

BUTTE
COUNTY

APR 25 2008

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES

Robert & Cindy Friedman
1158 Mount Ida Road
Oroville, California 95966

April 20, 2008

Mr. Dan Breedon
Department of Development Services
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Butte County General Plan

Dear Mr. Breedon:

We are extremely concerned that the voices of many are being subdued by the voice of a few with regard to the Butte County General Plan update. Specifically, the "oversight" of unique farmland in the study of Area 23 not being reported is absurd and borders on being an intentional act aimed at silencing the majority of land owners in Area 23. This huge oversight was made when no lands of agricultural importance were recognized in Area 23! The oversight was acknowledged, and it was found that there were 880 acres of "Unique Farmland", 65 acres of "Farmland of Statewide Importance", and 1465 acres of "Grazing Land".

Area 23 is chock full of "unique farmland" of both agricultural and social significance. Our own "family farm" where we grow a small amount of Diller oranges is very significant in that there are precious few Diller orange orchards left anywhere in California, with the only Diller orange groves known being right here in Area 23! Ask anyone who visits the Chico farmers market on Saturday's during orange season who has the most flavorful oranges, and you will most likely be pointed to one Area 23 grower. It may not be important to the consultants who were hired to work through the General Plan issues, but let me assure you that to many orange lovers in Butte County, this oversight is a huge and important issue.

Butte County needs to support our local small farmers, not destroy them by allowing high density development in these sensitive farmland areas. Over the last few years the work and dedication of many small farmers has led to one of Butte County's most successful events, the Sierra-Oro Farm Trail Passport Weekend. Literally thousands of people flock to small farms all over Area 23 to taste delicious foods and support the effort of dedicated

unique small farmers. How could this have been overlooked in the General Plan planning process?

Small-scale agriculture is very viable, and will become ever more important. Several recent studies suggest that small scale, sustainable agriculture is actually more productive per unit of land than industrial farming. The orchard areas in the foothills are unique and productive areas, and are irreplaceable lands. Rising energy & transportation costs will make local food production ever more important. Small-scale agriculture is an important part of a diverse mix of economic activities, and diverse economies are more resilient.

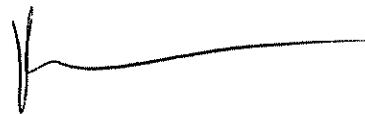
Retaining valuable agricultural lands near urban centers makes sense. It makes no sense to allow more densely packed subdivisions into these outlying areas, especially with the growing problem and rising cost of transportation. The General Plan should be about the trends of the future, not about the trends of the past, and the future will place great value on minimizing long-distance transportation and emphasizing local food production.

We formally request that this important issue be brought up for additional review and public input. Area 23 should be defined by demonstrated agricultural use and potential, not by arbitrary map lines. The current "Oroville influence area" boundary follows Mt. Ida Road and bisects agriculturally important lands! Don't succumb to the pressure of a few developers and "get rich quick" landowners who have no regard for the majority of people who live and farm in Area 23. Let the voices of the majority be heard.

Very truly yours,



Robert & Cindy Friedman



Bruce & Patricia Arrigoni
114 Grey Fox Lane
Oroville, CA 95966

April 21, 2008

Mr. Dan Breedon
Department of Development Services
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Mr. Breedon,

Butte County has a unique opportunity to insure the diversity that many communities wish that they had preserved. The current review and revision of the County General Plan will effect the lives and quality of life not only for you and I but for generations to come.

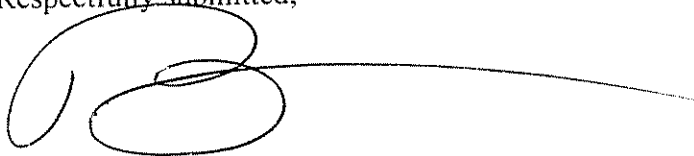
We as a people CAN make a difference. We CAN preserve the diversity we enjoy while at the same time, provide for growth, expansion and progress.

To accomplish the goals of the future, we must respect the accomplishments of the past. To ignore our "unique farmland" and "agricultural lands of statewide importance" would deprive future generations of a lifestyle that they would only experience through text books and documentaries. Our children, grand children and their children deserve more from us. Their lives our in our hands, we can do better than strapping them within an "asphalt jungle" in the name of progress.

I urge you to take seriously the memorandum of April 15, 2008 by DCE and to consider the fact that there our thousands of acres available for residential, high density development without destroying our unique farmlands and family farms.

I urge you to preserve the past so that our future generations can enjoy a better future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bruce Arrigoni

BUTTE
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APR 23 2008
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18 April 2008

Dan Breedon, Principle Planner
Regarding: Butte County General Plan Study Area 23—Consideration of Agricultural Lands

A guiding principle of the 2030 Plan is that the "General Plan shall address agriculture as an important aspect of Butte County's economy that will be protected, maintained, promoted and enhanced." And in earlier workshops that preservation of agriculture in the foothills (Area 23) was very strongly supported

Somehow, all agricultural lands of importance in Area 23 were overlooked in the development of Alternatives. As acknowledged in the "April 17th Errata" there are actually 880 acres of "Unique Farmland", 65 acres of "Farmland of Statewide Importance", and 1465 acres of "Grazing Land" in Area 23. None of the 3 Alternatives considers those lands, and all are assigned a "D" in that regard. That is a huge oversight that needs to be addressed before any of the Alternatives for Area 23 can be considered adequate.

