

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

This document includes policy ideas that have been developed throughout the General Plan 2030 process. The initial policy alternatives document was approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2007, during the final meeting of the Alternatives Finalization phase (Meeting Series #2/3). These policy alternatives were intended to establish a framework for the Goals and Policies Development phase of Butte County General Plan 2030 (Meeting Series #5).

This version of the policy alternatives document follows the recommendations of the Planning Commission, and has been compiled in preparation of the Board of Supervisors Study Sessions, the final meetings of the Goals and Policies Development phase. In making their recommendation, the Planning Commission considered other input from the public and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). This document is also available in a track changes version that shows the changes requested by the CAC and Planning Commission.

Urban Growth Boundaries and Community Separators

1. **Should the County implement additional urban growth boundaries, and if so, how?**
 - a. Engage unincorporated communities who want to do so, in a community planning process, as resources are available, to set a community vision, with the possibility of developing urban growth boundaries as part of that process.
 - b. Work cooperatively with municipalities to establish urban growth boundaries and revenue sharing.
2. **Should Gridley and Biggs have a community separator between them?**
 - a. No comment on this topic; let cities workout through resolution to Question 1.
3. **How should the public be involved in setting urban growth boundaries?**
 - a. Do not change the existing process to establish urban growth boundaries. However, it should be noted that the public must be involved in that process.
4. **What modifications, if any, should be made to the Chico Area Greenline, which establishes a boundary between urban and agricultural uses in the area west of Chico?**

Note: The CAC did not make a recommendation on this question. The majority of the Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors modify the Greenline to follow the northwest boundary of Study Area 3 (Bell Muir).

5. **How should the County protect the Neal Road Landfill?**
 - a. Establish a compatibility zone of appropriate width around the landfill that allows uses that are compatible, such as agriculture, light industrial and sewage treatment plants.

County Character, New Development and Housing

6. **How should the County improve the design and architectural quality of new development?**
 - a. The County should not establish design regulations for any uses or specific areas except within cities' spheres of influence, where the County should adopt the design regulations of the respective cities, but only with respect to nondiscretionary criteria that would not require review by a design review board.
 - b. Avoid development on ridgelines.

7. **How should the County work to provide more affordable housing? (For the purposes of the General Plan, "affordable housing" is defined as housing that is affordable for "very-low" and "low" income households, which are households that earn no more than 50% and 80% of the County's median income, respectively. "Affordable housing" does not cost more than 30 percent of a household's income.)**

Note: the Planning Commission recommended that this question be deferred to the Housing Element Update, which is also underway, and will have its own meeting series.

Regional and Local Coordination

- 8. How should the County more effectively coordinate its planning efforts with those of the five incorporated municipalities, other Counties, ~~and~~ other planning and regulatory agencies, and local Native American tribes?**
- a. Hold quarterly or more frequent meetings with each of the municipalities to discuss planning and land use issues of concern, and publish an annual report of the findings of those meetings.
 - b. Hold public meetings with each of the municipalities to discuss planning and land use issues of concern, and air recordings of these meetings on public access television.
 - c. Work with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to develop a coordinated, countywide growth and annexation strategy.
 - d. Negotiate revenue sharing agreements with the cities to ensure that if cities annex unincorporated areas, the County will have access to adequate revenues to maintain countywide services that benefit residents of both the County and the cities.
 - e. Cooperate to create a broader regional planning authority covering Butte County and its neighboring counties, and identify strategies for coordinated planning in the region.
 - f. Collaborate on planning and building within the municipalities' Spheres of Influence, so that development standards are essentially the same regardless of whether development occurs under municipal or County jurisdiction.
 - g. Work with the Butte County Association of Governments to coordinate development and conservation activities with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).
 - h. Coordinate planning efforts with those of special districts and school districts.
 - i. Other _____

- 9. How should the County work with local unincorporated communities in planning for their futures?**
- a. Support planning efforts in unincorporated communities such as recent efforts in Berry Creek, Forest Ranch, Cohasset, and others.
 - b. Provide staff support for such community planning efforts.
 - c. Fund the creation of Area Plans (similar to the Durham Dayton Nelson Plan) in communities that request such planning.
 - d. Create a dialog with local Native American tribes for collaboration on tribal land use plans.

Agriculture

10. **What, if any, modifications are needed to General Plan Program 2.2 (the Agricultural Buffers policy, which requires a buffer to be established on property proposed for residential development in order to protect, maintain, promote and enhance agricultural uses and resources)?**
 - a. The General Plan should defer to the buffer modifications currently being developed and reviewed as part of the Buffer Guidelines.
 - b. Continue to encourage defensible buffers.

