



**TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors**

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

**SUBJECT: November 18, 2008 Progress Report #44 on Butte County General Plan 2030**

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This memo is the 44<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. Planning Commission Study Sessions –Goals and Policy Development**



Planning Commission's November 7, 2008 Study Session

The Planning Commission completed two all-day Study Sessions on November 7 and November 14, 2008 devoted to Goals and Policy Development for Butte County General Plan 2030. The Planning Commission worked through all of the policy topics and Transportation Alternatives and voted unanimously to transmit their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the Board's January 21 and 22, 2009 Study Sessions. The Planning Commission's Staff Report and all attachments were provided to Board Members on November 11, 2008. This staff report is also available on-line at: <http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/ebinder/2008/2008-11-07/default.asp>. The Board of Supervisors will receive an additional staff report prior to the Board's January 21 and 22, 2009 Study Sessions on Goals and Policy Development. This Staff Report will include all of the Planning Commission's recommendations for Goals and Policy development.

Two of the Agriculture Policy Topics discussed at the Planning Commission's Study Sessions were continued until Thursday, December 11, 2008. These include the Agriculture Policy Topics listed below (taken from the Policy Alternatives Document):

11. How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its agricultural uses and resources?
13. How should the county address the conversion of smaller agricultural parcels to non-agricultural uses?

In making recommendations for these two Policy Topics the Citizens Advisory Committee drew upon policy statements from Stanislaus County and the American Farmland Trust. Some of the information outlined within these policies set-forth new concepts such as mitigating the loss of agricultural land, defining strategic agricultural land, and addressing the conversion of agricultural land to residential ranchettes. For this reason, supplementary information and options were provided to the Planning Commission by General Plan consultant Design, Community & Environment for use during their discussion. The Planning Commission started this discussion at their November 14, 2008 Study Session but acted to continue this item until December 11, 2008, when further discussion and final action will be taken.

Additional information from the two Planning Commission Study Sessions including the Planning Commission's Voting Summary, Official Meeting Notes, and the Revised Policy Alternatives Document, showing all of the Planning Commissions policy recommendations, are being compiled at this time and will be posted to the Butte County General Plan 2030 website soon.

## **2. Housing Element Meeting Series**

The Housing Element differs from other mandatory General Plan elements because it is subject to detailed statutory requirements regarding its content and must be updated every five years. The Housing Element must also be reviewed by a State Agency, the California Department of Housing and Community Development. State Housing Element Law requires the County to meet existing and projected housing needs including the "fair share" of the regional housing need for all income groups, as approved by the Butte County Association of Governments on April 24, 2008.

The development of the Housing Element (Workshop Series #7 (of 8)) is envisioned to take place starting in February 2009. Meeting Series #7 will include a Public Workshop, a CAC meeting, and a Study Session with the Planning Commission, concluding with a Study Session with the Board of Supervisors around April 2009. The schedule for this meeting series is currently under development. The goal is to utilize the spring of 2009 time period for the Housing Element process, while the consultants are assembling the Draft of Butte County General Plan 2030.