



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: December 16, 2008 Progress Report #45 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 45th 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. Forest Ranch Community Meeting –Exploring a Community Plan



Forest Ranch Community Meeting – December 11, 2008

On December 11, 2008 Butte County General Plan 2030 staff hosted a meeting at the Forest Ranch Community Center from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the subject of exploring the preparation of a Community Plan for the Forest Ranch area. This meeting was held at the request of the Forest Ranch Community Association. Approximately 20 concerned citizens from the Forest Ranch area attended. The meeting was also attended by Supervisor Maureen Kirk and Citizen Advisory Committee member Ed Miller. Butte County General Plan 2030 staff provided presentations on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process including an overview of information gathered at the last Forest Ranch General Plan Meeting held on May 9, 2007. Additionally, presentations were provided on the subject of community plans and their use in Butte County as well as the Preferred Land Use Alternative for the Forest Ranch area. Staff facilitated a group discussion with those present on the

subject of developing a community plan for Forest Ranch. Major themes that developed from this exercise included the following:

- a. What should the actual boundaries be for Forest Ranch?
- b. How should the availability of water affect Forest Ranch's future?
- c. What kind of zoning should Forest Ranch have?
- d. How will fire safety regulations affect zoning?
- e. How should Forest Ranch plan for better fire protection for all?
- f. What would be the effect of an escape route from Paradise to Highway 32?
- g. How does the deer population affect Forest Ranch's zoning?

A more detailed accounting of the information gathered at this meeting will be available on the Butte County General Plan 2030 website very soon. The Forest Ranch Community Center is expected to hold additional meetings with the community to gauge interest in developing a Community Plan and determine how best to address Forest Ranch's interests in Butte County General Plan 2030.

2. Butte County Fire Safe Council/Butte County General Plan 2030 Second Annual Wildfire Safety Summit



Wildfire Safety Summit – December 3, 2008

On December 3, 2008 the Butte County Fire Safe Council held the Second Annual Wildfire Safety Summit/Butte County General Plan 2030 –“*Applying Lessons Learned*”, at the Cozy Diner in Paradise from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Approximately 75 people attended this event, which was open to the public. Presentations were provided by Calli-Jane Burch, Executive Director of the Butte County Fire Safe Council, Jim Broshears, retired Fire Chief for the Town of Paradise, and Vicky Yordy, Executive Director for the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. Each of the local Fire Safe Councils also provided an update for their area including Feather Falls, Oroville Foothills, Palermo, Berry Creek, Yankee Hill, Paradise, Magalia, Forest Ranch, Butte Meadows, and Cohasset. Butte County Principal Planner Dan Breedon provided an overview of the Butte County General Plan 2030, with an emphasis on goals and policy development for Fire Safe Planning.

For purposes of developing additional goals and policy for Butte County General Plan 2030, those present were divided into 8 working groups who made recommendations for fire safe goals and policies to be incorporated into Butte County General Plan 2030. Group members received copies of goals and policies related to fire safe planning that had been developed so far through the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. Each group

also received a copy of Chapter 17 of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report pertaining to Hazards and Safety. Each group reported their findings and recommendations at the conclusion of the exercise. This information was recorded and will be provided to the Butte County Board of Supervisors for their consideration and inclusion in the goals and policy development process. The goals and policy work provided at the Wildfire Summit will greatly benefit the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. More information and recommendations from this meeting will be available on the Butte County General Plan 2030 website, www.buttegeneralplan.net.

3. Planning Commission's December 11, 2008 Meeting on Goals and Policy Development (Ag. Policy Topics 11 and 13)

Two of the Agriculture Policy Topics discussed at the Planning Commission's November 7 and 14 Study Sessions were continued until 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 made final recommendations on these two Policy Topic areas and concluded their review of Goals and Policy Development for Butte County General Plan 2030.

Results from the Planning Commission's Study Sessions on Goals and Policy Development including the Voting Summary, public testimony, 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. The Board of Supervisors will receive the Planning Commission's final recommendations in conjunction with a Staff Report that will be prepared by Development Services staff for the Board's Study Sessions on Goals and Policy development.

4. Meeting with Butte County Association of Special Districts

Principal Planner Dan Breedon provided a status report at the Butte County Special Districts Association's Annual Meeting held at the Depot Restaurant in Oroville on December 2, 2008. The major accomplishments and tasks of the last year were discussed, including the Alternative Evaluation and Selection process, Selection of a Preferred Land Use Alternative, and Goals and Policy Development for Butte County General Plan 2030. Those present

received copies of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Newsletter, Guiding Principals, and the Butte County General Plan 2030 Outline. Mr. Breedon also covered the future schedule and remaining tasks of Butte County General Plan 2030 including the Draft General Plan, Housing Element, Zoning Ordinance, and Environmental Impact Report. Members present were encouraged to stay up to date about future meetings and progress on Butte County General Plan 2030 through the Butte County General Plan 2030 website.

5. Butte County General Plan 2030 Staff Meets with Department Heads

Butte County General Plan 2030 staff has scheduled meetings with many of the Butte County Department Heads concerning Goals and Policy Development for Butte County General Plan 2030, with an emphasis on those departments who work directly with land use decisions and General Plan policy. Each department has been asked to look at existing as well as proposed General Plan policy that has been generated to date under the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. Recommendations from each department will be provided to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the Board's Study Sessions that will be devote to Goals and Policy development.