11. **How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its agricultural uses and resources?**
 - a. Work with municipalities and regional agencies to develop a transfer of development rights program that would allow agricultural landowners to sell the rights to develop their land to urban landowners, who would get the right to develop their properties at higher densities than normally allowed under base zoning.
 - b. Work with State and federal agencies to provide and maintain transportation infrastructure to get goods to markets and ports.
 - c. Work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.
 - d. Continue to work with landowners in establishing new and maintaining existing Williamson Act contracts.
 - e. Develop a plan to support farmworkers, addressing issues such as housing, medical care, education, childcare and pesticide exposure.
 - f. Encourage provision of housing for agricultural employees.
 - g. Ensure sustainable agriculture by encouraging agricultural users to conserve water, plant drought-tolerant crops, and protect natural resources.

- h. Support agricultural education and research at Butte County educational institutions.

Note: The CAC applied the following policies from a presentation provided by Jamison Watts of the Northern California Regional Land Trust. The policies were part of the Stanislaus County General Plan. Policies pertaining to ranchettes came from Mike Darnell, American Farmland Trust. The Planning Commission revised these policies in consideration of suggested revisions by DC&E in order to tailor them to Butte County and reflect existing County policies and programs.

- i. The Board of Supervisors should consider including the following policies in the General Plan:
 - i. Create an agricultural mitigation ordinance in which developers will be required to permanently protect agricultural land in place of land that is proposed for conversion from agricultural to non-agricultural use. This ordinance may include the option of paying an in-lieu fee that would contribute to an agricultural resource protection fund. The ordinance will establish mitigation standards that address the valuation and geographic location of agricultural land.
 - ii. Continue the existing Policy 2.7 and Program 2.7 of the Agriculture Element, and eliminate 5-acre lot allowances in agricultural designations. However, if 5-acre lots are continued in agricultural designations, the following policies should be included:
 - Allow subdivision of new 5-acre agricultural parcels only where they will be used for specialty and/or unique crops in transition areas between agricultural and urban uses.
 - Develop stricter site design standards for development on agricultural parcels, to allow for the continuation of viable agricultural uses.

- Require the preparation of an Agricultural Production and Stewardship Plan for new residential development on agricultural parcels. The Plan would demonstrate how the property would be kept in agricultural use, and would be reviewed and approved by the Butte County Agriculture Commissioner.
 - Allow agricultural support uses, such as processing facilities or outbuildings, on small parcels that are designated for agricultural uses if those parcels are no longer viable for active cultivation.
- iii. Establish minimum allowable parcel sizes agriculturally-designated lands that do not promote the expansion of existing, or creation of new ranchette areas.
- iv. Encourage cities in Butte County to adopt an agricultural mitigation ordinance, in which developers would be required to permanently protect 1 acre of agricultural land in Butte County for every 1 acre of land that is proposed for re-designation from agricultural to residential use, or pay an in-lieu fee that would fund agricultural resource protection.

12. How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its timber uses and resources?

- a. Encourage regulations and outreach practices that would provide for sustainable forest practices in the County.
- b. The County should maintain and amend where appropriate existing requirements under the Timber Preserve Zone to conserve and enhance its timber resources, protect water quality and conservation, and improve fire safety.
- c. Implement community wildfire protection plans and wildfire fuel load measures in coordination with the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

13. How should the county address the conversion of smaller agricultural parcels to non-agricultural uses?

Rather than providing specific policies other than as noted below, the Planning Commission provides the following direction to the Board of Supervisors in creating agricultural land use designations in the Land Use Element and Map: Increase minimum lot sizes of the agricultural land use designations to reflect the viability (e.g., 40 acres for cropland, 160 acres for rangeland).

- a. In areas where conversion of small parcels to non-agricultural use is discouraged:
 - i. Require a conditional use permit for residential uses in agricultural zones.

14. How should the County encourage and enhance niche and specialty agriculture, such as organic products, heritage livestock, heirloom crops and native plant nurseries?

- a. Facilitate the establishment of specialty farming areas that grow higher value crops.
- b. Encourage the establishment of small-scale agriculture uses such as specialty crops, organic farming, specialized animal facilities, and agricultural research operations on small parcels of land in existing agricultural areas.
- c. Recognize the role of smaller farms growing specialty products in Butte County. A unique land use and/or zoning designation may be applied to specialty farming areas to recognize the needs of smaller farms, specialty farms, and part-time farmers.
- d. Support agritourism uses such as farmstays, education and local retail sales in the Zoning Ordinance.
- e. Support farmers in diversifying their products to produce and market healthful foods, specialty ethnic foods, and foods needed and desired by local consumers.

- f. Allow unique zoning to encourage and enhance specialty agriculture.
- g. Consider impacts to the traditional Native American landscape when developing additional land, including when developing land for agriculture.

15. The Board of Supervisors recently approved changes to the Right to Farm Ordinance to address conflicts between agricultural and non-agriculture land uses. What other strategies should be pursued to address these conflicts, if any?

The CAC and Planning Commission concluded that no additional strategies are needed.

