



**TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors**

**FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director**

**SUBJECT: May 22, 2007 Progress Report on Butte County General Plan 2030**

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This memo is the twelfth in a series of updates 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. Community Meetings Update –Meetings held in Forest Ranch, Nord, Palermo/Honcut and Berry Creek/Brush Creek**

As of today, four additional General Plan 2030 Community Meetings have been held: 1) Forest Ranch on May 9, 2007, 2) Nord on May 14, 2007, 3) Palermo/Honcut on May 16, 2007, and 4) Berry Creek/Brush Creek on May 19, 2007. At least 8 more of these meetings are scheduled between now and the end of August, with the next one scheduled to focus on Lake Oroville area and other unincorporated Oroville area issues on Wednesday, May 23, 2007, at the Kelly Ridge Country Club 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 four additionally completed meetings are available on the General Plan 2030 website.

Forest Ranch



Nord



Palermo Honcut



## **2. Public Workshop (#2-1) on Alternatives Development held May 17, 2007**

The first public meeting of Meeting Series #2 was held in Oroville on May 17, 2007, and was attended by approximately 30 people. Meeting series #2 begins the next step in our journey of the development of Butte County General Plan 2030. In this series, staff will work with the public, the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to develop a range of alternatives around various geographic areas and issues.

The Public Workshop included an introduction by Development Services Director Tim Snellings and presentations from Design, Community & Environment Senior Associate Ellen Clark on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, and a summary of Meeting Series #1. DC&E Principal David Early also gave a presentation on Smart Growth concepts and how they can translate to County planning issues. Mr. Early then talked meeting participants through the planned exercise. The exercise involved an “open house” concept that included 11 different stations organized around Butte County General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles and geographic locations (shown on exhibits) in the County. Each station was provided with an attendant facilitator. Members of the public could pick and choose the stations of most interest to them and provide comments on various policy questions (organized around each guiding principle), or graphically show alternative approaches to development at the various geographic stations.

Information and comments gathered from this meeting will be provided to the Citizens Advisory Committee, scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, in Chico at the University of Phoenix, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

## **3. Butte County General Plan 2030 Background Report (Setting and Trends Report)**

Work continues on the preparation of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Background Report. Administrative draft chapters are being reviewed by County staff in a variety of departments and Design, Community & Environment and their sub consultants. The Draft was expected to be released on May 31, at the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting regarding the Identification of General Plan Alternatives. Additional work on this large document is taking longer than originally anticipated and staff expects that the draft document will be released in July. The delay will not influence the overall timeline for General Plan 2030.

Because this report contains much more information than anticipated at the writing of the Scope of Work for General Plan 2030, and also includes important information on growth trends and analysis, the Background Report document has been renamed as the “Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report.”

## **4. Board of Supervisors Study Session (Meeting #1-4) Existing Conditions and Issue Identification, May 8, 2007**

Butte County General Plan 2030 Meeting #1-4, the Board of Supervisors Study Session, was held on May 8, 2007. This meeting was the fourth in the four-part meeting series

focused on issue identification. All Supervisors were present. Butte County Development Services staff Tim Snellings, Pete Calarco, Chuck Thistlethwaite and Dan Breedon attended, as well as David Early and Tanya Higgins of Design, Community & Environment, the lead General Plan consultant. In addition, two members of the Citizens Advisory Committee and several members of the public attended.

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the community input provided at the Public Workshop (Meeting #1-1), Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Meeting #1-2), and Planning Commission Study Session (Meeting #1-3), which was arranged by Guiding Principle. The Board discussed, refined and added to this public input. A complete meeting summary is provided on the General Plan 2030 website, [www.buttegeneralplan.net](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net) (and as an attachment to this memo). Also available on the website is the entire list of 36 additional issues raised by the Board of Supervisors at the Study Session, and a Key Issues Summary that provides an excellent summary of all the information gathered during Meeting Series #1.

The information generated by this Meeting Series will be used in the development of General Plan Alternatives (Meeting Series #2) and Alternatives Selection (Meeting Series #3) and for Preliminary Goals and Policies Development (Meeting Series #4).

