

Question #	Question	Solution
IA	Should the County work with the cities to implement additional green lines or urban buffers? If so, for which cities or areas?	<p>Make a green line between Oroville/Thermalito.</p> <p>All developed areas should have buffers between development and agriculture.</p> <p>Create green lines for agricultural areas, bird migration routes and unique habitats.</p> <p>At the intersections of cities and prime agriculture.</p>
IB	Should the County set a limit on the amount of growth and development that occurs throughout the unincorporated county, and if so, how?	<p>Allow for growth but make it predictable and consistent. Identify growth (housing, commercial) areas, contiguous open space (hands-off); agriculture (hands-off).</p> <p>Allow for growth specifically in AR zones. Access to transportation infrastructure is a key concern for high growth areas.</p> <p>Yes, limit growth near Magalia Dam. This area needs improved services such as, 1) A second road - downhill; 2) Additional fire and police; 3) Insured water supply.</p> <p>No need to artificially limit growth, a green line will protect resources.</p> <p>Limit growth based on existing zoning minimum acres, slope, soils, road types, and water availability. Use GIS for analysis.</p>
IC	Are some locations in the unincorporated county more appropriate for greater development amounts or densities than others? If so, where?	<p>Thermalito and other flat, arid, non-agricultural areas are more suited to development... in other words disturbed savannah. Preserve oaks, agriculture, and timber land.</p> <p>Apply greater density zones to south of Oroville at the intersection of Ophir and Lincoln. Cross-roads between Highway 70 - Casino and Lake and Oroville and Palermo.</p> <p>Current AR zoned areas should be lower density. Small farms contribute to the overall conservation of resources by providing access to food at local markets as opposed to driving longer distances to obtain the same quality food stuffs.</p> <p>Development needs to be contiguous to existing major roadways to, ironically, keep it confined. Smart growth would be development along 99 north and south of Chico, 32 to Hamilton City and along the Skyway towards Paradise, for example. Although this would promote "corridor development" rather than expansion around the perimeter of the core town areas, it would also help to keep intact the main swaths of agriculture areas and open space in the foothills.</p>

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		<p>Direct development around Oroville. Where roads, sewer, electricity and public services exist. (Infill). Oroville, Chico. Zone for it. Make it predictable for those who live there and those who want to build.</p>
ID	<p>What strategies, if any, should the County use to recover the increased costs of providing services to new development in rural areas?</p>	<p>Existing residences to participate in services districts! Re-allocate tax dollars better. Development impact fees to support county services for residents of new areas (law enforcement, libraries, etc.).</p>
		<p>Everyone benefits from services. Costs should not just be put on people who buy a house or start a business in the new development. How -- good question -- taxes, grants, fee for use, municipal service assocs. ???</p>
IE	<p>Should the County encourage different development types, such as mixed-use development, in some parts of the unincorporated county? If so, where?</p>	<p>Yes, between Biggs and Gridley, using the Ahalohanee Principles* as far as possible. *Local government commission. Mixed use along primary corridors off Highway 70.</p>
IF	<p>Are additional regulations needed to improve the design and architectural quality of new development in the county? If so, where, and/or to what kinds of development should they be applied?</p>	<p>At the entrance to every community in the county. Site development standards (landscaping) and building (architectural) standards should apply countywide and in particular at high traffic areas. Butte County, essentially rural, with only 150 years of history has no architectural style associated with it. Having said this, I generate my own electricity with photovoltaics and live in a self-built passive solar home. Encourage green/efficient building.</p>
IG	<p>What kind of affordable housing opportunities are needed in the county, and how should the County help to provide them? Where should such kinds of housing be built?</p>	<p>Affordable housing should be encouraged in areas of the city that are currently on the decline (infill) or in downtown areas that are not in use. Make use of already developed land <u>before</u> you use undeveloped open space. More apartments, townhouses, condos if need calls for it. Large dense residential areas should not be in unincorporated county, they belong in cities... Affordable housing needs to be close to public transportation and services.</p>
IH	<p>How should the County provide for the housing needs of its senior population?</p>	<p>Senior residential housing should be oriented towards cities where services are. I've thought county transport for these ridges like Berry Creek, F Falls, Forbestown, could work if provided once a week...</p>

