

Water Commission General Plan Subcommittee Recommendation

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.

18. How should the General Plan seek to maintain and enhance Butte County's water quality?
 - a. Develop water quality protection programs based on strategies to preserve and restore natural infrastructure, reduce runoff and encourage more efficient use of water supplies.
 - b. Continue educational programs on water quality and water resources.
 - c. Develop well standards and programs to ensure that groundwater resources are protected.
 - d. Integrate watershed plans with county planning and programs.

20. How should the county minimize flood hazards?
 - a. Maintain watershed health.
 - b. Manage watersheds to minimize flooding.