

Stuart, Claudia

From: Jeff Carter [jeff@carterwendell.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 10:24 AM
To: Stuart, Claudia
Subject: RE: Butte County General Plan 2030: May 1, 2008 CAC Meeting

Claudia, I am out of town 1 and 2 May and so will be unable to attend. Not that it matters, but I am satisfied with the decisions reached in the first three meetings and would recommend forwarding them to the commission. Jeff

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-----Original Message-----

From: Stuart, Claudia [mailto:CStuart@buttecounty.net]
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2008 5:12 PM
To: Breedon, Dan
Cc: Snellings, Tim; Calarco, Pete; Thistlethwaite, Charles; hkeeler@ci.chico.ca.us; speterson@ci.chico.ca.us; Scott Friend; Andrea; cdpw-director@cityoforoville.org; amcgreehan@townofparadise.com; joanna@dceplanning.com; David Early; Tanya Sundberg; Lisa@dceplanning.com; raylworth@chicoer.com; news@khs1tv.com; news@knvn.com; brutte@krcrtv.com; newsroom@paradisepost.com; editor@gridleyherald.com; evant@newsreview.com; cbiano@orovillemr.com; Dolan, Jane; Kirk, Maureen; Connelly, Bill; Josiassen, Curt; Yamaguchi, Kim; Moghannam, Kathleen
Subject: Butte County General Plan 2030: May 1, 2008 CAC Meeting

Greetings Citizens Advisory Committee Members

I am forwarding the following information for the Thursday May 1, 2008 CAC meeting on behalf of Principal Planner Dan Breedon:

Documents for the May 1, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The purpose of the May 1, 2008 CAC meeting will be to develop final CAC recommendations for a preferred land use alternative for Butte County General Plan 2030. The meeting will be held at the Butte College Campus Center Cafeteria, 3536 Butte Campus Drive, Oroville, from 5:00 pm to 9:15 pm. Attached are the following materials for your review before the meeting. Please note that these materials will be provided as part of the agenda packet at the meeting:

1. May 1, 2008 CAC Meeting Agenda

2. Outcomes of the April 10, 17, and 24 CAC meetings (1 file). (These notes are summarized; more detailed notes from the April CAC meetings will be provided to the Planning Commission at their May 9 meeting.)
3. Memorandum correcting errata for the May 1 meeting (pertaining to Study Area 17 – 1 file)
4. Additional comment letters received after the April meetings (3 files)
5. Scanned Public Comment Cards from the April 10, 17, and 24 meetings (3 files)

The May 1 meeting will be your final opportunity to evaluate your work toward a preferred land use alternative, and refine your recommendations to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Should you need further information about development trends in the County, you may wish to review Chapter 4: Development Trends in the *Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report*. This chapter provides useful information about projected growth and development patterns across the County, including development trends around its incorporated areas. For the County's updated information on land use development applications, an interactive map is posted at http://bc-gis-ims-01/interactivemaps/website/land_applications/viewer.htm.

You may also wish to visit the Butte County General Plan 2030 homepage at <http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/>. Here you can find the *Setting and Trends Report*, the *Land Use Alternatives Evaluation Report*, agenda packages and other documents from previous CAC meetings, the General Plan 2030 Guiding Principles, and other helpful background information.

Please feel free to arrive early at the Butte College Campus Center on May 1, as food will be placed out at 4:45 pm. Should you have any questions about the upcoming meeting, or problems with opening any of the attached files, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you.

Claudia Stuart
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Breedon, Dan

From: Breedon, Dan
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 8:15 AM
To: Anderson, John; Bayles, Donna; Bellin, Georgie (Ann) M.; Black, William A; Bougie, Jason; Burch, Calli-Jane; Carter, John Jeffery; Coon, Richard; Evans, Michael; Fisher, Emily; Fowler, Scott Kent; Giezentanner, Tovey; Ginter, Helene; Hackett, Allen, L; Hall, Todd; Hamman, Brian; Harman Gossal; Jernigan, Allan Lowell; Kettell, Scarlett Sharon; Kienzle, William; Lambert, Steve; Leyden, Kate; McClintock, Bruce; McNall, Scott G; Miller, Edward M; Pina, Raquelana Mani; Rodowick, Steve; Rushing, Anthony (Tony) Wayne; Sevelius, Pia; Smith, Doug; Weissenborn, Michael; Wheeler, Kari
Cc: Breedon, Dan; Calarco, Pete; Claudia Stuart; David Early; Joanna Jansen; Lisa katz; Snellings, Tim; Tanya Sundberg; Thistlethwaite, Charles
Subject: FW: Water Background for Butte County General Plan

Citizens Advisory Committee Members,

The email below was requested to be forwarded to you by Citizens Advisory Committee member Donna Bayles. It will also be provided to you in the packet of comments that will be provided at the May 1, 2008 Meeting at Butte College Cafeteria, which is tomorrow, Thursday from 4:45 -- 9:00 pm.

