

COMMENT CARD

Special Meeting: The Format of the General Plan

June 5, 2008

Please note that all information provided on this comment card will be entered into the public record. Name, affiliation, and contact information are optional.

Name: LINDA COLE

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: COLEWATERINFO@Yahoo.com

IS IT REASONABLE TO HAVE GUIDANCE IN SEEKING
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH - DEGREE OF CERTAINTY

My Comments:

BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF WATER RIGHTS &
JURISDICTIONS OVERLYING A COMMON AQUIFER
WE NEED TO BREAK OUT A SPECIFIC WATER ELEMENT,
FED, STATE, NATIVE WATERS, RIPARIAN, SETTLEMENT
CONTRACTORS, COUNTY POLICE POWERS, GROUNDWATER
ENVIRONMENTAL HABITATS, AREA OF ORIGIN WATERS
NOW DRAUGHT WATER BANKS, EMERGENCY
PROJ. WATER MARKETS, ENVIRONMENTAL WATER REPLACEMENT
GROUNDWATER SYSTEMS MAY NOT BE RESTORED
TO THEIR DELIVERY CAPACITIES ONCE MISMANAGED
UNLIKE OTHER "REQUIRED ELEMENTS"

WE NEED TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUITY OVER TIME,
REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL APPTS PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO RETAIN
A SAFETY MARGIN - BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO PROVIDE FOR
SUSTAINABLE CRITERIA BOTH FOR LOCAL & STATE INTERESTS
X REFERENCE WATER ISSUES AS THEY MAY BE APPLIED IN
REQUIRED ELEMENTS TO ADDRESS ARGUMENTS ABOUT
INCONSISTANCIES.

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Name: Carol Burr

Affiliation: League of Women Voters

Address: 4798 Songbird

Phone/Email: cburr@csuchico.edu

My Comments:

The governor has just announced a statewide drought & called for voluntary conservation. Our water is going to be increasingly in demand and deserves priority over "country character." Other elements should be built around our most precious resource. Sonoma - primarily a water importer - has a water element. As suppliers with a central agricultural economic basis, we must have a water element.

All the elements are interlocking, so one could justify no elements, only large generalizations about the ways policies interrelate, issues bump into each other. Redundancy is preferable to a lack of specificity. Any work we develop with other counties will be stronger if we have a separate element that lays out our bottom lines.

Friday, June 06, 2008 (file cac118)

To: Dan Breedon

Fr: Ed Miller

Subj: General plan organization, framing debate, CAC Group size and water conservation

Ref A: Alex Wilson, Your green home, a guide to planning a healthy environmentally friendly new home, new society publishing, 2006

Background: The meeting last night (June 5) at Chico State focused on the three approaches to meeting the coverage requirements dictated by the State. As a contributor/user of the general plan I could probably live with any of the three approaches (strict 7 elements, groups incorporating the 7 elements plus options and functional chapters that incorporate the 7 elements and options driven by local priorities). Offhand I am intrigued by the Functional Chapter approach as represented by the Humboldt County Draft general plan given that we can arrive at a consensus on the chapter headings. In a larger sense this is a semantic and cross indexing concern where the grunt labor in assembling the general plan should be driven by efficient use of the material by primary governing users and developers. The chapter approach appears to be more community controversial since focus is likely to be limited and implied priorities may be difficult to resolve. We were urged by the members of the panel to avoid numeric goals that can create litigious/polarizing effects. Constitutional and policy portions of the general plan hopefully will evolve over time but an antiseptic study separation may need to be examined as an issue in its own right. The grouping of CAC members and professional staff needs to be examined recognizing the need for transparency and in some cases confidentiality. One panel member had used a group of 3 citizen advisors. Small groups of this size may concentrate background/skills but there may be transparency/bias issues. If the goal of the CAC group is merely to bubble up issues and evaluate benefits, hopefully a variable group study size would be beneficial subject to review by larger citizen groups and governmental entities.

I try to keep track in some depth the fields of Geoscience/ remote sensing, and Power/Energy since this is my background. As a naïve observer outside of these fields, I am intrigued by the overarching concept of sustainability and water conservation in particular. Ref A is a good example of the general literature I find helpful in putting my shoulder to the wheel as an individual stakeholder in Butte County. The tone of the questions from the public at the June 5 meeting and the current drought emergency restrictions established by the governor make water conservation/growth driven by water requirements a hot topic. The following approaches to water conservation come to mind that need to be evaluated in terms of life cost and the unique setting of Butte County.