#### **5. City of Oroville/Butte County one-on-one meeting held on May 17, 2007**

The third of the five planned individual “1 on 1” meetings between County staff and staff of each of the incorporated cities was held on May 17, 2007 with the City of Oroville. Two members of the Oroville City Council were present along with City staff. County Supervisors Bill Connelly and Curt Josiassen represented the County along with Chief Administrative Officer Paul McIntosh, Development Services Director Tim Snellings, and several other County staff members. Staff from the Local Agency Formation Commission and the Butte County Association of Governments also provided presentations.

The meeting’s agenda was based upon information obtained during the City/County Summit held on January 27, 2007 and included discussion on Spheres of Influence, areas of anticipated growth, transportation, development standards, and the funding of government services. Because Oroville is in the process of updating its own General Plan, the City’s preferred General Plan Land Use Alternative was also discussed.

City/County “1 on 1” Meetings are scheduled in June with the City of Chico and the Town of Paradise. The City/County meetings are intended to help overall coordination and to facilitate the gathering of information and identification of issues pertinent to each incorporated city. The information obtained will be used throughout the General Plan 2030 process to enhance inter-jurisdictional coordination and to address issues identified.

## Butte County General Plan 2030 Board of Supervisors Study Session Summary

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The Board of Supervisors reviewed the community input provided at the Public Workshop (Meeting #1-1), Citizens Advisory Committee meeting (Meeting #1-2), and Planning Commission Study Session (Meeting #1-3), which was arranged by Guiding Principle. The Board discussed, refined and added to this public input, as summarized below.

There were a few issues that the Board indicated are not appropriately addressed by the General Plan, such as the annexation of unincorporated islands and ski lakes. There were also some issues that the Board indicated have already been addressed or are being addressed, such as regional coordination on transit services and transportation, second unit policies, and the promotion of solar energy.

The Board supported the need to develop a better connection to Interstate 5, and suggested working with Glenn County to allow truck traffic on Highway 162 and address the intersection in Butte City.

The Board expressed concern about the suggestion to establish student housing around Butte College, which implies denser development patterns. In general, County plans should reflect the public's input from individual communities, as some are resistant to growth. The Board expressed a need to maintain large parcel sizes for agriculture, and noted that rural ranchette development involves the conversion of parcels to 10- and 40-acre lot sizes in addition to 5-acre parcels. However, there are legitimate uses for 5-acre parcels, such as equestrian uses. The Board expressed a need for compensation programs for farmers to counter development pressures. In addition, when clustered development creates open space for agricultural purposes, such agricultural uses should be of an appropriate intensity given their proximity to housing. The Board also expressed opposition to the location of the proposed Mechoopda casino, and clarified that the Highway 149/99 improvements are to improve safety and allow through traffic.

The Board clarified that agricultural, mining, timber and water resources should be *conserved* rather than *protected*, implying that may potentially be used. The Board indicated that the principle value of open space in Butte County is related to its agricultural uses, and that when open space is taken out of agricultural production, its maintenance becomes an issue. The Board also emphasized the need for close coordination of General Plan 2030 with the Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural

Communities Conservation Plan. In addition, the Board noted that Chico and other areas experience water supply shortfalls.

The Board felt that a County park and recreation department is unnecessary due to the independent park and recreation districts in the county. The Board also emphasized that there are other agencies that own land for public access in Butte County, and suggested that the County work with these other agencies to promote and enhance public access on these lands.

The Board was concerned about economic development being directed to the municipalities and suggested a need for economic engines in the unincorporated county, such as high intensity/clean industries, or for adequate tax-sharing agreements with the cities. The Board also noted that railroads are an asset for manufacturing uses in Butte County.

The Board was concerned about regulations that would force people to use solar energy and green building techniques, especially if such techniques are not economically feasible. However, the Board did support the use of education and incentives to promote these techniques. The Board also highlighted the County's solar array facility as an example of its promotion of solar energy.

Following this discussion, the Board discussed the process to date. They supported the work done thus far, and suggested that subsequent steps involve a more focused set of issues that are appropriate for Butte County General Plan 2030.