Dan Breedon, AICP, Principal Planner

Butte County Department of Development Services Advance Planning Section
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 Butte County General Plan 2030 Website: www.buttegeneralplan.net

From: Donna [mailto:donna@bayliss-ranch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 2:52 AM
To: Breedon, Dan
Subject: Water Background for Butte County General Plan

Dear Dan, Would you please email the following to our CAC committee today. Thanks, Donna

At the last meeting, the question regarding Chico's use of groundwater gave me a "thirst" for more knowledge. The following question resulted in some interesting facts.

What happened in 2006 causing Chico to go to groundwater...essentially, why do Glenn Colusa Irrigation District actions affect Chico?

Generally, **groundwater enters the aquifer on the east side of the valley.**

It slowly **moves vertically, and horizontally into the valley in a southwesterly direction.** We now know that the Lower Tuscan Aquifer extends under the Sac River and under Glenn Colusa Irrigation District. The GCID straw is in the same aquifer as most of Butte County). There are other shallower aquifer layers, but they are smaller and not the supply for most water users or for the State/Federal plans for increased water supply exports.

The City of Chico is served by **CalWater....a for profit company.** (As an appropriator, it is unlikely they challenge the ag water districts.) CalWater's records **show a decline in groundwater levels averaging 1 ft a year for the last 20-40 years.** What does this mean? It means there is more water

being extracted from the Lower Tuscan Aquifer (section under Chico) than is being replenished (rate of recharge and extraction don't match.) This is **generally the definition of "overdraft"**. There are lots of reasons why water districts don't want this "overdraft" term applied...specifically, because management protections can be enforced. This can impact their business opportunities. By enlarging the groundwater evaluation frame of reference one can say the declines are a fluke. Others say this is just the canary in the mine...hinting at problems to come.

If water extractions to the west of Chico (in Glenn Co.) exceed water movement rates, then Chico will experience even more dropping water tables due to the compounding of their (Chico) extraction rates and those on the west side....Remember for the last 75+ yrs GCID lands didn't use groundwater and Chico still had declining groundwater levels. So, it can only get worse given the changes in water management in the last 15 yrs....Just how fast will this happen? People don't know.

It is reasonable to conclude that extractions from the same aquifer (Lower Tuscan) will further impact these declines -though it may take years to show up due to the slow time frame of water movement horizontally and vertically through the Lower Tuscan Aquifer... By the time people will have to admit to the dropping water tables, we may be well behind the curve (perhaps 10 to 100 yrs more impacts to come even if we change our pumping for sale)...maybe beyond the tipping point of no return.

According to a **study done by Lawrence Livermore Labs, the water extracted on the Westside (Glenn-Colusa) is 20,000+ yrs old...the estimate is 20,000 yrs old on the eastern side of the Sac river.** (from the lower Tuscan Aquifer) Water on the eastern edge of the valley (about 1 mile west of the foothill springs etc.) is perhaps only 50 yrs old.

Just a note...the San Joaquin's aquifer was at least 3 x the size of the Sac Valley aquifer and they were able to deplete it (cause the water levels to drop to where it caused ground levels the sink. Other impacts of this "subsidence" are: underground and foundation structures break, roads crack, and water quality drops as well as increased costs to reach any water) This happened in less than one generation.

A groundwater depression under Durham has joined with the depression under Chico. I take this to mean that the recent additional stresses on the aquifer are expanding their impacts over time. As of Spring 2008, there are now **14 monitoring wells in "Stage 2 Alert Levels" in Butte County's monitoring grid. ("Stage 3" triggers potential shut-offs for agriculture).** The Water Department is floating the balloon of just moving the protection levels (alert stage levels) to greater depths. Once we start ratcheting our water levels down, we are accepting overdraft..."reaching a new equilibrium".

Interpreting this change in groundwater is complicated by the long time frame of the water movement. There is plausible deniability for pumpers and the State Water Contractors (DWR) who want additional water artificially added to the water system of the State. The local declining trend is showing up...Some say it is just because we've had a few dry years. Many say it is part of a bigger trend of increased demand depleting groundwater changing availability for the environment and people in this region.

We can anticipate more of these declines due to loss of snowpack patterns (global warming) which slowly released winter precipitation to recharge aquifers in the past. Fast rain run-off will further reduce the potential for groundwater recharge.

Linda Cole
see earlier email for GAMA Report text supporting the age dating.