

Gary & Jeanne Cecchi  
90 Grey Fox Lane  
Oroville, CA 95965  
530-589-0991  
[jeannececchi@comcast.net](mailto:jeannececchi@comcast.net)

May 30, 2008

Butte County Planning Commission  
7 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965

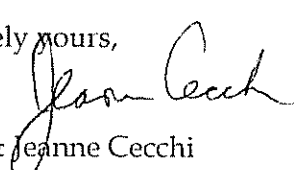
Re: Butte County General Plan Study Area 23 – Consideration of  
Agricultural Lands

As owners of Grey Fox Vineyards in Oroville, we are concerned about the designation and protection of the Unique Farmlands in Area 23. We are part of the growing group of farms belonging to the Sierra Oro Farm Trail Passport Weekend. This agri-tourism group is in its infancy (2008 is the third Annual) and growing in popularity with the public. **To designate existing Ag land for "Other Uses" will have a negative impact.** An Agricultural designation will protect Ag land potential and allow this agri-tourism a chance to grow.

**The viability of our relatively small farms stems from the fact that we co-exist with the community BECAUSE of the low density housing.** If Ag land is designated for "Other Uses" the small farms and rural atmosphere will disappear as Ag water gets disrupted and farms are unable to perform Ag activities due to housing congestion. Area 23 has many viable, unique and diverse farm activities (groves, vineyards, pumpkin farms, orchards, berry farms, etc.) that don't show up on any map and that is what attracts people – the small, unique, family-owned farms laced within the foothills along winding country roads.

The General Plan specifically designated and used the word "Unique" to call attention to the significance and importance of our Ag lands. To designate it for "Other Uses" makes it ordinary and susceptible to complete disappearance to over development and incompatible uses. **We would like to see the Committee respect that designation as Ag land and protect adjoining areas with a rural residential designation compatible with Ag use.** This would show compliance with Guideline 8 of the General Plan – that is to "protect, maintain, promote and enhance" Area 23's agricultural lands.

Sincerely yours,

  
Gary & Jeanne Cecchi