On April 17th, a future meeting on May 1st was considered. We respectfully request that the reconsideration of agricultural lands in Area 23 be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting, and that public input be allowed. And we request that this letter please be placed in the record and be made available to the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Agricultural resources are essential and must be protected from the subdivision into small lot-sizes that would render them useless

Small-scale agriculture is very viable, even on parcels of a few acres, and will become ever more important over time. Recent studies suggest that "small scale, sustainable agriculture is actually more productive per unit of land than industrial farming." (quote from Aaron Newton, coauthor of "A Nation of Farmers".)

The orchard and vineyard areas in the foothills are unique and productive areas, due to their unique microclimate and soils. These are irreplaceable lands.

Rising energy & transportation costs will make local food production ever more important over time.

Small-scale agriculture is an important part of a diverse mix of economic activities, and diverse economies are more resilient.

Good planning for the future of our foothill agricultural lands

This General Plan is for the trends of the future, and the future will place great value on minimizing long-distance transportation and maximizing local food production.

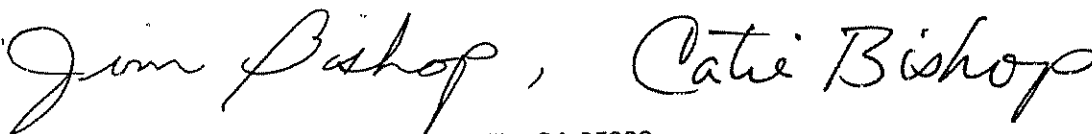
It makes no sense to spread more subdivisions in the outlying areas, especially with the growing problems and costs of transportation, at the expense of irreplaceable productive lands.

It makes great sense to retain valuable agricultural lands close to the population centers.

All "unique farmland" and "agricultural lands of statewide importance", and most of the "grazing land" should be kept agricultural in Area 23 of the new General Plan, with minimum lot sizes conducive to agriculture.

These special areas should be defined by demonstrated agricultural use and potential, not by arbitrary current map lines. For example, the current "Oroville influence area" boundary follows Mt. Ida Road and bisects agriculturally important lands. That arbitrary boundary should not affect designation of agricultural lands—this plan is for the future of Butte County, based on the lands as they actually exist.

Sincerely,



Jim and Catie Bishop, 1144 Mount Ida Road, Oroville, CA 95966

BUTTE
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APR 23 2008
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Gary & Jeanne Cecchi

90 Grey Fox Lane
Oroville, CA 95966
Phone: 530-589-0991
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jeannececchi@comcast.net

April 21, 2008

Mr. Dan Breedon
Department of Development Services
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Butte County General Plan

Dear Mr. Breedon:

It's our belief that we, as human beings, have an obligation to do our best to get things right, especially in this age of instant computer communication. Oversight is not an excuse since it's already been acknowledged that 880 acres of "Unique Farmland", 65 acres of "Farmland of Statewide Importance", and 1465 acres of "Grazing Land" exist in Study Area 23, and yet it was reported that NO lands of agricultural importance were recognized in this area.

This oversight may very well be unintentional, but it also may not. If unintentional, it MUST be corrected. If intentional, it MUST be corrected and action must be taken to see that errors such as these do not occur that could result in the decline and destruction of our incredibly valuable natural resources. Study area 23 is filled with rolling hills and winding roads, just the stuff of a beautiful Sunday drive with small family farms, animals grazing, beautiful vistas. An annual farm trail tour (Sierra-Oro Farm Trail) has been established successfully and will be entering its third year. Agri-tourism is gaining popularity rapidly and may be what saves small family farms. Agri-tourism and annual farm trail events are what brings dollars to the County, while keeping a rural atmosphere and supporting an irreplaceable local food source. The County should support this valuable resource and not succumb to the desires high density housing where the landscape is changed forever and can never be reclaimed. Small-scale farmers tend to live on their property and maintain an agricultural setting and valuable asset for the public to enjoy.

We cannot and must not forget what those before us did to protect Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon and all of our national treasures. We need to be there to

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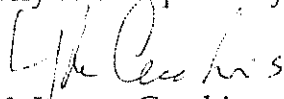
protect our County's treasures or we risk being forever surrounded by cement and asphalt in the name of progress. If our forefathers had not taken those precautions, our lives, and the lives of future generations would not be as rich.