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		<p>County should encourage some/more senior townhouses close to downtown. Also, provide better (broader based) bus system for transportation reducing need for those seniors to drive as much.</p> <p>County should encourage senior neighborhood retirement homes and in-law units. These units will bring no children, therefore decreasing future housing needs.</p>
II	Should additional density or other development concessions be allowed in exchange for provision of affordable housing units? What other techniques should the County use to provide affordable housing opportunities?	<p>Incentive-ize the PUD ordinance - example - Yuba County. PD M??? Add density, adjust standards, fast-track review while GP says OK.</p> <p>I am a foothill dweller and additional density is not desirable.</p>
IJ	Should the County encourage or require new rural development to incorporate clustering	Love concept of cluster development and contiguous open space.
IK	How should the County more effectively coordinate its planning efforts with those of the five incorporated cities?	Keep talking. Thanks, County, for taking leadership role. I think everyone wants to work together but its hard to expand resources to lead the effort.
IL	How should the County more effectively coordinate its planning with other Counties in the region?	The counties north of the urban area of Sacramento should all work together and then with ABAG as a counter balance to Southern California.
IM	Should the County more aggressively pursue new or revised revenue sharing agreements between the County and the Cities, to address revenue losses when lands are annexed?	Revenue sharing increases likelihood of: better communication, better incentives, ease of budget processes for city and county government.
2A	What, if any, modifications are needed to General Plan Program 2.2 (Agricultural Buffers policy)?	<p>Absolutely no changes to 2.2. It was just done.</p> <p>If these buffers are reduced then small farms are sure to disappear with significant negative impact on those neighborhoods. Buffers should remain stringent to encourage farming and discourage high density development in those areas.</p> <p>The developer should provide the buffer between residence/development and agriculture, including keeping of livestock.</p>
2B	What additional strategies should the County implement to conserve and enhance: Small family farms; orchards; larger scale crop farming; grazing; timber harvesting?	Timber should be included under the agricultural category. It is a sustainable crop and should be protected, not taken advantage of as a recreational resource.

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		<p>Proper drainage on land developed upstream from agricultural land should include a plan that accommodates all runoff.</p> <p>Get their products available in local stores -- not as a specialty item. Butte County agriculture needs to make itself a big deal locally. I want to know at grocery store which products were produced locally.</p>
2C	How can the County improve existing incentives to farmers to preserve land in agricultural uses, and what additional incentives are necessary?	<p>Assure advocacy for agriculture. Don't over regulate them -- don't make it more attractive to quite rather than continue. Promote agriculture people as the local heroes -- keep agriculture career training in schools. Have "Ag Defender."</p> <p>Allow for processing facilities in ag zones</p> <p>Make sure that folks understand realities of living around agriculture.</p> <p>Make an absolute minimum AR-1 for all AR zoned areas where infrastructure already exists (sewers, etc.). Larger parcel sizes where no infrastructure.</p>
2D	Should larger minimum parcel sizes be required in some parts of the county, or for different types of agricultural lands? What should those minimum parcel sizes be?	<p>Tie minimum parcel size to soil type and type of agriculture.</p> <p>Restrict the creation of new 1 to 10 acre lots/ranchettes. Encourage cluster development, especially in grazing and foothill areas (non-prime ag).</p> <p>Need for smaller parcel size to fit the soil type that exists in the parcels. Example: 640 or 160 acre parcel with 20 acres area of class 1 soil. County should create a 20 acre orchard zone so I can make 20 acres of my property orchard, without paying orchard taxes on the entire parcel. Orchard Taxes are more expensive than other types of farming. I run Panorama grass fed beef.</p> <p>Allow smaller parcels if not developed (kept as grazing or kept for animals).</p>
2E	What, if any, additional regulations are needed concerning conversion of smaller agricultural parcels (5 and 10 acres) to non-agricultural	Identify "save at all costs" farm land and zone appropriately -- no housing/ranchettes. For mediocre land, allow ranchettes.