1. Pressure assisted and manually controlled toilets
2. Composting toilets
3. Shower heads using venturi design
4. Foot/knee/presence sensor control of faucets

5. Use of minimal size cross linked polyethylene hot water lines with switchable recirculation to minimize water losses.
6. Front loading horizontal washers to minimize water usage
7. Xeriscaping with drought tolerant native plants to minimize irrigation requirements
8. Use of drip irrigation based on water availability to fine roots or rain cutoff control
9. Separation of grey water per the California State plumbing code dated 1994
10. Addition of grey water plumbing and surge tanks for irrigation
11. Wetland/sand filter clean up of wastewater nutrients.
12. Rainwater/cistern storage of water
13. Stormwater recharge maximization by minimizing impermeable surfaces and creation of formal subsurface recharge structures.
14. Optimal use of irrigation controllers based on short and long term evaprimeter/exotic sensing
15. Reporting of static sub-surface saturation and draw down of wells particularly during critical late summer/fall depletion periods subject to confidentiality agreements.
16. Optimal sizing of water storage tanks/electronically commutated joggle pumps for demand shaving, economical truck/neighbor water sharing and WUI service
17. Flow rate monitoring to detect system leakage and beneficial usage
18. Formal storage ponds for inter-seasonal irrigation and or ground water recharge
19. Monitoring of vegetative stress
20. Mapping of geologic structures that can support water storage using DC resistive/non-contacting AC/ground radar/acoustic measurements at depths compatible with economic pumping

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MEMORANDUM

To: Butte County Planner – Dan Breden

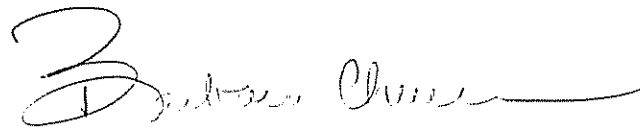
From: BCOE-Community Developer – Jana Wilson

Date: June 5, 2008

RE: Butte County General Plan Special Meeting June 5, 2008

Dear Mr. Breden please find enclosed materials per Mrs. Jana Wilson, and Commissioner Harrell Wilson. They have been called away for a family emergency and will not be able to attend the Butte County General Plan Meeting tonight. I believe that Commissioner Wilson has left you a voice mail regarding my delivery of these documents to you.

Sincerely,



Barbara R. Church
Sr. Secretary
BCOE-Partners In Health & Safety

BUTTE
COUNTY

JUN 05 2008

DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES

6/5/08 SUGGESTED YOUTH POLICIES
SHOWN UNDER: "OTHER"

POLICY ALTERNATIVES BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030 November 27, 2007
Youth Development Element Draft

As Butte County updates its General Plan, a series of policy statements for topics such as land use and rural development, transportation, agricultural preservation, and economic development will be developed. During Meeting Series #1, and in the first two meetings in Meeting Series #2/3, a series of policy questions were identified, and ideas were put forth about how these questions should be resolved through the General Plan Update. These ideas were refined and condensed into a list of policy questions and solutions, focusing on those where there was both a high level of community concern and a broad range of suggestions and ideas. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed this list on September 6, 2007, the Planning Commission reviewed it on October 11, 2007, and the Board of Supervisors reviewed it on November 27, 2007. This document presents the most recent set of policy questions and solutions based on the Board's direction. These policy ideas will set the framework for the more extensive and detailed goals and policies development that will occur during Meeting Series #5.

Urban Growth Boundaries and Community Separators

1. Should the County implement additional or modify existing urban growth boundaries, and if so, how?

- Work with the City of Chico to maintain the Chico Greenline.
- Work with the City of Oroville to develop an urban growth boundary for Oroville.
- Work with the Town of Paradise to develop an urban growth boundary for Paradise.
- Work with the City of Biggs to develop an urban growth boundary for Biggs.
- Work with the City of Gridley to develop an urban growth boundary for Gridley.
- Work with unincorporated communities to develop urban growth boundaries.
- Work with the Cities of Gridley and Biggs to create a community separator between Gridley and Biggs.
- Involve the community in any discussions about modifications to existing urban growth boundaries through workshops and meetings.
- Follow the initiative process for the creation of urban growth boundaries, allowing the public to vote on the matter.
- Other _____

2. What modifications, if any, should be made to the Chico Area Greenline, which establishes a boundary between urban and agricultural uses in the area west of Chico?

