



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: May 19, 2009 Progress Report #55 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 55th 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. Reminder: 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. 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. Design Contest for Cover of Butte County General Plan 2030

Development Services staff is exploring the idea of a contest for the design of the cover of the County's new General Plan. The contest would be open to Butte County residents. Individuals wishing to participate would receive a Board approved set of instructions that would include a list of required elements that must be displayed on the cover (such as the Butte County seal, title wording etc.). The Development Services Department would set the parameters and process and return to your Board before we launch the contest. Development Services staff wishes to receive feedback from the Board of Supervisors on this idea and to determine the appropriate prize. Each Board member could be responsible for finding X number of dollars to add to a cash prize for the winner.

3. Butte County General Plan 2030 Designations Online

In order to provide the public with as much access to the proposed new Butte County General Plan 2030 designations as approved by the Board of Supervisors, this information will be added to the "Parcel Lookup" feature on the Development Services Department Website at: <http://sk.chicomapworks.com/>. This allows users to enter an Assessor Parcel Number for a property (s) that they are interested in and view the specific Butte County General Plan 2030 designation. The information provided will make it clear that this designation is proposed under the new Butte County General Plan 2030 process and will provide links to further information on each designation and the Butte County General Plan 2030 website. Development Services staff expects this new service to be available within the next week.