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	uses? Should such regulations be applied everywhere, or only in certain parts of the County?	Minimum parcel size of 1 acre in AR zoned areas.
2F	How should the County address the conflicts that can occur between agricultural and urban/agritourism land uses?	<p>I don't see what conflicts would occur between agriculture and agritourism. It seems to me that agritourism would only be good for farmers: 1) more urban understanding of agricultural processes and difficulties; 2) more income for farmers who engage in agritourism.</p> <p>Agriculture is more important. We have to eat! Tourism only benefits certain businesses. New development should not be allowed to negatively affect pre-existing agriculture. Waiver should be necessary acknowledging agriculture exists prior to purchase of adjacent homes. Same with livestock.</p> <p>Side with, protect, advocate true agriculture work. Agritourism is probably over-rated. Agriculture education is vital -- bus the kids in and show them how the dairy works. But then send the milk to farmers market for the agri-tourists. Farming is too dirty for tourists.</p> <p>County promotion of county "specialties" grass fed, organic beef; almonds; rice; water buffalo; mozzarella cheese; other cheese production; olive oil.</p>
2G	What strategies would be most effective in supporting the County's agricultural economic sector?	Provide incentives for processors, abattoirs, etc. so local growers can process and sell their products (meat and plant-based foods) locally.
3A	How should the County best protect the	Restrict use of billboards with timetable for removing!

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	visual quality of its scenic highway?	Bring consistency, accountability and predictability. Avoid calling a highway scenic just because someone doesn't want a cell tower there.
3B	Should any additional roads or highways be designated as official County scenic routes?	<p>County should review all county roads with idea of assigning "scenic route" designations.</p> <p>Designate the Skyway as a scenic route.</p> <p>County should help maintain roads that are already in public use both for recreation and excavation. County should not encourage tourism/recreation until infrastructure (roads, police, fire) is in place and maintained. New scenic routes? Only if County can maintain them.</p>
3C	How can better linkages between open space areas be created? Where in the County are such connections most needed?	Keep tree removal to a limit. Tree greenbelt corridors.
		There should be coordinated connection of trails, open space areas that go and connect throughout the County.
3D	How should the County best protect deer migration routes in the face of new development?	<p>Mooretown deer herd needs migration corridor maintained down Feather Falls Ridge to Craig Area. Use data from Fish & Game to identify these corridors and get less density there, cluster development if development is necessary.</p> <p>Better define the routes, incentive protection.</p> <p>Contact River Partners to help with route coordination.</p>
3E	What strategies should the County use to protect important habitat areas, including riparian (river and stream) corridors and oak woodlands?	<p>Protect all areas with natural habitat in shape from dense zoning. Assure wildlife corridors. Incentives for not building in certain areas?</p> <p>Preserve as much habitat as possible. There is PG&E land in some areas which is prime corridor and habitat which should also be saved.</p> <p>Preserve riparian and other habitat -- or at least mitigate. Replanting tiny oaks is not mitigation for the loss of large oaks.</p>
3F	Where and what kind of trails facilities are most needed in the County?	More trails are needed, provide multi-use access on unpaved roads including service roads and fire roads.