16. What strategies should the County use to support the local agricultural economic sector?

- a. Develop a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. (Community Supported Agriculture consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or cooperatively, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Typically, members or "share-holders" of the farm or garden pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer's salary.)
- b. Support the development of an agricultural marketing and tourism program to coordinate private and public initiatives and to integrate them with County business attraction efforts.
- c. Consider providing a regionally focused agricultural center or business park.
- d. Develop a marketing plan to promote agricultural products that are grown in Butte County and develop a "brand recognition" for these products.
- e. Promote agritourism, such as through special events and themed "farm trails" and routes within Butte County's agricultural areas.

- f. Establish agricultural business and agricultural manufacturing zoning districts that allow retail and industrial uses that support agriculture.
- g. Encourage development of food processing and other facilities that could support production of “value-added” farm products from Butte County.
- h. Support existing grower cooperatives in Butte County.

Water Resources

17. How should the General Plan protect and enhance Butte County's water supply?

- a. Support Area of Origin water rights, the existing water right priority system and the authority to make water management decisions locally to meet our current and future needs thereby protecting Butte County's communities, economy and environment.
- b. Implement and periodically update an integrated water resource management plan to ensure the sustainability of water resources for the county.
- c. Continue the Four-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties, cooperate with other adjacent counties and water districts to plan for and manage water resources in a way that includes sound science and public participation.
- d. Ensure that new development can demonstrate an adequate water supply including an evaluation of potential impacts to surrounding groundwater users and the environment.
- e. Promote agricultural and urban water use efficiency to advance sustainability of water resources.
- f. Require new development to adopt best management practices for water use efficiency.
- g. Fully utilize the County's State Water Project Table A Allocation.
- h. Continue to utilize the Butte County Water Commission and the Department of Water and Resource Conservation as an important part of the water resource planning process.
- i. Support solutions to ensure the sustainability of community water demands.
- j. Establish programs to protect and promote groundwater recharge.

- k. Develop programs that improve the scientific understanding of our aquifer systems, and potential factors related to the sustainability of our water resources.
- l. Regulate groundwater transfers and substitution programs in order to protect the sustainability of the County's economy, communities and ecosystem.
- m. Ensure the sustainability of groundwater resources (groundwater levels, groundwater quality and avoidance of land subsidence) through a basin management objective program that relies on management at the local level, utilizes sound scientific data and assures compliance.
- n. Support efforts to transport Feather River water from Lake Oroville to the Paradise and Chico areas.
- o. The following programs should be included in order to implement the policies above:
 - i. Conduct comprehensive, county-wide mapping of groundwater resources.
 - ii. Conduct comprehensive mapping of groundwater recharge areas.
 - iii. Conduct scientific analysis of the costs and water supply impacts of groundwater pumping.
 - iv. Protect groundwater recharge through the establishment of Recharge Zones in which development will be limited and historical groundwater recharge levels will be ensured.
 - v. Strengthen the ordinance that governs groundwater transfer (Chapter 33) to require an independent analysis of potential third party impact, require full mitigation for third party impact, and require approval by the Board of Supervisors rather than the Water Commission.
 - vi. Establish a program to capture runoff water.
 - vii. Within the Basin Management Objective process governed by Chapter 33, establish provisions for mandatory

corrective or mitigation measures when groundwater levels decrease to a dangerous threshold.

18. How should the General Plan seek to maintain and enhance Butte County's water quality?

- a. Develop water quality protection policies based on strategies to preserve and restore natural infrastructure, reduce runoff, and encourage more efficient use of water supplies. These include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Expand monitoring and reporting efforts of Butte County's Department of Water and Resource Conservation.
 - ii. Promote low impact development that is high density, has low amounts of impervious area, and incorporates best management practices.
 - iii. Limit pollution from pesticides and nutrients through incentives and regulations related to stream buffers.
 - iv. Maintain existing regulations that protect water quality from agricultural uses.
 - v. Establish grading and construction regulations to minimize erosion and urban stormwater runoff.
 - vi. Promote the recharge of wetland areas.
 - vii. Develop well standards and programs to ensure that groundwater resources are protected, including a requirement for water quality testing with the drilling of new wells.
 - viii. Support establishment of a system for pharmacies to accept expired medications for proper disposal.
 - ix. Design new developments to minimize runoff and pollution.
 - x. Require new developments to establish buffers from streams to limit pollution from pesticides and nutrients.
 - xi. Design landscapes to be drought-and pest-tolerant.

