



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: February 26, 2008 Progress Report #27 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 27th 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. Joint City of Biggs/Gridley/Butte County Meeting –February 26, 2008

The City Councils of the Cities of Biggs and Gridley, and the Board of Supervisors of Butte County, will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Gridley Community Center, 200 East Spruce Street in Gridley. The meeting is open to the public. It is one of a series of meetings being held between the Cities of Biggs and Gridley and Butte County to coordinate future land-use planning and General Plans.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss planning for the area of the County that lies between Biggs and Gridley. This "Area of Concern" is under study for possible changes to jurisdictional boundaries, land use designations, zoning, or to other applicable policies or regulations. The joint discussion will benefit long-range planning for this area by all three jurisdictions over the next 20 years. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting, and will be provided an opportunity to comment at the conclusion of the session.

2. Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report

The Alternatives Evaluation Report will be available for distribution on March 14, 2008. This is the evaluation of the alternatives and 34 Study Areas (which includes 3 Study Areas within incorporated cities) being prepared by DC&E. The Alternatives Evaluation Report will help to inform the Selection of a Preferred Alternative Process

(Meeting Series #4), including the Public Workshop scheduled for March 27, 2008, the Citizens Advisory Committee meetings, the Planning Commission Study Session, and the Board of Supervisors Study Session. This will be a large document (in excess of 550 pages, with over 30 color maps). This extensive evaluation examines the Alternatives with respect to Transportation and Circulation, Fiscal Impacts, Agricultural Impacts, Water Supply, Wastewater Infrastructure, Biological Resources (including the Butte Regional Conservation Plan –HCP/NCCP, and Deer Range Maps), Cultural Resources, Public Services, and Safety/Hazards.

The Department of Development Services will be providing full copies of the report to all members of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and Citizens Advisory Committee. The full report will also be posted to the General Plan 2030 website and CDs will be available at Development Services upon request. Copies will also be provided to all area libraries for public viewing and will be made available at the Butte County Development Services Department.

3. Reminder: February 28, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The Butte County General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2008 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm at the Butte College Campus Center Cafeteria. The meeting is open to the public. It is one of a series of meetings being conducted by the County as part of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

Presentations are planned on several key topics related to Butte County General Plan 2030:

- ◆ Balanced Planning for Sustainable Communities: Dr. LaDona Knigge, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, CSU Chico
- ◆ Butte County Deer Herds and Ranges: Henry Lomeli, Associate Biologist, California Department of Fish & Game
- ◆ Butte County Deer Range Mapping: Kevin Sevier, Project Manager, Gallaway Consulting
- ◆ Wildfire Safety Planning and the General Plan: Cali-Jane Burch, Executive Director, Butte County Fire Safe Council, Jim Broshears, Board member, Butte County Fire Safe Council

This information is being provided to assist the Citizens Advisory Committee and members of the public in commenting during the next phase of the General Plan 2030 process, the Selection of a Preferred Alternative, scheduled to begin in March 2008 (Meeting Series #4 of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process –see below).

4. Public Workshop March 27, 2008 –Selection of a Preferred Alternative

Meeting Series #4 will kick-off on Thursday, March 27, 2008, in Chico at the Little Chico Creek Elementary School Multi-purpose Room at 5:00 pm, with a Public Workshop devoted to the Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative. This meeting will focus on public participation and will provide the public with an opportunity to weigh-in on their preferences for a preferred alternative. The format will include open house stations to allow people to provide comments to meeting facilitators on areas of the County that they are interested in. A presentation will be provided concerning the Alternatives Evaluation Report (see Item #2 above) and the Land Use Alternatives. At the conclusion of the meeting major themes that have emerged from input taken will be summarized and provided to the participants. A draft flyer concerning this Public Workshop is attached. These flyers will be sent out to community organizations and groups and distributed at the upcoming Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting and Joint Biggs/Gridley/Butte County meeting.

5. Schedule: Meeting Series #4 –Selection of a Preferred Alternative

The following schedule has been provided to keep Board members and the public apprised of all future meeting dates connected with Meeting Series #4:

- ◆ Public Workshop -Thursday, 3/27/08
- ◆ 1st Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting -Thursday, 4/10/08
- ◆ 2nd Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting -Thursday, 4/17/08
- ◆ 3rd Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting -Thursday, 4/24/08
- ◆ Planning Commission Study Session -Friday, 5/9/08
- ◆ Board of Supervisors Study Session: Tuesday, 7/29/08

6. Office of the Attorney General Letter on Global Warming

With the signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), greenhouse gas emissions have become a high-profile issue in California. The Attorney General has also settled a lawsuit with San Bernardino County concerning this issue as it related to their General Plan.

Development Services staff received the attached letter dated February 15, 2008 from the Attorney General concerning global warming and climate change. The Attorney General's letter discusses opportunities to learn more about what local government agencies can do about this subject. The Attorney General's Office, and the Local Government Commission, will be holding a series of workshops entitled: "CEQA and Climate Change: Partnering with Local Agencies to Combat Global Warming.

The Attorney General's letter is provided to the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the Board is kept apprised of developments that are taking place regarding this subject. Development Services staff will continue to track developments about State

mandates concerning Global Warming and will provide periodic updates to the Board of Supervisors about this subject as new information becomes available.

To address the current requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, Development Services will bring a contract amendment to the Board of Supervisors in the spring that will instruct General Plan 2030 sub-consultant Jones & Stokes to evaluate climate change impacts associated with Butte County General Plan 2030 (This will be performed in conjunction with the General Plan's Program Environmental Impact Report).