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		<p>Provide or keep safe equestrian access along roadways as development occurs. Keep unpaved, 6-foot-wide shoulder, including Oroville levee road behind the Municipal Auditorium. (Horses were already eliminated from paved bike path along river.)</p> <p>Preserve hiking equestrian trails (original 17.5 miles) and keep multi-use trails unpaved. Paved bike lanes should be developed around city areas for transportation.</p> <p>Need paved bike lane along Oro Dam Boulevard from Orange Avenue to the Oroville Dam (tourist green line).</p> <p>Develop riverine corridors -- hook-up to existing DPR & USFS trails to expand trails.</p> <p>Need equestrian parking and/or camping area (unpaved) for large events in area of Oroville trails. Insufficient parking available now. Could use DWR property.</p> <p>Need equestrian arena -- and/or major event center for horse events of all disciplines. Would bring economic benefit without dense development. Suggest State DWR property off Cherokee Road, Oroville.</p>
3G	What types of park facilities does the County lack, and in what parts of the County are they most lacking?	<p>The county needs a dog park.</p> <p>The county lacks any parks. We need regional parks which keep natural features, and keep paving or cement to a minimum. Let kids experience real nature, not "contrived" nature!</p>
3H	Should the County acquire and manage new park facilities?	<p>Development of put-in areas and bird watching areas along year-round streams.</p> <p>Land along West Branch Feather River to ensure limited development around Lake Oroville.</p> <p>Not all development along areas of the river or lake, make more parks there.</p> <p>The County and cities should have prescriptive requirements for parklands in all areas of the county so that there are designations for park sites.</p>

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3I	What strategies should the County use to protect its groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge areas?	<p>No water export. Feather Falls -- cannot support any more density. We had to sue the County in 1977 to have minimum lot size change from County's preference of 1 acre to current 5-20 acres minimum.</p> <p>County should (in partnership with other affected counties) do geologic tests to determine extent of Tuscan Aquifer and where the natural recharge areas are. Perhaps plan for artificial recharge areas if appropriate.</p> <p>Groundwater recharge areas must be identified and protected from paving/covering with concrete or other impervious surface. These areas could be "developed" as parks/rec. or "used" as enhancement of Butte County scenic character.</p>
3J	How should the County ensure that its long-term water supply needs are met?	<p>Tuscan Aquifer recharge needs much more study. Till that happens, we need to be conservative on any outside commitments.</p> <p>1) Don't export water. 2) Reclaim all water from existing systems to be used again for ag. Water or other nonpotable uses.</p> <p>County could require grey water reclamation. More conservation measures (allow/encourage low-flow and composting toilets). Rainwater collection mandatory for fire protection/lawn watering. Allow or speed process for development that implements water conservation and make "wastey" growth expensive to discourage.</p> <p>If rice farmers decide not to use their surface water allotment, they should not be allowed to sell the water, because this will only encourage more agricultural groundwater pumping. Surface water should be considered an asset of the California tax payer.</p>
3K	How should the County ensure its historic and cultural resources, including historic and present-day Native American cultural sites, are preserved?	<p>Develop some kind of policy when digging in culturally sensitive areas. Perhaps a paid Native American monitor should be on scene. Maybe the County can look at other areas and see how they work around and with this issue. Chico State Archaeologist can help (maybe) on this issue.</p>

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		<p>On private county land there are many cultural sites. Right now, CEQA has limited environmental/cultural resource services. Hire a County archaeologist and a NA reviewer to identify sensitive historic, prehistoric, cultural properties -- come up with sensitivity map/GIS layer/review projects.</p>
4A	<p>What priorities should the County have in planning and improving the roads it maintains? What places or aspects are in most need of improvement?</p>	<p>Not needed -- Butte County should not be about getting to places FAST. Keep the unique feel of the area into the future.</p> <hr/> <p>Maintain roads that the public has access to and already uses such as Jordan Hill Road between Concow and Paradise Ridge and accesses the Sawmill Peak Fire Tower and Doe Mill Road, aka Old Ponderosa Way, between Forest Ranch and Paradise Ridge.</p> <hr/> <p>No change on old road to Feather Falls. Yes, fix pot holes etc. But don't improve into a gravel road. This familiar road has a lovely friendly feeling and has worked well with snow, hail and sleet.</p> <hr/> <p>Not needed -- in fact, this is part of the reason Butte County has a great rural character.</p> <hr/> <p>Improve Highway 162.</p>
4B	<p>Is a better connection to Interstate 5 needed, and if so, what would be the best route for the connection?</p>	<p>Butte County needs to press State to make Highway 70 a four-lane highway to Sacramento. This will make Butte county an attractive place to live to people working in Sacramento.</p> <hr/> <p>Solution: Extend four-lane from Garner to County line, then go to three-lane in Tehama. At end, have natural split at South Avenue -- can go down to two lanes (about 1/2 to south; 1/2 down 99).</p> <hr/> <p>Upon entering Butte County on Highway 70 from Yuba County, one of the first signs you see is that the emergency call boxes are ending. This presents a bad image. Because people have cell phones, maybe ask Caltrans to remove signs.</p> <hr/> <p>Highway 70 -- Ophir to Lake. Road changes names four times. Ophir - Lower Wyandotte -- Foothill -- Minors Ranch. Change at least first three sections to one name and improve the intersection at Foothill and Lower Wyandotte.</p>

