

## GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

The following provides a brief primer on definitions that will be used for goals, policies and programs as used in Butte County General Plan 2030. These terms get used widely throughout the state and can have different meanings depending upon jurisdiction and how they are being used.

The following definitions will apply to the terms: goals, policies and programs as will be used under the new Butte County General Plan 2030. The following fictitious examples are provided for illustrative purposes only:

- ◆ A **goal** is a description of the general desired result that the County seeks to create through the implementation of its General Plan.

EXAMPLE:

- ◆ Properly Conducted Mining. Ensure that mineral resource sites remain viable for long-term production and that operations and eventual site reclamation do not adversely impact public health or the environment.

- ◆ A **policy** is a specific statement that guides decision-making as the County works to achieve a goal. Such policies, once adopted, represent statements of County regulation. A policy is on-going and requires no further implementation. The General Plan's policies set out the standards that will be used by County staff, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in their review of land development projects and in decision-making about County actions.

EXAMPLE:

- ◆ Preserve Mineral Resource Sites. Protect State-designated production sites from encroachment by temporary or permanent land uses that would inhibit timely mineral extraction to meet market demand.
- ◆ Remove Sites from State Listing. Petition the State to declassify mining sites from the State list, if a site has been reclaimed.
- ◆ Buffer Extraction Areas and Incompatible Land Uses. Create sufficient buffers between designated mineral resource sites or potential extraction areas and uses incompatible with mining, such as housing.
- ◆ Require Best Available Management Practices. Require best available management practices through the use-permit process to minimize or avoid nuisances, hazards, or adverse environmental impacts.

- ◆ A **program** is an action, implementation measure, procedure or technique intended to help to achieve a specified goal. The County must take additional steps to implement each program in the General Plan. A program is something that can and will be completed.

EXAMPLE:

- ◆ Enforce Reclamation Requirements. Continue to enforce adopted mining reclamation provisions (Development Code Section 15.01, State Public Resources Code Section 2710, et seq., and State Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1), including through ongoing monitoring of on-site and off-site conditions, and ensure that sufficient financial assurances have been provided to enable full reclamation in accordance with approved plans.
- ◆ Require Wetlands Protection. Amend County Code Section 87.04.40(5) to require mining operations to protect and buffer any wetlands on-site or downstream that might be affected by proposed activities, and to reclaim mined wetlands and return them to wetland status after conclusion of mining operations.
- ◆ Require Visual Impact Mitigation. Amend County Code Section 18.08.40(5) to require mining operations to mitigate any potential negative visual impacts.