- Adjust the Greenline to follow natural boundaries, such as creeks.
- Change the Greenline from a line to a 300-foot buffer area, located on the urban side of the existing Greenline.
- Establish the pattern of development within the Greenline.
- The Greenline should not be modified.
- Other _____

3. How should the County address land uses around the Neal Road Landfill?

- Investigate opportunities for the Landfill to improve and expand as necessary.
- Identify land use types that are appropriate near the Landfill.
- Other _____

New Development and Housing

4. How should the County improve the design and architectural quality of new development?

- Collaborate on planning and building within the Spheres of Influence, and ensure that services are available prior to approving new development.
- Work with the Butte County Association of Governments to coordinate development and conservation activities with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).
- Coordinate planning efforts with those of special districts and school districts.
- Other: 1) Collaborate with existing community coalitions and Children's Services Coordination Council's Strategic Plans regarding positive youth development and prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts to reduce alcohol, tobacco, and drug use as well as violence. 2) Collaborate with the Local Childcare Planning Council to ensure adequate pre-school education opportunities.

Agriculture

7. What, if any modifications are needed to General Plan Program 2.2 (the Agricultural Buffers policy, which requires a buffer to be established on property proposed for residential development in order to protect, maintain, promote and enhance agricultural uses and resources)?

- Refine buffer requirements to correspond to different agricultural zoning districts.
- Refine buffer requirements based on natural site features and the type of agricultural use.
- There is no need to amend Program 2.2.
- Other _____

8. How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its agricultural uses and resources?

- Require developers to pay an impact fee or conduct other mitigation when agricultural land is converted to nonagricultural uses, which would fund programs to protect farmland elsewhere in the County.
- Work with regional agencies to develop a transfer of development rights program that would allow agricultural landowners to sell the rights to develop their land to urban landowners, who would get the right to develop their properties at higher densities than normally allowed under base zoning.
- Work with a land trust, such as the Northern California Regional Trust, Butte County Agriculture and Farmland Trust, or similar organization that can permanently protect farmland in Butte County through conservation easements with on-going payments, as well as one-time payments.
- Encourage the development of niche and specialty agriculture, such as organic products, heritage livestock, and heirloom crops.
- Reduce County-imposed fees and taxes for agricultural properties.
- Work to establish a sales tax that would fund open space and agricultural lands protection.
- Continue to work with landowners in establishing new and maintaining existing Williamson Act contracts.
- Develop a watershed management plan for Butte County.
- Work with the Cities to establish and collect mitigation fees for farmland conversion.
- The County should not help to conserve and enhance its agricultural resources.
- Other _____

9. How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its timber uses and resources?

- Develop stronger protections for important timber harvesting areas through changes in zoning.
- Work to develop timber harvesting as a sustainable resource.
- The County should not help to conserve and enhance its timber resources.
- Other _____

13. How should the County protect and enhance its network of scenic highways and/or create additional scenic highways?

- Designate additional scenic highways in the County.
- No new scenic highways should be designated in Butte County.
- Develop additional design guidelines for development located along scenic highways, such as building setbacks, heights and footprints, as well as landscaping standards.
- Strictly regulate signage, including prohibitions on installation of billboards along scenic highways.
- Remove existing billboards along scenic highways.
- Clearly identify scenic highways on maps and through appropriate signage.
- Enhance the County's Scenic Highway zoning classification to provide for additional protection.
- Provide flexibility regarding the size and shape of the Scenic Highway Zone.
- Ensure private property rights are protected while enhancing scenic highways.
- Other: _____

Trails

14. How should the General Plan address recreational trails facilities, in the County?

- Conduct a countywide trails study to identify new needed routes and connections to the existing trails network.
- Work with the cities to provide connections between trails in incorporated and unincorporated Butte County.
- Designate additional trails along unpaved County roads and fire roads.
- Pursue development of railroad right-of-way, levee tops, utility easements and waterways for new trails.
- Develop additional equestrian trails, including safe routes along roads.
- Other: Include youth input in the development of plans

Natural Resources and Habitat

15. How should the General Plan address preservation of important habitat areas, including riparian (river and stream) corridors, oak woodlands and deer migration routes?

- Utilize conservation easements to protect habitat areas and corridors
- Encourage clustered development in areas of known sensitive habitat and deer migration areas.
- Require 100-foot setbacks and buffers for new development along riparian corridors and adjacent to sensitive habitat.
- Provide incentives to developers to preserve important habitat areas.
- Penalize developers who remove special status species from a site prior to submitting an application for development.
- Develop a heritage tree ordinance that protects significant specimen trees and tree groves.
- Create guidelines for evaluating project impacts to habitat, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified.
- Coordinate with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).
- Coordinate with federal and State agencies that protect natural resources to ensure that their input is received in a timely manner.
- Coordinate with the cities and other jurisdictions on natural resources and habitat planning.
- Coordinate with federal and State agencies, as well as private landowners, to promote fuel/fire management and watershed management.
- Use the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) Scientific Panel's studies on habitat corridors in habitat planning.
- Establish a minimum percentage of habitat mitigation that must occur within Butte County.

