



TO: Ms. Jennifer Driemeyer, Administrative Support
Governor's Office of Planning and Research

FROM: Dan Breedon, AICP, Principal Planner
Butte County Department of Development Services, Advance Planning

SUBJECT: April 20, 2009 Letter to Tim Snellings – General Plan Status

DATE: May 22, 2009

Butte County is in receipt of the April 20, 2009 letter (from Cynthia Bryant, Director) referenced above concerning the dates of adoption (approval) of the seven mandatory General Plan Elements. Butte County Department of Development Services staff has no further corrections to the dates provided for adoption of the General Plan Elements cited in the letter (Land Use - 1979, Circulation -1988, Housing -2004, Conservation -1971, Open Space -1976, Safety - 1977, Noise -1977).

The April 20, 2009 letter also indicated that General Plans that have not been revised in ten years would be reported to the State Attorney General. Over the last 2.5 years Butte County has been engaged in a comprehensive update to all of the mandatory Elements in the Butte County General Plan as well as other optional Elements (Water Resources, Agriculture, Economic Development, Public Facilities and Services). This project includes the preparation of a new zoning ordinance and the preparation of a Program EIR in accordance with CEQA. Collectively this project is referred to as *Butte County General Plan 2030*. Butte County General Plan 2030 is scheduled to conclude in August of 2010, with the adoption of a new General Plan and zoning ordinance by the Butte County Board of Supervisors.

While the Butte County General Plan has not been comprehensively revised in ten years, concrete steps have been taken to address this situation. These steps are elaborated upon in more detail in the information set-forth below. It should also be noted that the Butte County Housing Element is on a separate schedule to be adopted in August of this year, in accordance with State law.

For more detailed information on Butte County General Plan 2030, interested parties are referred to buttegeneralplan.net, where a variety of resources, exhibits, reports, video library, meeting summaries and agendas, and other information is readily available. Members of the public as well as state agency personnel may sign-up for regular updates on the status of

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Butte County General Plan 2030 sent via email. A discussion forum is also provided where the public may comment directly on a variety of issues.

As Butte County has been actively engaged in a comprehensive update of its General Plan, I would appreciate it if you could update your records accordingly. In addition, it would be helpful for you to provide a copy of this memo to the State Attorney General as necessary.

Should you have any questions regarding any of this information please do not hesitate to reach me at:

Dan Breedon, AICP, Principal Planner
Butte County General Plan 2030 | www.buttegeneralplan.net

Butte County Department of Development Services
7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965
Ph. 530.538.7629 | email: dbreedon@buttecounty.net

2008 Butte County General Plan 2030 Activity:

- Concluded Alternative Evaluation and Selection Phase (Meeting Series #4) of Butte County General Plan 2030 with final Board of Supervisor Study Sessions on July 29 and July 30, 2008, at which the Board selected the Preferred Land Use Alternative.
- Concluded Goals and Policy Development Phase (Meeting Series #5): Completed 1 Public Workshop, 4 Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings, 3 Planning Commission Study Sessions. Three additional Study Sessions were held at the Board on February 18 and 19, and April 14, 2009, at which the Board finalized Goals and Policy Development for Butte County General Plan 2030. The Board's final action on Goals and Policy, along with Board direction on the Preferred Land Use Alternative, and the overall organization of the General Plan allows for the compilation of the Draft Butte County General Plan 2030 (see information below).
- Held two tribal meetings with local Indian Tribes in fulfillment of tribal consultation requirements of State Law
- Prepared the Notice of Preparation for the Butte County General Plan 2030 EIR and held scoping meeting
- Completed a Fiscal Impact Study for Butte County General Plan 2030 (January 30, 2009)
- Held Special Joint Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors Meeting on Deer Herd Study and Mapping for General Plan 2030
- Continued "1 on 1" General Plan coordination meeting process between five incorporated cities/town and Butte County

2009/2010 Butte County General Plan 2030 Activity –Current and scheduled:

Meeting Series #6 is devoted to the completion of the Housing Element. Butte County has completed a Public Workshop, Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting and is scheduled to complete a Joint Study Session with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on May 29, 2009. Input on policy development will be received and this document will be provided to Housing and Community Development for a mandatory 60-day review. Additionally a CEQA document will be prepared. An adoption hearing is scheduled for August 25, 2009. The Housing Element will be updated again prior to adoption of the new Butte County General Plan 2030 in August of 2010 to ensure it is internally consistent with all other General Plan Elements.

Meeting Series #7 is devoted to the review of the Draft Butte County General Plan 2030 document. This document will be available for public review in the summer of 2009. The format will include drafts of all of the mandatory and optional elements and follow the organization and format approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Draft General Plan will be detailed, clearly written, richly illustrated, and cross-referenced to provide ease of use. The document will include an overall vision statement, goals, quantifiable objectives, policies and implementing actions, as well as an Action Plan that will help set the course for plan implementation after its adoption. The Meeting Series devoted to reviewing the Draft General Plan will include a public workshop and meetings with the Citizens Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and final consideration and action by the Board of Supervisors. This meeting series will begin in September of 2009.

Meeting Series #8 is devoted to the development of a new Zoning Ordinance. The Butte County General Plan 2030 process includes the development of a new Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance will implement the land use designations chosen under the Butte County General Plan 2030 Preferred Land Use Alternative through a new Zoning Map. A public draft of the new Zoning Ordinance will be available in the summer of 2009. In addition to the development of the final Zoning Map, key chapters of the Zoning Ordinance will be revised and updated. As with all major tasks under Butte County General Plan 2030 the Zoning Ordinance Update will include a Public Workshop, Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, and Study Sessions before the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. This meeting series will begin in November of 2009.

Additional meetings will be held with the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission as needed prior to final adoption of the General Plan, zoning ordinance, and Draft EIR. The Draft EIR for Butte County General Plan 2030 is scheduled to be released for public review in October of 2009. Additional hearings will take place upon the completion of all other meeting series, and adoption of the Final EIR is scheduled for August 2010.