



**TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors**

**FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director**

**SUBJECT: May 5, 2009 Progress Report #54 on Butte County General Plan 2030**

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This memo is the 54<sup>th</sup> 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. May 29, 2009 Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission  
Joint Study Session on the Housing Element**

The purpose of the Housing Element is to address housing needs of the residents of the Unincorporated Area of Butte County through June 30, 2014. The Housing Element consists of two documents, the *Housing Needs Assessment*, which analyses the needs of residents of the Unincorporated Area through the five-year planning period, and the *Housing Policy document* that establishes policies and program to help Butte County meet the needs identified in the Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing Element document is an update of the current 2004 Butte County Housing Element. The Housing Element is one of the seven required elements, and it is the only element that must be reviewed by the State for compliance to assure that each jurisdiction is doing its part to help meet the State's housing goals.

On Friday, May 29, 2009 the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission will hold a joint Study Session on the Housing Element. This Study Session will take place from 9:00 am – Noon at the Southside Community Center, 2959 Wyandotte Avenue, Oroville. This meeting is open to the public. All parties and agencies interested in Butte County General Plan 2030 Housing Policy are encouraged to attend and provide comment. A complete staff report will be provided to the Board and Planning Commission at least 1-week prior to the May 29, 2009 special study session.

The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will be reviewing the draft *Housing Needs Assessment* and a *Preliminary Housing Element Update*. These documents are available for public review via the County's General Plan 2030 web site, [www.buttegeneralplan.net](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net). The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission will also

review input from the Housing Element Public Workshop held on March 26, 2009, and the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2009 (see attached meeting summary notes).

Matt Kowta of Bay Area Economics (the lead consultant working on the County's Housing Element) will provide a presentation on the draft Housing Needs Assessment, and other revisions to the existing Butte County Housing Element. Mr. Kowta will also facilitate a discussion with Board members on Housing Element policy to establish recommendations to be incorporated in the final document.

After receiving direction from the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission, the County will prepare an updated Draft Housing Element, to submit to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for a 60-day review in compliance with State law. After this review period another Board of Supervisors meeting will be scheduled in August for final adoption of the new Housing Element.

The adoption of this Housing Element is an interim step that allows Butte County to approve a Housing Element prior to the State imposed deadline of August 30, 2009. 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. Later in the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, the Housing Element will be updated again to be made current with the new Butte County General Plan 2030 scheduled for final adoption in September 2010.

## **2. Final Butte County General Plan 2030 Land Use Map**

The Final Butte County General Plan 2030 Land Use Map that shows the General Plan designations for the entire unincorporated portion of Butte County is available for viewing by the public at the following website link:

[http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/2009-04-23PLUA\\_draft3/default.asp](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net/products/2009-04-23PLUA_draft3/default.asp)

The General Plan 2030 Land Use Map was approved by the Butte County Board of Supervisors on April 14, 2009. Several different exhibit maps have been created to view different portions of the Final Land Use Map:

- Countywide Map #1 (best resolution, but larger file, good for viewing close in areas)
- Countywide Map #2 (less resolution, but smaller file, good for viewing general areas)
- Biggs-Gridley Area
- Chico Area
- Oroville Area
- Paradise Area
- Berry Creek
- Deer Herd Overlay Map

In addition to their availability on-line, these maps may be viewed at the Butte County Department of Development Services, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville.

**3. Development Services Staff Updates Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) Committee on Butte County General Plan 2030**

On May 4, 2009 Principal Planners Dan Breedon and Claudia Stuart provided an update on the Butte County General Plan 2030 process to the Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) Committee. Information was provided on the recent Board actions on the Countywide Land Use Map as well as the incorporation of the Agricultural Re-Use sites into the General Plan through the "Agricultural Services" designation. Presentations to the Committee have been posted to the Butte County General Plan 2030 website.

**4. Work Continues on other Major Tasks: Draft General Plan 2030, New Zoning Ordinance, and Draft Environmental Impact Report**

In preparation of Meeting Series #7 devoted to the Draft General Plan (with meetings starting in September 09) and Meeting Series #8 devoted to the new Zoning Ordinance (with meetings starting in November 09), Development Services staff and the General Plan consultant Design, Community & Environment are coordinating for the review of administrative draft documents. Public Drafts of both of these documents will be available for public review in August 2009. Each of these meeting series will include a Public Workshop to receive public input, Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings and Study Sessions with the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. Staff is also preparing for the Draft Environmental Impact Report that is expected to be released for public review in October 2009.