- xii. Promote opportunities to recover and utilize wastewater.
 - xiii. Encourage the use of reclaimed wastewater for agriculture and landscape irrigation supply water. Dual plumbing that allows graywater from showers, sinks and washers to be reused for irrigation should be included in the infrastructure of new developments.
- j. Continue educational programs on water quality and water resources.
 - k. Integrate watershed plans with county planning and programs.
- 19. How should septic systems and package sewage treatment plants be regulated to support water quality?**
- a. Support on-going efforts of the Butte County Public Health Department to update on-site wastewater policies and standards.
 - b. Allow case-by-case assessments of septic and other wastewater treatment systems to determine appropriate system designs and densities and allow consideration of new technologies supported by State and County practices.
 - c. Establish a program to monitor runoff into Paradise and Magalia Reservoirs.
 - d. Manage wastewater treatment (similar to the Town of Paradise) in high density and sensitive areas where a sewer system is not feasible.
 - e. Conduct education and outreach to homeowners about wastewater and its impacts on water quality.
- 20. How should the County minimize flood hazards?**
- a. Discourage development in areas mapped by FEMA as within the 100-year flood plain.
 - b. Establish a “no net fill” policy to prevent a reduction in flood capacity in areas mapped by FEMA as within the 100-year flood plain.

- c. Require any development within FEMA's mapped 100-year flood plain to be elevated above projected flood water elevations.
- d. Support and fund studies of levee stability throughout the County.
- e. Continue to seek funding to stabilize the Magalia Dam.
- f. Address flood control problems in the Keefer Slough/Rock Creek area.
- g. Ensure protection of existing flood control facilities.
- h. Maintain watershed health.
- i. Manage watersheds to minimize flooding.

Economic Development

21. How should the County seek to improve the local economy, attract higher wage jobs, and improve its fiscal health?

- a. Create a countywide Economic Development Strategy that identifies key sectors and lands for business expansion in the county and programs to achieve that expansion. This strategy shall include the following:
 - i. Create a County-level economic development function.
 - ii. Partner with educational institutions and businesses to develop flexible Research & Development and incubator space in the county.
 - iii. Develop programs to retain all of Butte County's college graduates as county residents and employees.
 - iv. Develop programs to recruit new, high-quality workers to Butte County.
 - v. Provide fiscal incentives, such as tax exemptions, to attract new industry.
 - vi. Provide additional support for local Chambers of Commerce and organizations that support small businesses.
 - vii. Promote local tourism and visitor-oriented recreation through more aggressive marketing programs (see question 22).
 - viii. Support existing and seek to attract new manufacturing, commercial and office uses (see question 23).
 - ix. Promote the agricultural sector through adoption of various policies (see question 16).
 - x. Promote sustainable business and the development of new economic opportunities related to renewable energy.
 - xi. Conduct a workforce study to determine whether the County needs different businesses or employee base.

b. Other _____

22. What strategies should the County use to support the local tourism economic sector?

- a. Create a countywide Tourism Development Strategy that shall include the following:
 - i. Encourage the preservation and use of historic sites as tourist destinations.
 - ii. Encourage tour bus companies to visit to historic sites in Butte County.
 - iii. Celebrate Native American heritage in marketing Butte County as a tourist destination, in consultation with local tribes.
 - iv. Promote Butte County as a destination for large events such as conferences and sporting events, and support the development of conference centers, hotels, restaurants and transit options to serve large events.
 - v. Promote Butte County as a destination for recreational, cultural, and amenity-based tourism by supporting the development of RV parks, agricultural tourism, performing arts centers, bird-watching, wildflower viewing areas and similar facilities.
 - vi. Create a County-level function to increase coordination of tourism and recreation development at a range of scales, including with other counties, with the cities in Butte County, among the various sectors of Butte County tourism, and through public/private partnerships.
 - vii. Increase the transient occupancy tax, and use the increase exclusively to fund tourism development efforts.
 - viii. Prioritize transportation infrastructure improvements that would support tourism, such as improved roadway access to Lake Oroville.

- ix. Promote the development of high-quality tourist amenities, such as hotels and restaurants, in scenic areas such as the Feather River Canyon, Table Mountain and Lake Oroville.
- x. Establish a visitor's center for Butte County.
- xi. Establish a visitor center in each County library.
- xii. Encourage appropriate agencies to consider recreation in determining water levels for Lake Oroville and the Afterbay.
- xiii. Add signage on Interstate 5 encouraging travelers to visit Butte County.
- xiv. Involve existing groups such as the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Area Council and local Chambers of Commerce.

23. What strategies should the County use to support the local manufacturing, office and commercial sectors?

- a. Create a countywide strategy to support the local manufacturing, office and commercial sectors. This strategy shall include the following:
 - i. Allow an increased range of light industrial uses by right in Industrial zones where applicants can demonstrate that adequate existing services are already available.
 - ii. Cooperate with the Cities to jointly plan for regional manufacturing, office and commercial development.
 - iii. Support training at trade and professional schools, such as Butte College, and promote expanded vocational programs.
 - iv. Improve infrastructure to support manufacturing, office and commercial development, and encourage airport, highway and rail development.
 - v. Support businesses and entrepreneurs by streamlining permit processes, providing information on the County

permit process, and reducing permit fees for small business owners.

