



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: June 24, 2008 Progress Report #35 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 35th 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. May 30 and June 13, 2008 Planning Commission Study Sessions

The Planning Commission reviewed the Preferred Land Use Alternative for each of the 31 Study Areas during two, 8-hour Study Sessions. At the June 13, 2008 Planning Commission meeting Commissioner Fernando Marin was absent due to the serious Humboldt firestorm near Paradise. Mid-morning, Planning Commission Chair Harrel Wilson was called away due to a new fire that erupted near his home. A decision was made by those Commissioners remaining to move forward with the 3 remaining Commissioners present. At the end of the meeting, the Commission (3-0) voted to forward their work product on Workshop Series #4-3 to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at their July 29, and July 30, 2008 Special Study Sessions. A summary of the Planning Commission's votes on each of the Study Areas is provided as an attachment to this Update. The summary indicates for each Study Area where the Planning Commission confirmed the Citizens Advisory Committee's recommendation, and where the Planning Commission provided an alternative recommendation. Overall, the Planning Commission agreed with the Citizens Advisory Committee on roughly 2/3 of their recommendations.

2. Board of Supervisors July 29 and 30, 2008 Study Sessions: Meeting Series #4, Evaluation and Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative

The Butte County Board of Supervisors will hold the following Study Sessions on two consecutive days concerning the Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative for Butte County General Plan 2030:

1. Tuesday, July 29, 2008
2. Wednesday, July 30, 2008

These final two meetings of Meeting Series #4 are very important steps in the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, during which the Board of Supervisors will choose a preferred land use alternative that will identify areas for both growth and conservation. Each Study Session will start at 9:00 am and end at approximately 4:30 pm and will take place at the Butte County Board of Supervisors Board Chambers, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville. The Board of Supervisors' Study Sessions are open to the public who are encouraged to come and speak to the Board of Supervisors concerning the evaluation and selection of a preferred land use alternative for Butte County General Plan 2030.

The Board of Supervisors will review both the Planning Commission's and Citizens Advisory Committee's recommendations for a Preferred Land Use Alternative as well as all public input received during this process, including the Public Workshop held on March 27, 2008. The Board will take final action on the Preferred Land Use Alternatives for each of the 31 Study Areas listed below at the date and times shown:

July 29, 2008 Board of Supervisors Study Session:

Paradise Study Areas 9:00 am

- Study Area 5: Magalia/Paradise Pines
- Study Areas 7: Concow
- Study Area 10: Skyway/Neal Road
- Study Area 11: Paradise Urban Reserve
- Study Area 12: Southeast Paradise Specific Plan
- Study Area 13: South Paradise/Pentz Road
- Study Area 20: Highway 191 (Clark Road)/Durham Pentz

South County and Oroville Study Areas 1:00 pm

- Study Area 8: Berry Creek
- Study Area 21: Thermalito
- Study Area 23: Eastern Oroville/Oroville Hills
- Study Area 24: Stringtown Mountain
- Study Area 25: Thermalito Afterbay Area
- Study Area 26: Las Plumas/Southside/Ophir Road
- Study Area 27: Pacific Heights Road/Highway 70
- Study Area 28: Southern Oroville

Study Area 29: Palermo
Study Area 30: Bangor

July 30, 2008 Board of Supervisors Study Session:

Biggs & Gridley Areas 9:00 am

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

North County (including Chico/Durham) Study Areas 10:30 am

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. Study Area #23: Eastern Oroville/Oroville Foothills Field Trip

On June 16, 2008 several members of the Butte County General Plan team including Tim Snellings, Chuck Thistlethwaite, and Dan Breedon took a field trip with local landowner Jim Bishop and several others, including Butte County Planning Commissioner Harrel Wilson. This field trip provided an opportunity to view the various specialty agricultural operations that are unique to Butte County General Plan 2030 Study Area #23 (Eastern Oroville/Oroville Foothills).

During their Special Study Session held on June 13, 2008, the Butte County Planning Commission voted to support the Citizens Advisory Committee's recommendations for this Study Area (that recognized Oroville's Preferred General Plan) with the additional recommendation that various agricultural uses be designated for protection under the General Plan.

Many public comment letters have been received concerning this area from landowners who have requested that the Butte County General Plan 2030 process consider ways to protect the area's agricultural interests. The area is known to be protected from frost that might otherwise damage sensitive crops, and is often referred to as the 'Banana Belt' (at approximately 500 - 1,300 foot elevation) where evening winds moderate low temperatures. Citrus crops such as mandarins and oranges thrive in this zone, along with other specialty agricultural crops. The Planning Commission directed that staff develop appropriate General Plan designations for the Agricultural interests located within this Study Area for

implementation through the General Plan 2030 process. This will be discussed further at the Board meeting on July 29, 2008.

The field trip took the group through the Mt. Ida Road, Naranja Avenue and Circle Drive areas, visiting four unique farm operations along the way, including Harvest Hill, a pumpkin farm; Tri-L Mandarins; Robert Friedman's small orchard of historic and productive "Diller" oranges; and Grey Fox Vineyards. The tour also passed by the Lodestar Farms olive orchards. The group learned how these small operations sustain themselves and their community with family employees and specialty marketing to not only local buyers but with sales to places as far as New York City through the use of the Internet.

As the Butte County General Plan 2030 process continues, Development Services staff will develop appropriate land use classifications for these agricultural areas in coordination with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

4. Reminder: 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 9th 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.