



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: February 13, 2007 Progress Report on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the fifth in a series of updates that will be provided to the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of each meeting to assist Board members in staying apprised of the progress on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

I have the following to report concerning progress on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process:

1. January 27, 2007 County/City Summit Meeting

Official counts indicate that 54 public officials, including City Council persons, Planning Commissioners and Board members, attended this important event. Another 77 people also attended the event bringing the total attendance to 131.

This meeting included an exercise facilitated by Butte County General Plan consultant David Early during which elected officials, planning commissioners, the public, and county and city staff's provided one or two issues each that involved city and county collaboration and planning. Further discussion ensued from this information and Mr. Early worked with participants to build consensus around several key areas. It was recommended by some that the County should:

- 1) Use an area plan approach to plan the unincorporated areas of the county.
- 2) Minimize large lot residential subdivisions in areas better left to agricultural pursuits.
- 3) Consider the input of large parcel property owners in the vicinity of incorporated cities, to promote better planning in each city's sphere of influence.

Eight themes developed regarding inter-jurisdictional issues between the county and cities including:

- 1) Coordination between the county and the cities on the designation of sphere of influences and the development of land use plans, policies and development standards. Coordinated land and growth planning should focus on minimizing urbanization outside of existing spheres. Additionally the county and the cities should coordinate development standards within city spheres of influence to ensure that development in the County, which will ultimately be annexed by the adjacent city, has the same developments standards as the adjacent city.
- 2) Coordination between the county and the cities on a county-wide economic development strategy.
- 3) Coordination between the county, cities and special districts on the efficient provision of services.
- 4) Coordination of revenues and costs between the county and cities, including consideration of tax sharing agreements between the County and the Cities.
- 5) Coordination of transportation planning between the county and the cities, as well as with surrounding counties and Cal Trans, to ensure that a transportation system is planned and developed that adequately serves future development. Transportation planning should be integrated within the General Plan update process and address the roadway network, public transportation and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- 6) Investigate the development a regional metropolitan planning organization, similar to the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, which would address regional planning issues, including transportation. An expanded BCAG could form the basis for this regional planning organization.
- 7) Coordination of a county-wide recycling program and the expansion of the Neal Road Landfill.
- 8) Coordination on the development of policies and land use plans that will preserve agriculture in Butte County.

2. Summit Meeting Follow-up: “One-on-One” meetings with Cities and Town.

As part of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, Butte County will host one meeting each with Biggs, Chico, Gridley, Oroville and the Town of Paradise. These meetings are intended to follow-up on the work completed at the Summit Meeting, and focus on issues relevant to each incorporated area. The five meetings will take place from March thru June. Information obtained from this process will be considered during subsequent Public Workshops, Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings, and Board and Planning Commission Study Sessions. Each meeting will include two council members from the city, and two members of the Board of Supervisors. The meetings will be facilitated by the County’s General Plan consultant, Design, Community & Environment. City and County Administration, Planning staffs and consultants, and staff from BCAG and LAFCO will also be in attendance.

3. Existing Conditions and Issue Identification Workshop Series #1

This Workshop Series will begin on March 15, 2007 with an evening meeting and Public Workshop at the Southside Community Center in Oroville from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. This Workshop is intended to provide a forum to identify issues that should be part of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. Development Services wishes to emphasize that this is a public workshop and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. The “*Existing Conditions Briefing Book*” will be provided to participants at this meeting. The Briefing Book will present existing conditions information in an accessible, easy-to-read format that can be referenced throughout the update process. Members of the Board of Supervisors will receive copies of the Briefing Book prior to the meeting. The workshop will also include a hands-on exercise the results of which will be analyzed and discussed by the Citizens Advisory Committee on March 29, 2007, the Planning Commission on April 13, 2007 and then the Board of Supervisors on May 8, 2007. The Development Services Department will be encouraging public participation and outreach through notifications to all media outlets, direct mailing to community groups, direct emailing to interested parties who have signed up through the County’s General Plan website, and advertising.

4. Tribal Consultation Under the Government Code

Government Code Section 65352.3 (“SB-18”), establishes responsibilities for local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption of any new General Plan. Local government must notify the appropriate tribes of the opportunity to conduct consultations for the purpose of preserving, or mitigating impacts to, cultural places located on land within the local government’s jurisdiction that is affected by the proposed General Plan. Butte County’s General Plan consultant recently contacted the Native American Heritage Commission to receive contact information regarding Butte County’s local tribes. A letter from Development Services was sent to each of these tribes encouraging tribal involvement in the process and also indicating the meeting schedule for the City/County Summit Meeting, the Existing Conditions and Issue Identification Public Workshop. These tribes will continue to receive updates from Development Services throughout Butte County’s General Plan 2030 process.

5. Final Draft Guiding Principles to be Reviewed by Board Today

The Draft Framework of Guiding Principles document was initially reviewed and edited by the Board of Supervisors on May 23 and July 25, 2006, after the Planning Commission reviewed and commented upon the concept of Draft Guiding Principles on April 27, 2006. The Draft Guiding Principles document was then reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee on December 7, 2006, and the Planning Commission on January 11, 2007. The comments, changes and information from the Planning Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee will be reviewed by the Board at today’s meeting. Once the Board approves the “Butte County Working Draft Framework of

Guiding Principles”, this document will be re-named as the “General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles”, and will be used throughout the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

6. Presentation on Butte County General Plan 2030 process at Butte County Cattleman’s Association Annual Dinner

Assistant Director of Development Services Pete Calarco gave a presentation to approximately 60 people at the annual Cattleman’s dinner held in Oroville regarding the General Plan Update and the Agricultural Buffer Setback Ordinance on Friday, February 9, 2007. Staff also distributed the “Butte County General Plan 2030 Update” flyer and the “Realities of Rural Living” brochure.