- vi. Address new and emerging green technologies and businesses in the Zoning Ordinance such as production and distribution of biofuels and other forms of alternative energy.

b. Other _____

Transportation

24. How should the County maintain and improve road conditions, and safe traffic flow?

- a. Seek new and protect existing local, State and federal funding for increased road maintenance service.
- b. Work with other agencies to improve access for the movement of goods and services to Interstate 5.
- c. Continue a traffic impact fee on new development to fund roadway construction and improvements.
- d. Create additional assessment districts to fund road maintenance.
- e. Identify and complete roadside fuel reduction projects on critical roads for fire safety and visibility.

25. How should the General Plan address bicycle issues?

- a. Support the countywide Bicycle Master Plan effort currently underway by the Department of Public Works.
- b. Create and maintain a countywide map of bicycle routes and facilities.
- c. Seek local, State and federal funding for new bicycle facilities.
- d. Require new development to provide bicycle facilities, where appropriate.
- e. Provide appropriate bicycle amenities at all County facilities and park-and-ride lots, including bicycle racks, showers and lockers.
- f. Ensure new bicycle routes and paths create a safe bicycle environment.
- g. Require new bicycle lanes to be clearly demarcated from the roadway and 5 to 7 feet in width.
- h. Support the creation of bike routes to facilitate commuting, and, where appropriate, recreation.
- i. Plan bicycle facilities to provide connections to transit, and support additional bike racks on buses.

26. How can the County help decrease reliance on automobile travel?

- a. Support walkable and mixed use neighborhoods that provide shopping, services and jobs near to housing.
- b. Provide sidewalks in urbanized areas.
- c. Ensure that the Zoning Ordinance provides opportunities for basic retail services in rural unincorporated communities where appropriate.
- d. Encourage new neighborhoods and subdivisions to utilize a connected grid, or modified grid pattern of streets including short block lengths.
- e. Seek alternative sources of funding for public transit, such as advertising revenue from buses and bus shelters.
- f. Support better public transit to rural areas of the county, including expanded service geographically, more frequent buses at key times of the day, and improved transit amenities, such as bus shelters.
- g. Support improved bus service to major cities and destinations outside of Butte County.
- h. Develop a plan to support improved connections to other regional transportation services such as rail and regional/national bus lines and to connect Butte County communities with each other.
- i. Develop a plan to support and promote rail service that would connect Butte County with other regions and would connect Butte County communities with each other.
- j. Establish “slow streets,” alternative routes to fast roadways that utilize signs and physical barriers to slow down traffic.
- k. Encourage carpooling and telecommuting through the allowance of additional carpool pickup and park-and-ride locations.
- l. Encourage carpooling among County employees through preferred parking and financial incentives.

- m. Develop regulations to support and encourage home occupations.
- n. Design new neighborhoods to provide bike and pedestrian connectivity between streets.
- o. Provide transit incentives for County employees.
- p. Ensure that, wherever feasible, public transit is a viable and attractive alternative to the use of single occupant motor vehicles through the promotion and expansion of a public transit system.
- q. Encourage employers to provide transit subsidies, bicycle facilities, and alternative work schedules, ridesharing, telecommuting and work-at-home programs, employee education, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools.
- r. Promote and adequately advertise for shuttles from local transit stations to special event centers.
- s. Encourage business owners to schedule deliveries at off-peak traffic periods.
- t. Provide disincentives for single-occupant vehicle trips through parking supply and pricing controls in areas where supply is limited and alternative transportation modes are available.
- u. Support the development of Service Areas (i.e. County or municipality) in order to create funding for transportation services and road improvements that provide air quality benefits.
- v. Encourage transportation policy that gives funding preferences to public transit.
- w. Encourage transportation impact fees on new development in order to facilitate and increase public transit service.
- x. Incorporate bicycle lanes into street systems in regional transportation plans, subdivisions and large developments.

26A. Should the County consider adopting a different level of service (LOS) standard?

- a. The County should allow LOS D on roadways within the Cities' Spheres of Influence if it would be consistent with the Cities' General Plan LOS policies.

Scenic Highways

27. How should the County protect and enhance its network of scenic highways and/or create additional scenic highways?

- a. Designate additional scenic highways in the county.
- b. Develop additional design guidelines for development located along scenic highways, such as building setbacks, heights and footprints, as well as landscaping standards.
- c. Strictly regulate signage, including prohibitions on installation of billboards along scenic highways.
- d. Remove existing billboards along scenic highways.
- e. Create special design and signage regulations along the Skyway between Chico and Paradise.
- f. Create special design and signage regulations for key gateway areas, such as Highway 70 as it enters Oroville or the Skyway entering Chico and Paradise.
- g. Clearly identify scenic highways on maps and through appropriate signage.
- h. Enhance the County's Scenic Highway zoning classification to provide for additional protection, possibly by widening the protected corridor or establishing stricter site development standards.
- i. Provide flexibility regarding the size and shape of the Scenic Highway Zone so that narrow lots are not unduly restricted by this Zone.