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		Our county has this rural character because we do not have a four-lane highway connection to south. Maintain this -- I do not want to see area as a sleeping area for Sacramento workers.
4C	What improvements are needed to the regional highway system, and how can the County coordinate better on a regional level to plan and fund such improvements?	<p>Highway 70 -- four lanes to Sacramento.</p> <p>Yes, and other new forms of transportation should also be included; i.e., bike trails, train, bus-public transportation should be factored in.</p> <p>Open up highway, build a useable road between Sterling City/Magalia and Forest Ranch for fire and other emergency evacuations.</p> <p>Designate old CCC roads as legal access and re-open.</p>
4D	Should new development be required to have a better connected roadway system, such as a grid- or modified grid street pattern? Should such a requirement be made throughout the County, or just in some places?	<p>New development in cluster areas/zoning should have grid roads.</p> <p>Provide connected transportation with other counties. Do I need to go to Marysville? The invisible county line shows up and the transportation stops on either side (if your lucky).</p>
4E	What strategies should the County use to address fire evacuation/access issues for rural community areas?	Plan evacuation routes with modeling. Determine if the current evacuation routes will accommodate any more growth -- if not, no more growth.
4F	How can the County help decrease reliance on automobile travel, especially for commuters?	<p>More transit buses and make them electric when possible. Can a train commuter be used?</p> <p>Shuttle train from Sacramento, Yuba City, Marysville, Live Oak, Gridley, Chico.</p> <p>Encourage/allow for horse/buggy traffic locally.</p> <p>Use 100-foot powerline easements to help create off-street (safer) bike routes between areas, neighborhoods. Power companies typically support this use.</p> <p>Main County roads on the flatlands, need paved paths on one side of the road. These paths should be separated from the auto road by at least 4 or 5 feet. Paying for it could come from a county gas tax.</p> <p>Need to increase frequency of service. Need to convert all buses to natural gas to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Coordination with surrounding counties. Consider weekly van/jitneys to foothill communities -- incentive-ize this for entrepreneur.</p>

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4G	What areas of the County and/or potential routes are least well-served by bicycle facilities, and, if bicycle routes are to be established, where should they go?	No Responses Received
4H	How can the County help to improve safety for bicycles and pedestrians?	No Responses Received
4I	What specific priorities and improvements are needed for bus service in Butte County?	No Responses Received
4J	How should the County ensure that the infrastructure needs of new development are met?	<p>Alternative on-site systems go hand-in-hand with clustered development and can be used to create a more sustainable infrastructure system than water reuse.</p> <p>At least roads and sewer treatment system must be in place prior to development. Also reduce dump fees, more development = more illegal dumping.</p> <p>All do. Create service district with existing residents, new development and tax assistance.</p>
4K	Should the County work to reduce the reliance on-site septic systems in the County, and if so, how?	<p>Make sewer district annexations easier, allow non-contiguous annexations like water districts with buy-in clause for late comers in between.</p> <p>Absolutely, finish septic study in process and adopt.</p>
4L	Should the County seek out and encourage alternative forms of onsite septic systems, and if so, how?	Decentralized sewage treatment combined with bio-gas electric power generation. Win-win. Poop gets composted, power is generated for the poop producers!
4M	Which areas of the county need additional police/sheriff or fire services? How should improved services be paid for?	No Responses Received
5A	How can the County most effectively limit land use conflicts around its airports?	<p>More commercial zoning, less housing.</p> <p>Use zoning as a tool to make land uses compatible around airports. Decisions about compatibility should be made by airport experts.</p> <p>Zoning -- no residential development in areas around airports -- industrial okay.</p> <p>Zone "hands off" around airports. No housing! Industrial okay.</p>
5E	Should any of the County's airports be expanded?	No Responses Received
5F	How should the County try and attract better quality/higher wage jobs to Butte County?	Solicit lower rates for water and power for local residents and businesses.

