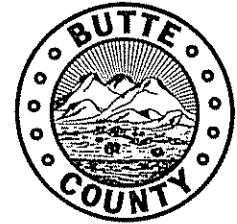


**Butte County Department of Development Services**  
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**ADMINISTRATION \* BUILDING \* PLANNING**

February 6, 2009

Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria  
Dennis Ramirez, Chairperson  
125 Mission Ranch Blvd.  
Chico, CA 95926

**RE: Butte County General Plan 2030: Board of Supervisors Special Study Sessions -  
February 18 and 19, 2009**

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

As you know, Butte County has initiated a comprehensive update of its General Plan, called Butte County General Plan 2030. 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. Tribal consultation is an important aspect of the General Plan update process.

The County has previously invited the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria to consult on Butte County General Plan 2030. We will continue to invite the Tribe to consult throughout the process, which is expected to conclude in the spring of 2010. To assist tribes in participating, we have conducted several meetings with local tribes to discuss the status and progress of Butte County General Plan 2030.

The first Tribal Update meeting was held on July 9, 2008. At the meeting, the County provided an update on Butte County General Plan 2030, including the background and history of the project and work to date. A second meeting was held on October 22, 2008. County staff provided a detailed update on the Preferred Land Use Alternative, the status of goals and policies development, and the specific draft goals and policies under review as they relate to Cultural Resources and Tribal Coordination.

Draft goals and policies for Tribal Coordination are based on the results of consultation with local tribes. Draft goals and policies for Cultural and Historic Resources are also based on information yielded by consultation with local tribes, as well as comment from the Butte County Cultural Resources Coalition. The current version of these policies is provided on pages 37-40 (Topic Areas 37 and 37A) of the enclosed Policy Alternatives document.


This letter is to inform you that the Board of Supervisors will hold special study sessions on Wednesday, February 18 and Thursday, February 19, 2009 to finalize draft goals and policies for Butte County General Plan 2030. Each of these meetings will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions, which will involve a review and facilitated discussion of the 17 policy topic areas that are contained in the Policy Alternatives document. The meetings will be held at 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA. The meeting agendas are enclosed.

At each of the sessions, the Board of Supervisors will review information on policy development to date, and will be asked to provide final direction on each of the policy topic areas. The Board of Supervisors will also be asked to provide direction on the Transportation Alternatives, and on minor refinements to the Preferred Land Use Alternative.

**Draft policies for Cultural Resources and Tribal Coordination will be discussed during the Board of Supervisors' morning (9 am – noon) session on Thursday, February 19, 2009.** Your Tribe's participation would be welcome. County staff expects to schedule the next Tribal Update meeting in the spring of 2009, and will review the Board's direction from the special study sessions, as well as emerging information on subsequent phases of Butte County General Plan 2030, at that meeting. Please feel free to contact Principal Planner Claudia Stuart at (530) 538-7604 or [cstuart@buttecounty.net](mailto:cstuart@buttecounty.net) for further information, or to arrange consultation discussions. Extensive information about Butte County General Plan 2030, including the full staff report for the February Board of Supervisors sessions, is also available on our website at [www.buttegeneralplan.net](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net).

Or, feel free to contact me directly at (530) 538-6821 or [tsnellings@buttecounty.net](mailto:tsnellings@buttecounty.net) regarding your Tribe's interest in consultation. I look forward to continuing to work with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria on this important project.

Respectfully,



Tim Snellings  
Director

Cc: Mr. Michael DeSpain, Mechoopda Indian Tribe Office of Environmental Planning and Protection, 125 Mission Ranch Blvd., Chico, CA 95926

Enclosures:

- Butte County General Plan 2030 – Policy Alternatives (December 12, 2008)
- Agendas –Board of Supervisors Special Study Sessions, February 18 and 19, 2009