Utilities and Public Services

28. How should the County ensure that the infrastructure needs of new development are met?

- a. Assess infrastructure capacity and ensure that adequate infrastructure requirements are provided as conditions of project approval.
- b. Set development fees so that needed infrastructure is adequately funded proportionately to the cost of providing infrastructure.
- c. Require new development to provide its own infrastructure in conjunction with each project as it is built.
- d. Work with municipalities and service providers to ensure that services are available for new development and consistent with master plans.
- e. Create additional special districts to fund and manage new and improved infrastructure.
- f. Other _____

29. How should the General Plan address the provision of sheriff and fire service in rural areas?

- a. Educate residents about the realities of rural living and expectations regarding response times for critical services.
- b. Explore additional funding opportunities for sheriff and fire services such as special districts to fund both capital and on-going operational costs.
- c. Require expansion of volunteer support for fire and sheriff.
- d. Continue to work cooperatively with the Butte County Fire Department on any adopted Standards of Cover for fire protection.
- e. Require defensible space, fire safe building construction, fuel management and wildfire preparedness, particularly by working in collaboration with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, the municipalities and State agencies.

- f. Require defensible space and projects which remove ladder fuels to reduce the risk of wildfire.
- g. Set impact fees proportionately to the cost of providing sheriff services.
- h. Set impact fees proportionately to the cost of providing fire services.
- i. Establish an advisory board to provide oversight and support for sheriff services.
- j. Create communities that are resistant to wildfire by reducing risks through the community wildfire protection plans and fire safe councils.
- k. Other _____

30. How should the County work with schools to ensure adequate provision of schools and to minimize the impacts of new development on existing school facilities?

- a. Incorporate new school sites into future growth areas as appropriate.
- b. Pursue funding for improvements to safe routes to schools where there are existing problems.
- c. Require private school developers to locate schools such that safe routes are possible, and to construct those safe routes when constructing new roadways and sidewalks.
- d. Coordinate infrastructure development projects to minimize cost to the public of building schools as needed.
- e. To the extent allowed by law, approve new development only if the County finds that existing or planned schools will be adequate to serve it.
- f. To the extent allowed by law, approve new development only if the applicable School District states that it will be able to serve it.

- g. Coordinate with school districts to determine and plan for capacity issues over time.
- h. Other _____

Airports

31. How can the County most effectively limit land use conflicts around its airports?

- a. Revise the General Plan and zoning to be consistent with the adopted Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- b. Other _____

Parks and Recreation

32. How should the General Plan address parks and recreation issues?

- a. Establish policies to allow the collection of Quimby Act fees to support park development.
- b. Allow zoning density increases when small parks are incorporated into development projects.
- c. Encourage national recreation events in Butte County, such as marathons, bicycle races, bird-watching events, rodeos or fishing tournaments.
- d. The County shall work with and support master plans adopted by park and recreation districts.
- e. Institute Mello-Roos and/or lighting districts to fund ongoing maintenance and operation of parks and recreation facilities.
- f. Allow for the development of a public land agreement between recreation and park districts and the County for use of public, County-owned lands for the development of recreation and park resources.
- g. Work directly with Cities and park and recreation districts to coordinate master plans and financing for recreation and park facilities.
- h. Work with park and recreation districts to establish a plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities.
- i. Establish a program that identifies strategies for the County to assist with funding, planning and support for recreation and park facility development.
- j. Other _____

Trails

33. How should the General Plan address recreational trails facilities, such as hiking, bicycle, equestrian and off-highway vehicle trails?

- a. Conduct a countywide trails study to identify new needed routes and connections to the existing trails network.
- b. Work with the cities to provide connections between trails in incorporated and unincorporated Butte County.
- c. Designate additional trails along unpaved County roads and fire roads.
- d. Pursue development of railroad right-of-way, levee tops, utility easements and waterways for new trails.
- e. Develop additional equestrian trails, including safe routes along roads.
- f. Develop additional off-road vehicle trails.
- g. Publish Butte County trail maps for the public.
- h. Require that new development incorporate bicycle trails and connections to existing trail networks.
- i. Provide for appropriate and adequate funding for the creation and ongoing maintenance of trails.
- j. Other _____

Natural Resources and Habitat

34. How should the General Plan address preservation of important habitat areas, including riparian (river and stream) corridors, vernal pools, oak woodlands and deer migration routes?