We've seen first hand what happens to small agricultural lands that all of a sudden become engulfed in high density housing. Viano Vineyard & Winery in Martinez, Ca, for example, was forever changed. What was once a beautiful open landscape with vineyards and vistas is now difficult to find through a maze of high density housing. San Leandro used to be called Cherry land and was covered with Cherry Orchards. Now there is not a cherry orchard to be found. Do we want to leave a legacy of people having to leave Butte County to find what they believed they had found when they moved here? It's going to happen if we don't remain diligent and smart in our planning.

As one of Butte County's initial few vineyards and wineries, we are proud to be considered "Unique Farmland", proud to be an important and contributing farm in Area 23 and are proud to be a member of a small-scale agricultural resource that attracts those that seek to learn and educate themselves and their children about our County's diverse and productive farmlands. There is a place for high density housing, but don't put it where the high density housing homeowners go to get away from the crowds. This oversight threatens the uniqueness that those before us had the foresight and wisdom to specifically protect.

Hopefully in the future, we will not be lamenting about our dependence on "oil" only substituting the word "food." With the continuing upward spiral of fuel and shipping costs, dependence on farm products which could have been kept local will be a sad commentary. We strongly encourage that you bring this important issue up for review and public input. Many are unaware and naïve as we were and need to know the facts, before the facts get inadvertently rewritten.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,


Gary & Jeanne Cecchi

APR 25 2008

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Burtenshaw Construction
5415 Miners Ranch Rd.
Oroville, CA 95966
Lic. 393919

4/23/08

Dan Breedon
Planner Butte County

Re: Study Area 23

Mr. Breedon,

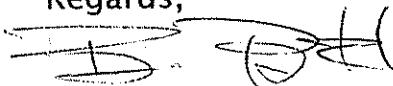
It has come to my attention that some important agricultural considerations have been overlooked in regards to land use proposals for Study Area 23.

I understand that the unique farmland of this area was not taken into account in the current plan. It is precisely this unique farmland – the small orchards and the open grazing land that give this area it's real value. Farmer's markets providing local produce and products are good for the local economy. These resources also provide a strong sense of our agricultural roots in this community.

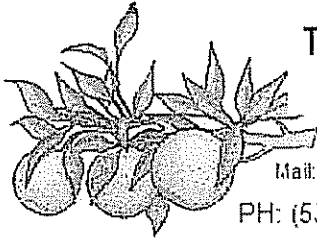
Considering the current trend toward products being imported and distributed through giant chain stores, it is essential for communities like Oroville to promote the rural and agricultural qualities that make them unique. Small farms and farmers need support now more than ever. Converting existing ag land to subdivided development would be a move in the wrong direction. There is adequate room for subdivisions with easier access to public services available in Butte County.

Please see that the agricultural lands are considered in the general plan for Study Area 23.

Regards,



Brian Burtenshaw – (530) 589-5266



TRI L MANDARIN RANCH

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APR 24 2008

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**Mr. Dan Breedon, Planner
Department of Development Services
7 County Center Dr.
Oroville, CA 95965**

Re: County General Plan- Study Area 23

Dear Mr. Breedon;

I first came to know the area in and around the foothills of Oroville in the spring of 1971, as a wandering C.S.U. Chico student. I had just enrolled in college and was relocating from the San Francisco Bay Area.

I was immediately struck by the beauty and diversity of this area and how pleasant the farms and pastures seemed, in stark comparison to the "helter-skelter" nature of the jumbled housing developments, commercial properties and traffic associated with so many people in the area I had come from.

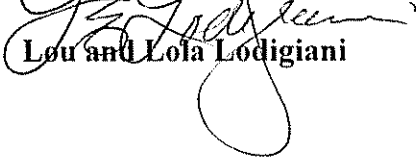
I couldn't wait to graduate college and find a way to make a living for my family in this area. Over the years, I have had the privilege to live (long-term) in Chico, Paradise and Oroville. I've always told anyone willing to listen; "...how fortunate I've been to be able to live and raise my family in Butte County... and what a pleasure it has been to live in the east foothills of Oroville for the past 12 years."

My wife and I own and operate a small family farm on Mt. Ida Rd., and open our doors to the public during our harvest season. We work hard every day to preserve the value of our land and be good stewards for the next generations. Judging from the numerous positive comments we receive during our harvest, we will remain steadfast to the basic principles of small family farming and encourage others in their ventures. Agriculture and agricultural tourism are providing local people, and many folks from other parts, with fresh foods and wines.

My strongest belief is that the citizenry of Oroville will not tolerate the destruction of the foothill area for the sake of development for high-density building. What kind of legacy will we leave our children-and grandchildren? We are not isolationists, nor are we obstructionists. We are progressive people wanting Oroville to prosper. We want new and substantial housing developments and the business infrastructure to support new residents.

Not unlike the "Green-line" effort put forth by the concerned citizens of Chico in the 70's and 80's, the east foothills must not be transformed into condensed developments for the benefit of a handful of developers. Common sense must direct new development into areas better suited for that purpose. Small, sustainable farming must be allowed to prosper as it has for the past 100 years. This is the legacy we leave our community. Thank-you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lou and Lola Lodigiani". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed names.

Lou and Lola Lodigiani