

**April 14, 2008 Open Public Meeting:
Water Policy, Optional Elements, and the Format of the General Plan**

On April 14, staff from the Departments of Development Services and Water and Resource Conservation hosted an open public meeting to discuss water resources, optional elements, and the format of the General Plan. The meeting was organized in order to learn more about public interest in policies and optional elements to be potentially included in the General Plan, and to help organize the June 5 CAC preliminary meeting on the format and organization of the General Plan.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, which was held at the Chico City Council Chambers building in downtown Chico. Participants included five members of the General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee, Harrel Wilson, Chair of the Butte County Planning Commission, and Susan Strachan of the Butte County Water Commission. County Supervisor Jane Dolan was also present at the meeting.

Development Services Director Tim Snellings opened the discussion with an overview of the meeting goals, as well as information about state Office of Planning and Research guidelines regarding general plan format, content, and organization. Paul Gosselin, Director, and Vickie Newlin, Assistant Director of the Department of Water and Resource Conservation, summarized the County's approach to water resource management and information development. Principal Planner Dan Breedon then outlined how the General Plan 2030 process has addressed water-related issues through the present, and how upcoming steps in the process will continue to address water issues.

Principal Planner Claudia Stuart facilitated the second half of the meeting, which provided an opportunity for members of the public to bring up questions, issues, policies, and optional elements of concern to them. A majority of meeting participants expressed support for a water element, and for the continued development of data and modeling appropriate to manage water resources. Several others identified the need for youth-oriented policies in the General Plan, to address needs and opportunities relevant to the County's youth population. Interest in an agricultural element was also brought up. Participants provided suggestions for speakers at the June 5 meeting, as well as specific issues and potential policies to be addressed during the General Plan update. Tim Snellings closed the meeting with an overview of preparations for the June 5 CAC meeting.