

Pamela Leis 2leis@sbcglobal.net  
PO Box 526  
Oroville, CA 95965

---

April 24, 2008

Dan Breedon, Planner  
Dept of Development Services  
7 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965

BUTTE  
COUNTY  
APR 29 2008  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES

Dear Sir,

Regarding the County General Plan that is in the process of being formulated, I would like to share my concerns, as well as ask that these concerns be brought up for review and public input in the not to distant future, as much seems to have fallen through the cracks.

**A quote from "Butte Co. General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles":**

**"Principle 8, Agriculture: The General Plan shall address agriculture as an important aspect of Butte County's economy that will be protected, maintained, promoted and enhanced." Why has this been disregarded?**

As a resident of Study area 23 for the past 26 years, I feel there are several areas I'm concerned about that have been overlooked in their entirety.

It seems to me that good planning would have a heavy emphasis on the big picture for our economic and agricultural well being as a community and see well into the future as best we can visualize that future given the current circumstances we face as a nation.

We have all heard of the cliché, "Not in My Back Yard". What the plan seems to be making room for are the "Gentleman Farmers" who have enjoyed the rural lifestyle, made a living and now wish to cash in, and develop that rural bliss. It isn't the NIMBY syndrome, but the altitude that I've had my lovely rural life and now I want to facilitate the development and cementing of it. Not so fast.

Not only must our agricultural resources so full of diversity be protected, but also the future of our community as global economies turn more local as our energy limitations expand exponentially in the future. Our rural assets must be protected, it is good stewardship for the community, for the future viability of our area and it needs to be guarded. Concerns of food shortages and pollination cannot be ignored at this point.

Farmers markets are the wave of the future, and need local goods for people looking for cleaner, safer, alternatives to industrialized food products heavy in antibiotics and pesticides. You've heard of it "**organic farming**", that is what is happening in the

foothills, it is the future growth area in agriculture these days and the farms need the proactive protection of this community, and the stewardship of the planning department.

We currently have livestock, including pigs, cattle, and chickens, and orchards including olives, grapes, varied citrus, apples and nuts. As a rural community in the east foothills we make good neighbors for each other. We won't need to ship eggs in from the central valley, wine from Italy, the beef from Montana if we plan properly.

If the rural treasures are not protected new headaches appear. Imagine the person who moves in next door to the airport and complains about aviation noise and disturbance. How about the urbanite who moves in next to the chickens or pigs, complaining of the roosters, or the farm odors, not to mention the lack of police protection, substandard roads, no street lamps, and no sidewalks! What about fire dangers, think of the Oakland Hills disaster of 1989 and small curvy roads, we live in fire country!

As our past planning has deemed fit to completely leave out manufacturing, we need to at least protect those areas that produce sustainable, clean, and healthy foodstuffs!

A very **important issue** that needs to be addressed in Study Area 23 is the **wildlife!** By the way some of which are protected species! Have we all forgotten the "California" quail, wild turkey, pheasant, BOTH red and grey fox, deer, owl, and myriad of other wild life, song birds and bees **that live in harmony with our rural farms, gardens, orchards and grazing lands?** What are we thinking?

One last word concerning valley air pollution, which increases with each passing year, this is no secret. Trees, and orchards and living green entities help digest some of this choking film that hangs in the air. Most don't see it, but from Oroville's damn looking across the valley floor it is very evident and concerning, as the views of the coastal range increasingly disappears.

In Kelly Ridge, from Kelly Ridge Road at the corner of Olive Highway, the oak was clear cut. This scar of clear cutting, done before building permits were secured, lies there naked and washing away, a daily reminder of poor planning? What are we thinking?

Again please consider these concerns and know I will do all at my disposal to insure that the issue of the County General plan being prepared considers **all that is treasured about the East Foothills, Study area 23, and as Principle 8 was drawn.** This needs to be brought up for public input, and committee review, before we leave out some important considerations of the ramifications in the apparent oversights of these "Unique Farmlands, and their variety of bounty! Let's think about this please.

Best Regards,



Pamela Leis

**Breedon, Dan**

---

**From:** M S [mike.shorrock@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2008 9:49 PM  
**To:** Breedon, Dan  
**Cc:** mms  
**Subject:** Input on General Plan Study area 23 (east Oroville area)

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

April 29, 2008

**Subject:** Study Area 23 (east Oroville Foothills)  
Agricultural land omissions

Dear Mr. Breedon:

I am writing to express my concerns about the flawed study of our area that left out the significant component of agricultural lands. I can not understand how this oversight occurred but I am confident in the system that allows members of the community to input into the importance of agriculture as economic aspect to be protected, promoted and enhanced.

I have been a resident of Butte County for over 36 years and moved to the east Oroville Foothills over 20 years ago in a large part because of its rural and agricultural makeup. The thousand of acres of unique farmland of county/statewide importance and grazing lands is a critical and irreplaceable asset that must be protected under the general plan.

