), Information Systems (GIS Division), LAFCO, Public Health Public Works, Sheriff-Coroner, and Water and Resource Conservation

The importance of Butte County's General Plan update cannot be overstated. This document will guide future development strategies until 2030. General Plan policy can have far reaching consequences in the area of the public's health, safety and welfare. Experience shows that a General Plan update is most successful when the General Plan's goals, polices and programs stems from the valuable input of local agencies and departments as well as the public.

It has been demonstrated for instance, that well designed urban and regional development patterns can have a positive influence on the areas of public safety, physical health, air quality, transportation, housing, and protection and conservation of natural resources. Regional strategies for the protection of our County's natural resources benefit a variety of areas including surface and groundwater quality, fire and flood protection, and recreation. These are areas of concern for all Butte County Departments.

Do you realize that Butte County's Neal Road Landfill will reach capacity in the year 2033? Where will the landfill expansion be sited? Do you have a similar concern or asset that needs to be considered by the General Plan effort? Now is the time to consider your involvement.

During the next 3-years, your department may be asked to provide information or comment on proposed policies, programs, and actions proposed by the General Plan. This is your opportunity to make this process work for your department's interests and in so doing help make Butte County's General Plan Update the best it can be.

Some Departments that are more development or resource related, such as Public Works, the Environmental Health Division of Public Health, the GIS division of Information Systems, the Air Quality Management District, the Department of Water Resource and Conservation, and Agriculture may find that involvement in the General Plan process will take more of a commitment to ensure that resources for this effort can be adequately provided.

Are you interested in more information? Visit Buttegeneralplan.net for the Department of Development Services General Plan homepage, where you can keep abreast of the latest news regarding the General Plan update. You may also register you and your staff here to receive important updates as the process continues. Still want more information on what this is all about? Visit the Governor's Office of Planning and Research 2003 General Plan Guidelines by searching under Keyword: 2003 General Plan Guidelines.