



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: April 24, 2007 Progress Report on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the tenth 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. Planning Commission Study Session (#1-3) Held on April 13, 2007

Butte County General Plan 2030 Meeting #1-3, the Planning Commission Study Session, was held on April 13, 2007. This meeting was the third in the four-part meeting series focused on issue identification.

The Planning Commission reviewed the community input provided at the Public Workshop (Meeting #1-1) and the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Meeting #1-2), which was arranged by Guiding Principle. The Commission discussed, refined and added to this public input, as summarized below.

The Commission supported the concept of revenue-sharing agreements between the County and the incorporated municipalities, and suggested investigation into such agreements for other Counties and the Indian casinos. The Commission also emphasized the need to coordinate with the Cities and unincorporated communities about where to direct growth. Other growth topics were discussed, including growth boundaries, second units, transfer of development rights programs, cluster development, student housing, development densities and building heights. Expectations and costs of providing public services in rural areas were emphasized, and it was suggested that the County investigate the use of a "zone of benefit" model, which takes into account the distance from services.

The Commission debated the notion of “Agricultural Residential” designations and minimum lot sizes in agricultural areas. The Commission emphasized the need to protect agriculture in general, including large-lot grazing uses and small orchard farms, leading to a discussion of the Williamson Act, farmland trusts, and other incentive programs. The Commission discussed the agricultural buffer, emphasizing the need for the setback to be on the urban side and for mitigations of conflicts with adjacent land uses. The conflicts between bicyclists and agricultural uses were also highlighted; the Commission supported the notion of bicycle routes along levees, railroads, and other locations that are separate from the roadways and/or not in agricultural areas.

The Commission discussed land use conflicts with airports, directing the need for compatibility between the General Plan and the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. The Commission also had some suggestions for access and utilization of the Chico Municipal Airport.

The Commission directed that open space and natural resources should be preserved and linked, such as the preservation of contiguous oak woodlands. These scenic and natural resources were highlighted as supporting the county’s economy through tourism.

More detail concerning the Planning Commission’s input will be provided at the Board of Supervisors Study Session to be held on Tuesday, May 8th.

2. Community Meetings Update –Meetings held in Central Buttes/Butte Valley, Cherokee, Cohasset

As of today, three General Plan 2030 Community Meetings have been held: 1) April 14th Central Buttes/Butte Valley area, 2) April 16th Community of Cherokee, and 3) April 18th Community of Cohasset. At least 16 more of these meetings are scheduled between now and the end of August, with the next one scheduled for the Durham, Dayton, and Nelson Area on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at the Durham Memorial Hall at 6:00 pm. These meetings are designed to receive input directly from area citizens on what they believe to be their community’s assets, issues and future vision. Detailed meeting summaries for the three completed meetings are available on the General Plan 2030 website.

3. Board of Supervisors Study Session (#1-4) to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007

This Study Session (the 4th meeting in the 1st Workshop Series –Existing Conditions and Issue Identification) is the Board of Supervisors opportunity to review and build upon all the information that has been received from the General Plan 2030 Public Workshop held March 15, 2007, the Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings held on December 7, 2006 and March 29, 2007, and the Planning Commission Study Session held on April 13, 2007. Meeting Series #1 focuses on identifying Butte County’s issues that needed to be addressed by the General Plan 2030 process and identifying assets that needed to be promoted or conserved.

This Board of Supervisors Study Session will conclude Meeting Series #1. The information on issues and assets obtained from this Meeting Series will be used during Meeting Series #2, the Development of Alternatives (Task E) for General Plan 2030. Meeting Series #2 will focus on the development of three land use alternatives. The alternatives will potentially address approaches to growth management, the mix of land uses, development options for key sites, approaches to commercial corridors, circulation options, and the interaction between land uses and transportation systems. This Meeting Series will have the following schedule:

Meeting Series #2, Development of Alternatives:

May 17, 2007	Public Workshop
May 31, 2007	Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
June 15, 2007	Planning Commission Study Session
July 10, 2007	Board of Supervisors Study Session

4. Outreach to Surrounding Counties

On April 4, 2007, the Department of Development Services sent official correspondence to the Board of Supervisors, CAO and Planning Director for each of the six Counties that are neighbors to Butte County (Colusa, Glenn, Plumas, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba) to inform their elected and staff officials about the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, and to request information on any issue, project, or regional concern that should be considered by the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. Each of these counties also received 7 copies of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Existing Conditions Briefing Book. Any information provided from these counties will be provided to the Board, Planning Commission, and Citizens Advisory Committee.