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		Lower commercial fees on business development.
		The County should encourage businesses which are not just minimum wage employers. Citizens should have opportunity to earn good enough wages to pay their own way, i.e. taxpayers should not bear the burden of providing or subsidizing housing for others.
5G	What changes might be needed to land use or policies in butte County to make it more attractive to new and existing businesses?	Expand and promote services that create vibrant communities with diverse pools of potential employees, such as arts facilities, community centers, and libraries.
5H	Should the County encourage more sustainable or green building practices, and if so, how?	<p>New residential developments should be (encouraged?) (required?) to orient their lots to take advantage of southern exposure of one roof per house wherever possible. PV solar panels should be offered as an option for each house. Even better, PV solar should be part of the basic package.</p> <p>No- Market will demand it and State is already regulating.</p> <p>The County should mandate minimum LEED standards for all county structures and incentives for developers to build to those standards.</p> <p>Generate gas/electricity from landfill and give free PG&E to businesses.</p> <p>The County should encourage all types of developments and with different building materials. It should also be an educational process for life cycles of the materials used and how it impacts the environment.</p> <p>Yes, encourage permeable concrete, street sections with drainage (retention) swales, less paving, etc.</p> <p>The County should continue to develop energy efficient buildings (both public and private) -- solar or wind depending on the venue as well as smaller hydro. When possible it should be the conscious choice.</p> <p>Require shading at all new parking lots and allow solar shade structures in lieu of tree shading.</p>

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		Require LIGHT colored roofs -- they reflect heat -- house uses less A/C -- less emissions = less global change. Limit recreational use of water, i.e., golf courses. Maintain dark skies through lighting ordinance.
		Promote conservation and recycling throughout County. Educate populous on ways to use water and resources better.
		Does County really need to spray adjacent to roads?
5I	How should the County continue to promote solar power?	Yes, continue to promote solar energy with State and local government incentives. Solar "power" can be passive -- encourage house/building orientation and other design elements that use passive solar heating.
5J	In what specific ways could the County, and county residents, help to minimize contributions to global warming and depletion of natural resources?	More OHV use now in forest. Every weekend now we see emergency equipment going up the hill. How is this affecting emergency services, costs to county? County could give "carbon credits" for maintaining crop/pasture/trees as carbon sinks -- part of a carbon neutral county plan. Keep parcel sizes larger. Define "ag" to avoid ranchette -- i.e. 1 house on lot with degraded open lane. Provide more public transportation options. The highways north and south are jammed with traffic. People are living here and working there and visa versa. The counties of two regions should jointly work with Caltrans to improve transportation. Also counties should work jointly to explore alternative transportation -- rail, bus, etc. Figure out how the State can optimize this.

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General Comments		<p>The County needs to regulate residential generator noise. The problem is people are moving into Butte County because it is the cheapest place to buy land in this area. Then they put a piece of junk trailer on the property and hook up a generator and blast away. Visually the generator is sitting in the open with the muffler off for maximum power. This is the worst thing about living in Butte County.</p>
		<p>Strict zoning. No (or as few as possible) variances.</p>
		<p>Don't restrict ownership of horses or animals who use feed grown by farmers. Just keeping horses alive provides huge economic benefit to the County. Millions could be generated (see Sonoma/Marin equine economic study at AHC EQ EC Study).</p>
		<p>Big buffers! No loss of oak woodland.</p>