- a. Utilize conservation easements to protect habitat areas and corridors.
- b. Encourage clustered development in areas of known sensitive habitat.
- c. Establish flexible development standards in deer migration areas and other sensitive habitat areas so that individual projects may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- d. Provide incentives to developers to preserve and maintain important habitat areas.
- e. Establish a mitigation bank program for sensitive habitat area impacts using mitigation fees on new development as a funding mechanism.
- f. Develop a heritage tree ordinance that protects significant specimen trees and tree groves.
- g. Create guidelines for evaluating project impacts to habitat, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified.
- h. Coordinate with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). If and when this Plan is adopted, the County shall refer to it.
- i. Coordinate with federal and State agencies that protect natural resources to ensure that their input is received in a timely manner. If and when the Butte Regional Conservation Plan is adopted, the County shall refer to it.
- j. Coordinate with the cities and other jurisdictions on natural resources and habitat planning. If and when the Butte Regional Conservation Plan is adopted, the County shall refer to it.
- k. Encourage the protection of creeks, wetlands and other natural areas.

- l. Where landscaping is required, give consideration to native tree and plant species, including those valued for traditional Native American cultural uses. Consult with local tribes to develop and update this species list.
- m. Other _____

Green Building and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

35. How should the County encourage the development of sustainable communities and energy-efficient and cost-savings buildings?

- a. Expand General Plan policies to include green building principles.
- b. Provide incentives for the construction of green buildings, such as additional allowed square footage or reduced building fees.
- c. Require developers to give homebuyers the option of having renewable heat and power incorporated into new homes.
- d. Encourage new development to provide above-ground and natural stormwater facilities.
- e. Encourage all new public buildings to adhere to green building standards such as LEED or Greenpoint systems, and use these buildings to demonstrate green building practices to builders, developers, homeowners, etc.
- f. Continue to use alternative energy sources such as solar for county facilities, which sets an example for others to follow.
- g. Provide education to builders, developers and homeowners regarding green building practices.
- h. Encourage all new subdivisions and developments to meet green planning standards such as LEED-ND.
- i. Review zoning ordinance and building codes to allow for energy efficient technologies so long as they do not conflict with other goals in the General Plan.
- j. Require developers to use low- or no-toxicity building materials in new construction.
- k. Address existing problems by pursuing grants for energy efficiency.
- l. Encourage renewable design and grid-neutral development.

- m. Comply with State green building standards, which are scheduled to be approved in 2010.
- n. Encourage the use of building design and materials to promote groundwater recharge in development.
- o. Create fire-wise communities through building and landscape design standards.
- p. Work cooperatively with the cities to ensure consistent standards for green building codes and other methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county.
- q. Other _____

36. In response to Chapter 488 of the California Health and Safety Code (Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act), in what specific ways could the County, and county residents, help to minimize contributions to global warming and depletion of natural resources?

- a. In response to Chapter 488 of the California Health and Safety Code (Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act), the County will develop a climate action plan that sets a goal with strategies to achieve it in cooperation with multiple partners.
- b. Where emissions from new development cannot be mitigated on-site, off-site mitigations should be considered as appropriate, coordinating with the Butte County Air Quality Management District.
- c. Maximize air quality benefits through selective use of landscaping vegetation which is low in emission of volatile organic compounds (VOC), and through re-vegetation of appropriate areas.
- d. To the extent required by law, evaluate greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate them.
- e. Consider replacing County or municipality fleet vehicles with lowest emission technology vehicles, wherever possible.

- f. Encourage lowest emission technology buses in public transit fleets.
- g. Provide a preference to contractors using reduced emission equipment for County construction projects as well as for contracts for services (e.g., garbage collection).
- h. Encourage developments and street systems that support the use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV).
- i. Other _____

Cultural Resources and Tribal Coordination

37. How should the County respect Native American culture and planning concerns?

- a. Establish Memoranda of Agreement regarding development consultation procedures with local Indian tribes. These Memoranda may include the following:
 - i. Addition of a General Plan policy that establishes a process for consultation regarding proposed development projects with local Indian tribes at the earliest possible time.
 - ii. Development of a formal consultation protocol that provides adequate review time for tribes to review and respond, and that includes a definition of terms, notification procedures, review periods, and procedures regarding sharing of confidential information.
 - iii. Development and adoption of a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the County, including policies and procedures for the curation and disposition of objects, and protection, preservation and long-term monitoring of Traditional Cultural Properties. Include a Native American Cultural Resources Inventory in a Countywide reassessment of cultural resources. Use ethnographies as one source of information for non-archaeological Native American sites.
 - iv. Adoption of standards in coordination with local tribes for County and private development retention of professional archaeologists and cultural resource specialists to monitor construction on sensitive sites. Standards for professional archaeologists should meet or exceed US Department of Interior standards.
 - v. Guidelines for engagement with local Indian tribes to create a confidential cultural resources inventory of the county and development of a reliable and trustworthy system and relationship between local tribes and the County to protect confidential tribal information.