- Increase development fees to fund road maintenance.
- Create additional assessment districts to fund road maintenance.
- Assess road capacity and ensure it is adequate prior to approval of new development.
- Design roads to have a rural character.
- Other _____

20. How should the General Plan address bicycle issues?

- Work with BCAG to implement new bike facilities identified in the 1998 Bicycle Master Plan, including new facilities (see also Figure 5 of the Land Use and Transportation Alternatives, *Transportation Alternatives – Bicycle Improvements*):
 - o Along River Road, Chico River Road and Old Humboldt Road in the Chico Area.
 - o Along Skyway, Neal Road, Pentz Road, and Midway to connect Chico with Paradise and Durham.
 - o Along Table Mountain Boulevard, Larkin Road, Gridley-Colusa Highway, Olive Highway, and Miners Ranch Road.
- Create and maintain a countywide map of bicycle routes and facilities.
- Seek local, State and federal funding for new bicycle facilities.
- Require new development to provide bicycle facilities.
- Ensure new bicycle routes and paths create a safe bicycle environment.
- Require new bicycle lanes to be clearly demarcated from the roadway and 5 to 7 feet in width.
- Other: Establish a committee of youth to provide input and conduct bicycle safety education.

21. How can the County help decrease reliance on automobile travel?

- Support walkable and mixed use neighborhoods that provide shopping, services and jobs near to housing.
- Provide sidewalks in urban areas.
- Encourage residential development near job centers.
- Encourage satellite retail areas to reduce the need for trips from rural to urban areas.
- Require new neighborhoods and subdivisions to utilize a connected grid, or modified grid pattern of streets including short block lengths.
- Support better public transportation to rural areas of the county, including expanded service geographically and more frequent buses at key times of the day.
- Support improved bus service to major cities and destinations outside of Butte County.
- Support improved connections to other regional transportation services such as rail and regional/national bus lines.
- Work to find areas in need of infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Establish “slow streets,” alternative routes to fast roadways that utilize signs and physical barriers to slow down traffic.
- Encourage carpooling and telecommuting through employer incentives and the allowance of carpool pickup and park and ride locations.
- Encourage carpooling among County employees.
- Other: 1) Support bus services that provide low cost bus service to youth centers, youth serving organizations and agencies as well as special events 2) Establish a youth committee to provide input and education campaigns to promote bus use.

22. How should the County ensure that the infrastructure needs of new development are met?

- Increase development fees so that needed infrastructure is adequately funded.
- Require new development to provide its own infrastructure in conjunction with its each project as it is built.

26. How can the County most effectively limit land use conflicts around its airports?

- Revise the General Plan to match the adopted Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- Encourage the Airport Land Use Commission to consider revising the minimum density requirements in some compatibility zones.
- Impose stricter regulations on the amount of residential growth occurring near the county's airports.
- No changes are needed with regard to land use around the county's airports.
- Other: _____

Economic Development

27. How should the County seek to improve the local economy, attract higher wage jobs, and improve its fiscal health?

- Create a countywide Economic Development Strategy that identifies key sectors for business expansion in the county and programs to achieve that expansion.
- Create a County-level economic development function.
- Partner with educational institutions and businesses to develop flexible Research & Development and incubator space in the county.
- Develop a program to retain all of Butte County's best and brightest as county residents.
- Provide additional support for local Chambers of Commerce and organizations that support small businesses.
- Promote local tourism and visitor-oriented recreation through more aggressive marketing programs.
- Promote the agricultural sector through adoption of various policies (see question 9).
- Promote sustainable business and the development of new economic opportunities related to renewable energy.
- Work with the cities to establish revenue-sharing agreements.
- Conduct a workforce study to determine whether the County needs different businesses or employee base.
- Other: 1) Acknowledge that the Youth of Butte County are a valuable resource. 2) Collaborate with prevention and youth serving organizations to continue and expand opportunities to build positive youth capacities including job training, vocational training, and life skills to support healthy decision making as an investment in the future Butte County job force. 3) Support intervention and treatment services for at risk youth at the earliest age possible.

Green Building

28. How should the County encourage the development of sustainable communities and energy-efficient and cost-savings buildings?

- Expand General Plan policies to include green building principles.
- Provide incentives for the construction of green buildings.
- Require developers to give homebuyers the option of having solar paneling incorporated into new homes.
- Encourage solar-oriented design in new residential development.
- Encourage new development to provide above-ground and natural stormwater facilities.
- Require that new development meet the guidelines of the California Energy Star New Homes program by exceeding the State standards for energy efficiency by at least 15 percent.
- Require all new public buildings to adhere to green building standards.
- Review zoning ordinance and building codes to allow for energy efficient technologies so long as they do not conflict with other goals in the General Plan.