



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: January 8, 2008 Progress Report #24 on Butte County General Plan 2030

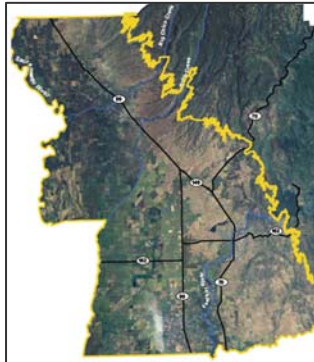
This memo is the 24th in a series of updates provided to the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of each meeting to assist Board members in staying apprised of the progress on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

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

1. Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report

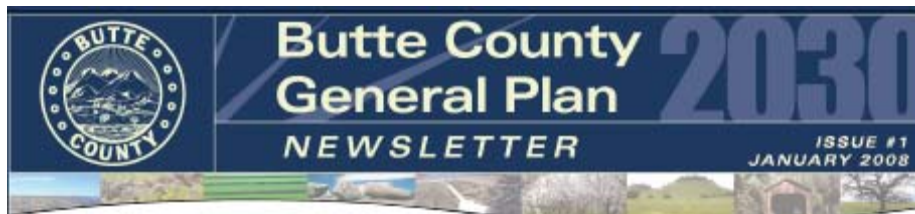
The Evaluation of the Alternatives has started in anticipation of Meeting Series #4 –Selection of a Preferred Alternative. This Meeting Series is scheduled to begin with a Public Workshop on March 27, 2008 and conclude in June of 2008 with a Board of Supervisors Study Session. The Alternatives Evaluation Report, to be prepared by General Plan Consultant DC&E, will include a detailed analysis of the 34 Study Areas that make-up the three Land Use Alternatives approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2007. This Report will be used throughout Meeting Series #4 to help in the selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative. The Report will examine many different factors including Transportation and Circulation, Fiscal Impacts, Agricultural Impacts, Water Supply/Resources, Wastewater Infrastructure, Biological Resources (using information from the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, see Item #2 below), Cultural Resources, Public Services, and Safety/Hazards that will help identify areas suitable for growth and conservation. The Alternatives Evaluation Report will be available in early March 2008. The Alternatives Evaluation Report will be posted to the General Plan 2030 website, CD's will be made available to the public for free upon request, and copies will be provided to all area libraries.

2. Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP)



On December 20, 2007 Butte County General Plan 2030 staff met with Butte County Association of Governments staff and other local Planning Directors to discuss the HCP with HCP consultant SAIC. The consultant provided an overview of biological constraints mapping including vernal pool/vernal swale mapping. The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan) is a planning process that brings federal, state, and local governmental agencies and community stakeholders together to protect the natural resources of Butte County, while providing for economic development and growth in the region. The HCP Planning Area encompasses most of Butte County. However, areas east of the proposed yellow boundary shown above (which generally separates the oak woodlands to the west from the montane forest to the east) are not covered within the Planning Area. The Butte County General Plan 2030 process greatly benefits from the data and information generated by the HCP process by using baseline information on biological resources and constraints in the most critical areas of the County. This information will be used to evaluate the Land Use Alternatives (see Item #1 above -Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report) and will help to select the Preferred Land Use Alternative during Meeting Series #4.

3. Butte County General Plan 2030 Newsletter



The first Butte County General Plan 2030 Newsletter will be mailed out prior to the end of January 2008 to all residents of Butte County. This Newsletter has been designed to provide busy county residents with a detailed but concise resource where they can efficiently educate themselves on many different aspects of the General Plan 2030 process. The Newsletter provides information about the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, describes major accomplishments of the process thus far, and shows how the public can become involved in future tasks such as the Selection of the Preferred Alternative. Since the Butte County General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles stresses cooperative planning with all of the unincorporated cities located within Butte County, the Newsletter will be mailed to both County and City residents alike. The newsletter will also be posted to the County General Plan website and made available at the Butte County Department of Development Services and other County offices.

4. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Citizens Advisory Committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at the Butte College Main Campus Cafeteria from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Agenda Items will include a discussion by the California State Department of Water Resources and the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation on Groundwater Recharge, and the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) by the Butte County Association of Governments.

Meeting Series #4 will kick-off on Thursday, March 27, 2007 with a Public Workshop devoted to the Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative. This meeting will be devoted to accepting public input and will allow the public to weigh in on their preferences for a preferred alternative. More information on this meeting including time and place will be provided in coming weeks.

5. Butte County Water Commission Presentation

Butte County General Plan 2030 staff will provide an update to the Butte County Water Commission on Tuesday, January 8, 2008. The Water Commission plays a key role in advising the County about Butte County's water resources. Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation Director Paul Gosselin recently wrote in the January edition of the Water Solutions Newsletter that "The consideration of water issues will be vastly different in the General Plan Update compared to the existing General Plan. First, our water management efforts were enacted after the last general plan was put in place. Secondly, we can base decisions on improved scientific understanding and projections." The subject of water resources and how they enable or constrain development was also recently included in the Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report (see Item #1 above) currently being completed by DC&E. Staff will continue to update the Water Commission on Butte County General Plan 2030 throughout the remainder of the process.