- vi. Re-evaluation of sites of past archaeological investigations that may be impacted by proposed development to assess cultural sensitivity, using state-of-the-art methods.
- vii. Recognition of the importance to Native Americans of natural resources, including oak woodlands, deer herds, water bodies and riparian corridors, as well as aquatic, riparian and upland plant and animal species. Recognition of the importance to local Native American tribes of gathering and use sites, as well as other traditional tribal cultural places. Consideration of the use of these resources and sites by contemporary Native Americans in planning for land use, development and management. Consultation and other coordination with local Native American tribes to preserve these habitats, resources, sites and species.
- viii. Establishment of protection measures to acknowledge and protect traditional tribal cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights.

37A. How should the County address local historic and cultural resources?

Note: At the November 14, 2008 Planning Commission Study Session, the Planning Commission did not provide specific guidance on the suggestion to implement a historic properties management plan, as suggested by the Butte County Cultural Resources Coalition. However, the policies provided below, which were all supported by the Planning Commission, could be incorporated into a historic properties management plan.

- a. Seek to protect significant archaeological and historical resources.
- b. Identify important historic and prehistoric resources through an initial comprehensive survey of the county.
- c. Conduct ongoing reevaluation of surface and subsurface cultural resources in the county. Implement this policy in coordination with the Northeast Information Center (CEQA projects), the State Office of Historic Preservation (federal projects), as well as

- local historical organizations and Native American tribes, as needed.
- d. Identify important, local agricultural and historic landscapes. Examples of such landscapes include rock walls, barns, silos, agricultural land use patterns, grange halls and historic farmhouses, as well as linear features such as historic roads, emigrant and Native American trails, flumes, ditches and historic highways. Other examples include citrus colony land use patterns such as those in Palermo and Durham.
 - e. Develop and adopt incentives to support the preservation of historic and cultural resources, including Mills Act incentives, incentives contingent on adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and incentives or an expanded list of applicable properties for the historic building code.
 - f. Create guidelines for evaluating project impacts to cultural resources, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified. Project evaluations should involve consultation with the Northeast Information Center.
 - g. Define types and categories of historic and cultural resources in the county, including sources of information necessary for cultural resource evaluation and the development of appropriate mitigation measures.
 - h. Create a mechanism for updating the County's cultural and historic resources inventory that recognizes the potential for ongoing improvement in information about these resources.
 - i. Coordinate with nearby jurisdictions including the five incorporated municipalities, the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, other planning and regulatory agencies, and local tribes to coordinate historic and cultural resources management.
 - j. Continue to consult with the Northeast Information Center as well as appropriate historic and preservation professionals when re-using historic sites.
 - k. Preserve local historic records.

- l. Recognize the importance of viewsheds to historic resources as well as specific viewsheds as cultural places to Native Americans.
- m. Require discretionary review for demolition applications on potentially important historic sites.
- n. Educate the public and the development community about important cultural and historic resources.

Community Health and Safety

38. How should the County address community health and safety?

- a. Establish a program to track community health information, such as incidence of diabetes or heart disease, and make this information available when making decisions about the built environment that could affect community health.
- b. Promote healthy communities by modeling healthy practices in County offices and County-sponsored events, for example, by offering safe and ample bicycle parking at County offices or by offering healthy food choices at County events.
- c. Promote physical recreation events, such as track and field competitions, amateur sports leagues, bicycle rides or “fun runs.”
- d. Create a County slogan that emphasizes the community’s value for health and well-being.
- e. Work collaboratively with neighborhood associations and other similar organizations to address health issues at the neighborhood level.
- f. Work to improve access to markets, gardens, parks and transportation in low-income neighborhoods.
- g. Encourage community gardens and farmers markets.
- h. Provide educational materials to the public about healthy eating habits.
- i. Continue to work collaboratively with the Mosquito Abatement District and other agencies to protect public health in Butte County.
- j. Other _____

39. How should the County address youth services?

- a. Provide transition housing for foster youth 18 to 24 years of age and homeless shelters for homeless youth and their families.
- b. Collaborate with existing community coalitions and the Children's Services Coordination Council's Strategic Plans

- regarding positive youth development, including drug and violence prevention.
- c. Collaborate with existing community coalitions and the Children's Services Coordination Council's Strategic Plans to ensure adequate pre-school education opportunities.
 - d. Make a special effort to outreach to and include youth in County planning efforts such as recreation and trail planning and transit service.
 - e. Locate recreational opportunities for low-income youth throughout the county.
 - f. Establish a committee of youth to provide input on a variety of County planning efforts.
 - g. Support bus services that provide low cost service to schools and youth centers.
 - h. Establish a Safe Routes to Schools program.

Note: DC&E has coordinated with the Butte County Children & Families Commission to ensure that these policies are consistent with existing plans, based on the CAC's direction. Although many of these policies do not pertain to the efforts of the Children & Families Commission, which focuses on children ages 0 to 5, the pertinent policies are consistent.

Noise

40. How should the County address noise issues?

- a. Establish a noise ordinance.
- b. Other _____