



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: February 24, 2009 Progress Report #49 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 49th 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 developments to report:

1. February 18 and 19, 2009 Board Study Sessions on Goals and Policy Development

The Board of Supervisors provided final direction on Goals and Policy Development (Meeting Series #5) for Butte County General Plan 2030 at their Special Study Sessions held on February 18 and 19, 2009. The Board reviewed all of the input received during the Goals and Policy development phase of the General Plan 2030 update process including information from the Public, Citizens Advisory Committee and Planning Commission. During each Study Session the Board heard public input (five different public comment opportunities provided) and received presentations from staff on Goals and Policy development. The Goals and Policies approved by the Board of Supervisors will become the basis for the draft Butte County General Plan 2030, which will be released in August 2009. A public workshop will take place in September 2009 during which the public will have an opportunity to review and comment upon the new draft General Plan. Detailed notes and actions from the Board of Supervisors Study Session on Goals and Policy development are being finalized at this time and will be posted on the Butte County General Plan 2030 website soon.

2. First Draft of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Preferred Land Use Alternative Countywide Map

In addition to providing policy guidance for the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, the Board of Supervisors at their February 19, 2009 Special Study Session, approved the Preferred Land Use Alternative Map (Draft #1) for all areas of the county. This map provides land use designations for all of the 34 Study Areas as well as all county areas outside of those Study Areas. While in many cases areas outside of the Study Areas would keep the same designation under the new General Plan, some designations have been changed, updated or eliminated as a result of policy decisions. The Board of Supervisors acted upon these changes at the February 19, 2009 Special Study Session. These changes and other refinements to the County-wide Land Use map are being made at this time. Development Services staff will be providing a section on the Butte County General Plan 2030 website where members of the public may search the Map for designations applicable to their area.

Since the land use mapping of the entire county is an extremely large undertaking, we will be working with key groups such as the User's Group in helping to refine any needed changes to this initial first draft of the Countywide Land Use Map. Members of the public are also welcome to review the Map and to direct any questions or comments to Development Services. Development Services staff will inventory all needed changes and adjustments to the Countywide Land Use Map and discuss them with the Butte County General Plan 2030 Subcommittee. Final recommended adjustments will then be brought back to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption prior to the release of the Draft General Plan in August 2009.

3. Butte County General Plan 2030 Contract Modification #2

Staff has identified several needed changes to the Butte County General Plan 2030 Scope of Work and Contract. Because the Board of Supervisors has approved the combining of both the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Study Sessions for the remaining 3 workshop series of Butte County General Plan 2030, these changes will come at no cost. This is because the combined Study Sessions provide a savings in staff time and resources which can be applied to the necessary new tasks. The identified new tasks have been reviewed and approved by the General Plan subcommittee. The new tasks include:

- A. Evaluation of climate change and greenhouse gas impacts associated with Butte County General Plan 2030, for the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

With the signing of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have become a high-profile issue in California. GHG emissions are a concern because they have been implicated as the primary cause of global warming. Although AB 32 does not specifically mention the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), it establishes a strong

argument for addressing climate change issues through CEQA documents such as Environmental Impact Reports. It should be noted that the State has not yet issued formal guidance on how CEQA documents should address climate change. This change in the scope of work is based on the approach recommended in the most recent Technical Advisory from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, issued on June 19, 2008.

The revised scope of work involves the use of DC&E's subconsultant, ICF Jones & Stokes to evaluate climate change impacts associated with Butte County General Plan 2030, for the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). ICF Jones & Stokes will examine the Plan's potential to affect climate change and the potential impacts of climate change on Butte County. ICF Jones & Stokes will first prepare a brief setting that describes global warming. Then, to evaluate the impacts of the Plan on global warming, ICF Jones & Stokes will estimate the GHG emissions anticipated as a result of Plan's projected build out through 2030. If necessary, ICF Jones & Stokes will identify mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions. ICF Jones & Stokes will also conduct a qualitative evaluation of the potential impacts of climate change on the General Plan area and its inhabitants.

B. Preparation of the August 30, 2009 Housing Element.

The new Housing Element is due to be completed by August 30, 2009 in compliance with State Housing Element law. A delay in complying with this State deadline could put at risk grants and funding which rely upon the legality of the Housing Element, such as Community Development Block Grants. The original Scope of Work called for the completion of the Housing Element prior to August 30, 2009. However, additional time spent during the Alternative Evaluation & Selection phase of the update process delayed the start of this task. To address this situation, Development Services staff has asked DC&E to provide an update to the existing Housing Element in order to comply with the August 30, 2009 deadline.

Because the Butte County General Plan 2030 process will continue to influence policy and land use decisions after this time, the updated Housing Element will be updated again prior to final approval in August, 2010. The planned Meeting Series devoted to the new Housing Element will also take place as planned under the original scope of work.

C. Transfer of Consultants from Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates to Design Community & Environment for completion of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Zoning Ordinance.

Under the original contract and Scope of work, Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates were identified as the subconsultant who would perform the majority of work associated with the Zoning Ordinance Update. The primary person involved in this work, Paul Crawford, died unexpectedly in 2008.

Because of this loss, Mr. Crawford's firm will no longer be performing the work as outlined in the original contract. DC&E discussed this situation with Development Services staff and it was determined that DC&E possessed the skill and experience necessary to accomplish this task by their own in-house staff. The Contract modification changes the consultant responsible for this task from Crawford, Multari & Clark to DC&E.

Development Services staff will provide a contract modification (Contract Modification #2) detailing these proposed new tasks and changes to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the March 24 Board meeting.