



**TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors**

**FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director**

**SUBJECT: June 10, 2008 Progress Report #34 on Butte County General Plan 2030**

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This memo is the 34<sup>th</sup> in a series of updates provided to the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of each meeting to assist Board members in staying apprised of the progress on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

I have the following to report concerning progress on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process:

**1. June 5, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting on General Plan 2030 Organization**

The June 05, 2008 Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting took place at the Bell Memorial Union at Chico State University from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and was attended by 15 Citizens Advisory Committee members and approximately 23 members of the public. Planning Commissioners Chuck Nelson and Nina Lambert also attended. The meeting started with Director of Development Services Tim Snellings providing a meeting overview and introducing the structure of Butte County General Plan 2030, the possible grouping of Elements, Policies, and Programs/Actions. Chuck Thistlethwaite, Planning Manager, provided a review of 3 different General Plan styles (Shasta, Inyo and Marin Counties) and demonstrating how they structured their documents.

This was followed by a Panel Discussion moderated by Assistant Director Pete Calarco. The panel included an overview of the CA Office of Planning & Research General Plan Guideline's perspective on General Plan Elements presented by Scott Morgan, Senior Planner with the Governor's Office of Planning & Research. He pointed out that 'there's not a right way or a wrong way to organize a General Plan. Each county should decide what's appropriate for them...it is a local decision.'

This was followed by a report by Bob Gaiser, Planner with Sonoma County. He reviewed Sonoma's experience with a recent General Plan Update which included the addition of a

Water Element. Joanna Jansen, Senior Associate with Butte County's lead General Plan consulting firm DC&E provided a consultant's perspective of General Plan formats/outlines and their pros/cons. This was followed by questions from the CAC and the public of the panel.

After the break, the meeting continued with a discussion by both the CAC and public regarding optional elements. This was facilitated by Joanna Jansen. She discussed the DRAFT outline for Butte County General Plan 2030 that was provided as part of their contract with Butte County. This led to a discussion about specific elements, both consolidation strategies and additional optional elements. In the end, the CAC voted to do the following:

- Highlight Community Character, Youth Development and Sustainability in the Vision
- Add an optional Water Element
- Add an optional Economic Development Element
- As included in the DRAFT, keep an optional Agricultural Element
- As included in the DRAFT, keep an optional Community Character Element
- Combine the Safety & Noise Elements into a Health & Safety Element
- As included in the DRAFT, combine the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Elements into one Element

This recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission at one of their upcoming regular meetings for their review and input. From there, it will move forward to the Board of Supervisors during a regular Board meeting as a part of the Department of Development Services General Plan report. During Workshop Series #5, this set of Elements will serve as the "container" for Goals & Policies developed during that Meeting Series. Also, during Workshop Series #5, we will explore logical groupings of the various Elements in an effort to provide more clarity in our new General Plan. Our goal is that Butte County General Plan 2030 will be a legally strong, clear and easy to read Policy Level document. More information on the June 5, 2008 CAC meeting is available on the Butte County General Plan 2030 website.

## **2. May 30 and June 13, 2008 Planning Commission Study Session**

The Planning Commission held the second of three Study Sessions devoted to the Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative on May 30, 2008 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Planning Commission completed recommendations for the Study Areas located in the Paradise and Oroville Areas.

The Planning Commission will conclude their recommendations with a third Study Session scheduled for this Friday, June 13, 2008 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm that will cover the Study Areas in the Biggs and Gridley area (starting at 9:00 am) and the Chico Area (starting at 11:00 am). The Board of Supervisors will receive a full report on the Planning Commission's actions prior to the Board of Supervisors Study Session scheduled for Tuesday, July 29,

2008 (a second Board of Supervisors Study Session may also take place on Wednesday, July 30, 2008). For a list of Study Areas please refer to the following:

9:00 am Biggs & Gridley Area Preferred Alternative Discussion

Study Area 31: Biggs Area  
Study Area 33: South of Biggs  
Study Area 34: North of Gridley

11:00 am North County and Chico Area Preferred Alternative Discussion

Study Area 2: North Chico Specific Plan  
Study Area 3: Bell Muir  
Study Area 4: Forest Ranch  
Study Area 6: Upper Stilson Canyon  
Study Area 9: Doe Mill/Honey Run  
Study Area 14: Nance Canyon/Highway 99  
Study Area 15: Hamlin Canyon/Highway 99  
Study Area 16: Oroville Chico Highway/Highway 99  
Study Area 17: Durham  
Study Area 18: Durham Dayton/Highway 99  
Study Area 19: Durham Pentz/Highway 99

### **3. Biggs, Gridley and Butte County Coordination**

Following up on the February 26, 2008 Joint Meeting between the cities of Biggs, Gridley and Butte County, the Butte County Department of Development Services has drafted (in coordination with staff from Biggs and Gridley) a Memorandum of Agreement concerning the shared goals for the Area of Concern, a 2,850-acre area located within County jurisdiction between Biggs and Gridley. This draft document will first be provided to the City of Biggs for approval by their Council. It will then be sent to the City of Gridley for approval by their Council and then on to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The document sets forth the shared goals developed during the joint meeting and is a critical step towards cooperation as this area is planned and developed by the three jurisdictions.

### **4. Butte County General Plan 2030 Tribal Meeting, Wednesday, July 9, 2008**

The Department of Development Services has scheduled a tribal meeting regarding Butte County General Plan 2030 on Wednesday, July 9, 2008. Government Code Section 65352.3 requires local governments to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on certain projects for the purpose of protecting and/or mitigating impacts to cultural places. Butte County General Plan 2030 is such a project, and tribal consultation is expected to play an important role. The following tribes have been listed by NAHC for consultation on the General Plan update:

- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Maidu Nation
- Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians.

Listed tribes will be invited to the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, where staff will share information about the Butte County General Plan 2030 process including the project schedule, work products, and progress to date. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity for County staff to learn more about local tribes. Tribal delegates will be invited to exchange information about their governmental structures, practices, and processes. Consultation with individual tribes about Butte County General Plan 2030 will be scheduled outside this general meeting. Butte County Supervisor Bill Connelly will also be in attendance. For further information about tribal consultation on Butte County General Plan 2030, contact Principal Planner Claudia Stuart at 538-7604 or [cstuart@buttecounty.net](mailto:cstuart@buttecounty.net).

## **5. Butte County General Plan 2030 Housing Element Update**

Work on the new Housing Element (Task I under the Scope of Work) has begun and staff is providing data and information to Housing Element subconsultant Bay Area Economics. A Meeting Series will be held that will focus on the Housing Element in the near future. The Housing Element is mandated by State law to be updated every 5 years. Butte County's current Housing Element was completed in 2004 and will remain valid until the new Housing Element is adopted.

## **6. Butte County General Plan 2030 Environmental Impact Report (NOP)**

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Butte County General Plan 2030 project will soon go out to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to all Responsible and Trustee Agencies in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act. A Notice of Preparation provides notice to these agencies of the intent of Butte County to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Butte County General Plan 2030 project. The purpose of the notice is to solicit guidance from these agencies as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR.

After the Notice of Preparation has been released, the County will coordinate a public scoping (Early Public Consultation) meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit input that will address potential issues early in the EIR process and to avoid any potentially serious and costly oversights.