



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: March 11, 2008 Progress Report #28 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 28th 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. Meeting Summary for Joint City of Biggs/Gridley/Butte County Meeting – February 26, 2008



February 26, 2008 Joint Meeting between Biggs, Gridley, and Butte County

The City Councils of Biggs and Gridley and the Butte County Board of Supervisors held a joint meeting on February 26, 2008 at the Gridley Community Center from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Approximately 35 members of the public were also in attendance at this meeting. This meeting was held to help inter-jurisdictional coordination between both cities and the County concerning the Area of Concern (AOC), a 2,850-acre region located within Butte County between the cities of Biggs and Gridley that was adopted by the Butte Local Agency Formation Commission for purposes of coordinating growth, and to facilitate communication on the area's future. Both the cities of Biggs and Gridley have identified plans and annexation strategies for this area that differ with regard to future jurisdictional boundaries.

Butte County will also be developing a preferred Land Use Alternative over the next 6 months pursuant to its General Plan 2030 update that could influence development in the AOC.

Butte County Principal Planner Dan Breedon provided a brief update on all three jurisdictions long-range and general plans, and provided an overview of the AOC and Butte County's current land use alternatives proposed for this area. The main part of the evening was devoted to the identification of planning topics and issues related to the AOC, and developing shared strategies that all jurisdictions could agree upon. Development Services Director Tim Snellings facilitated discussion between the cities of Biggs, Gridley and the Butte County Board of Supervisors. Information was transcribed onto poster paper as individual issues and ideas were generated. This information was later assembled into a list principles addressing development in the AOC, which received additional discussion by the group. Each of the jurisdictions agreed to review this information in more detail at their regular meetings and to ultimately take action through a resolution or agreement to a set of principles to help guide future development within the AOC. Future developments concerning this subject, including a more detailed summary of the meeting, will be posted to the Butte County General Plan 2030 website

2. Meeting Summary for February 28, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The February 28, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting was attended by 21 Citizens Advisory Committee members and approximately 40 members of the public. The meeting started with Director of Development Services Tim Snellings providing a meeting overview. Claudia Stuart, Principal Planner with the Butte County Department of Development Services introduced Dr. Ladona Knigge, Assistant Professor at the Department of Geography and Planning, CSU Chico. Dr. Knigge provided a presentation entitled "Balanced Planning for Sustainable Communities" in which she provided information on the three "E's" of Sustainability: Equity, Environment, and Economics. Dr. Knigge also used examples that helped to define Sustainability, and explained how these definitions may apply to long-range planning for communities. At the conclusion of this presentation, Dr. Knigge answered questions and comments from Citizens Advisory Committee members.

Dan Breedon, Principal Planner with the Butte County Department of Development Services, briefly discussed the use of deer herd mapping in Butte County and the current effort to update the deer range mapping through the General Plan 2030 process. Mr. Breedon then introduced Henry Lomeli, Associate Wildlife Biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Lomeli discussed Butte County's three migratory deer herds and discussed land use practices that influence migration and wintering range. Kevin Sevier, Project Manager with Gallaway Consulting, provided an overview of a Technical Study and GIS Model for Migratory Deer Herd Habitat that is currently underway in conjunction with the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. Mr. Sevier explained the data sources that went into the creation of the model, and explained the objectives of this study. At the conclusion of these presentations a question and answer period took place between the presenters and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Chuck Thistlethwaite, Planning Manager with the Butte County Department of Development Services, briefly discussed wildfire impacts in Butte County, and then introduced Jim Broshears, who is a retired Fire Chief for the Town of Paradise and who also serves on the Butte County Fire Safe Council. He provided a presentation on wild fires, which focused on the fire history of Butte County from 1980 to the present, the wildland/urban interface, and the value of defensible space in protecting homes and communities from wildfire. Calli-Jane Burch, Executive Director of the Butte County Fire Safe Council then provided a presentation on the Fire Safe Council. Ms. Burch explained the Fire Safe Council's mission, to develop programs that reduce wildland fire threats, and to help landowners develop fire safe practices. At the conclusion of these presentations a question and answer period took place between the presenters and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Citizen Advisory Committee members had numerous questions for all of the presenters and staff. A number of questions and comments were also taken from members of the public concerning the organization of General Plan 2030 and the need to address water resources and an optional water element to be included in General Plan 2030. In response to these requests, Tim Snellings brought up the idea of having a special Citizens Advisory Committee meeting in May or June of this year to discuss structural options and opportunities for the format of General Plan 2030, prior to the start of Workshop Series #5. The meeting would explore the pros and cons of optional elements vs. consolidated approaches to the format of General Plans. He inquired of Citizens Advisory Committee members if they felt whether this was a good approach or not. They agreed that it was. Mr. Snellings indicated that a plan for this meeting would be formed and that details would be provided in the coming weeks.

In closing, Tim Snellings discussed the next Citizens Advisory Committee meetings scheduled for April 10th, 17th and 24th, which would be devoted to the selection of the preferred alternative (Workshop Series #4), and the importance of having all Citizens Advisory Committee members attend these meetings. More details on the location of these meetings will be sent to Citizens Advisory Committee members soon.

All of the PowerPoint presentations from this meeting are available on the General Plan 2030 website, www.buttegeneralplan.net. In addition, a video of the entire meeting is available for downloading at the website. A more detailed meeting summary will be posted to the website soon.

3. Proposed Special Citizens Advisory Committee meeting to focus on General Plan Organization

Development Services staff wishes to apprise the Board of Supervisors of a new development in the Butte County General Plan 2030 process concerning a special meeting pertaining to General Plan organization that would compliment and inform Meeting Series #5 (Goals and Policy Development). As discussed in Item #2 above, the Citizens Advisory Committee has received public comment concerning the preparation of an optional water element, for inclusion in Butte County General Plan 2030. In Butte County's existing General Plan, there are currently four optional elements. In order to address this issue, staff has prepared the following plan:

- Hold a special Citizens Advisory Committee meeting devoted to the discussion of structural options and opportunities for the format of General Plan 2030 in a May or June timeframe including a discussion about optional elements and consolidated approaches to GP organization and the pros and cons of each approach.
- Invite Planning Directors from other jurisdictions that have experience with varying approaches of GP organization, and optional Water Elements. The County's General Plan consultant, DC&E would also provide information on GP organization. Invite a representative from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to talk about optional elements and consolidated approaches to GPs as discussed in the General Plan Guidelines
- Gather additional input from interested persons, such as members from the Citizens Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, and Water Commission. This committee would work with staff, review ideas, provide feedback, and help to shape the agenda for the May/June meeting.
- The goal of this meeting would be to strive for consensus from the Citizens Advisory Committee at the May/June meeting concerning GP organization and concerning whether an optional Water Element (or other optional Elements) are needed prior to beginning Meeting Series #5. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review/input. It will then be brought to the Board of Supervisors prior to the start of Workshop Series #5.

4. Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report

The Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report will be available on-line at the Butte General Plan 2030 website on March 12, 2008

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.

This report will be used throughout Meeting Series #4, which is devoted to the selection of the preferred alternative. This report provides detailed analysis about each of the 34 Study Areas that make-up the 3 Land Use Alternatives, and includes an executive summary that will enable users to easily reference information and compare alternatives.

The Department of Development Services will be providing printed 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 for free upon request. Printed copies and CDs will

also be provided to all area libraries for public viewing and will be made available at the Butte County Development Services Department.

5. Reminder: 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 the input taken will be summarized and provided to the participants. This information will provide critical public input to the follow up CAC meetings on this issue in April, 2008.