The citrus, grape, and olive crops in my neighborhood produce and distribute products world wide and attract business and interest in the county of Butte. The impact of potentially reducing these acres could be dramatic and catastrophic to the county and are in direct conflict with principle 8, agriculture of the Butte Co. general plan 2030 guiding principles.

In addition, as a career fire fighter with the state and county for over thirty five years I can personally attest to the reduction in large damaging fires due to the agricultural element in the east Oroville foothills. Many fire starts, progression and threats have been eliminated or reduced as a result of these agricultural green belts between urban sprawl. It would increase risks to our safety, citizen's property /life threats along with air and water quality issues by fire if agricultural lands are not identified and protected.

Thank you for the opportunity for input in order to protect our Counties valuable, unique and productive agricultural lands

Sincerely,

Michael M. Shorrock  
1310 Mount Ida Road  
Oroville, CA 95966  
[Mike.shorrock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Mike.shorrock@sbcglobal.net)

CC: Supervisor Connely

5/1/2008

144 Grey Fox Lane  
Oroville, CA 95966  
April 29, 2008

BUTTE  
COUNTY  
APR 29 2008  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES

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

Re: Butte County General Plan

Dear Mr. Breedon:

We are very alarmed to just find out about a possible change in our "Study Area 23" designated, if I understand it correctly, due to oversight that no lands of agricultural importance were recognized in this area. We feel that this oversight MUST be corrected.

We are very unhappy that we were not aware of the possibly of a change of designation as we did not receive any mail in this regard. We feel that the county has an obligation to directly inform affected residents of hearings to give them an opportunity to respond in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, we missed any newspaper announcements.

We have owned property at this location since 1957 and have lived here since 1960 and our children have had the opportunity of owning horses due to the rural nature of the area. A number of our neighbors over the years have had 4-H livestock projects that would not be possible in a high density neighborhoods. We are most unhappy that gradually, this area could not support these kind of activities and agricultural businesses.

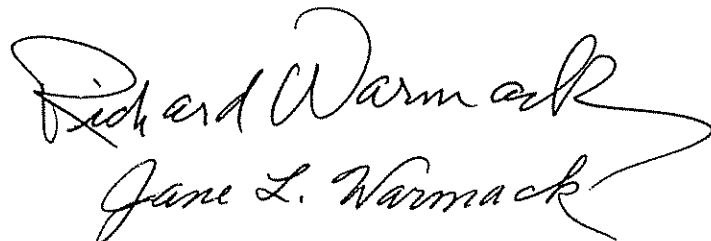
This foothill area has and has had orange, mandarin, olive, almond orchards and several vineyards. It also has a weather pattern and soil that is conducive to citrus and grape cultivation, being in general somewhat warmer in winter and cooler in summer than at lower elevations.

It is a concern that when designations that allow for high density housing to surround and permeate agricultural areas in Butte County will, at an excellerated pace, lose all it's farm/ orchard business and change forever the character of the area and the reason people are drawn to Butte County. We have always been agreeable to residential parcels no smaller than one acre.

Dense housing developments in agricultural areas have let to the demise of many valley farming communities and forced farming out of California. We hope that does not happen here.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard and Jane Warmack



Richard Warmack  
Jane L. Warmack

Patricia Healy  
1361 Mt. Howard Rd.  
Oroville, CA 95966

BUTTE  
COUNTY  
APR 30 2008  
DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICES

April 29, 2008

To: Dan Breedon, Planner  
Department of Development  
Services

I am writing this letter in regard to Study Area 23 (East Oroville Foothills). It was stated in the County General Plan, being formulated, that no lands of agricultural importance were recognized in this area. The oversight was acknowledged, and it was found that there were 580 acres of "Unique Farmland", 65 acres of "Farmland of Statewide Importance", and 1465 acres of "Grazing Land". This, indeed, is an unregrettable and, hopefully, correctable oversight.

Small-scale agriculture is very viable, and should continue to be important in the Mt. Hood area. Citrus orchards, olive groves, vineyards, and fields for grazing cattle are unique and extremely productive areas in the foothills, and are irreplaceable lands.

I have supported these industries for the last twenty-some years and hope that these commodities will continue to be available for future generations. The products from these orchards on Mt. Hood Ed. have a large-scale economic impact on many diverse activities — the farmer's market, local family-run markets, the local grower, and the local consumer who doesn't have to purchase overseas or other-country products. This minimizes long-distance transportation of fresh produce and emphasizes local fresh produce.

To allow the sale of viable agricultural land to allow small-lot subdivisions in the outlying areas of Mt. Sho Rd. would jeopardize local businesses. All "unique farmland", "agricultural lands" of statewide importance, and most of the "grazing land" should be kept agricultural in this portion of the new General Plan. The areas should be defined by demonstrated agricultural use and potential, not by arbitrary map lines. Please do not allow the oversight of agricultural lands in the foothills to escape your attention.

Sincerely,

Patricia Healy

(530) 589-2929

