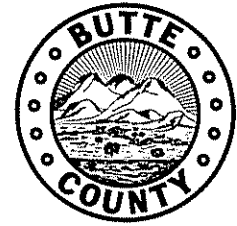


Butte County Department of Development Services

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ADMINISTRATION * BUILDING * PLANNING

January 22, 2008

Mr. Craig Sanders, Planning Consultant
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965

RE: Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Oroville General Plan Update

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Oroville General Plan update.

As you are aware, Butte County is currently in the process of updating its own General Plan in an effort that began in 2006 and is scheduled to be completed in September 2009 –*Butte County General Plan 2030*. The Butte County Board of Supervisors recently approved three Land Use and Transportation Alternatives as part of this effort. The land use and transportation alternatives have been attached for your reference.

Because there are areas such as the sphere of influence and the Oroville Planning Area where both Butte County and the City of Oroville share land use planning responsibilities, it would be appropriate for you to review these alternatives against the proposed land use designations under the new Oroville General Plan.

The 10 Study Areas that are representative of the Oroville Area are provided as attachment 1, along with the 5 Alternative Maps. Although the Stringtown Mountain (Study Area #24), Palermo (Study Area #29) and Bangor (Study Area #30) Study Areas are not located within the City of Oroville's Planning Area, they are included due to their proximity to the city and potential influences in the area of traffic circulation. The Study Areas include the City's proposed Oro Bay Specific Plan (Study Area #25), South Ophir Specific Plan (portion located in Study Area #26) and the Rio d'Oro Specific Plan (Study Area #27).

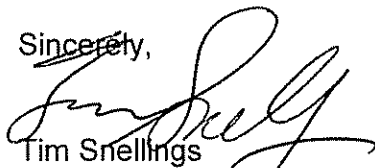
Other Study Areas in the Oroville vicinity include Thermalito (Study Area #21); Existing City of Oroville Limits (Study Area #22); the Eastern Oroville/Oroville Hills (Study Area #23); and, Southern Oroville (Study Area #28);

The Program EIR for the City of Oroville's General Plan must analyze and accomplish the following:

1. The City of Oroville's Annexation Strategy as discussed within the Draft General Plan must be analyzed for an environmentally preferred alternative. The Annexation Strategy should promote the efficient use of land, while considering the inclusion of existing urban areas that should logically be a part of the City, such as Thermalito and South Oroville.
2. The City of Oroville's development potential and build-out as discussed within the Draft General Plan must be analyzed for an environmentally preferred alternative. General Plan designations and Sphere of Influence boundaries should promote focused urban development patterns and the efficient use of land. Development Potential and build-out should also be coordinated with Oroville's Annexation Strategy.
3. The Program EIR must draw upon the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) for baseline biological information. The mixed-oak and blue oak woodlands located within the planning area should be assessed for environmental impacts under the new General Plan.
4. The Program EIR must include an assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in accordance with the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The Annexation Strategy and urban growth patterns proposed by the General Plan can contribute to reduce GHG emissions by promoting infill and the efficient urbanization of the Oroville Planning Area.
5. Complete the Municipal Service Review process with the Local Agency Formation Commission prior to the completion of the Program EIR.

Development Services staff looks forward to working with the City of Oroville during the review process of the Program EIR for the new General Plan. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dan Breedon, Principal Planner at 538-7629.

Sincerely,



Tim Snellings

Director, Department of Development Services

cc: Board of Supervisors
Local Agency Formation Commission