



TO: Butte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tim Snellings, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: June 9, 2009 Progress Report #56 on Butte County General Plan 2030

This memo is the 56th 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. Meeting Summary: May 29, 2009 Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Joint Study Session on the Housing Element



May 29, 2009 Joint Study Session –Housing Element

On Friday, May 29, 2009 the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission held a joint Study Session on the Housing Element. This Study Session took place from 9:00 am – Noon at the Southside Community Center, 2959 Wyandotte Avenue, Oroville, and was open to the public. Approximately 18 members of the public attended including representatives from several Butte County housing service providers.

The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission reviewed 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 also reviewed input from the Housing Element Public Workshop held on March 26, 2009, and the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2009.

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

After receiving input from the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors provided final policy direction and instructed staff to prepare an updated Draft Housing Element, to be submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for a 60-day review in compliance with State law. After this review period, the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission will hold a meeting on August 25, 2009 at 1:30 pm at 25 County Center Drive to consider final adoption of the new Housing Element. A more detailed summary of all of the Board's actions will be made available within the next two weeks and will be posted to the General Plan website.

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. 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. Response to Governor's Office of Planning and Research Inquiry

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) inquired (attached) about the status of the existing Butte County General Plan. OPR requires that all jurisdictions in California to apprise their office of updates to all General Plans. They also keep records for all jurisdictions concerning General Plans that have not been updated in 8 years. While OPR indicates that General Plans greater than 8 years old are not necessarily legally inadequate, the California Supreme Court has stated that local governments have an implied duty to keep their General Plans current. OPR is also required to report to the Attorney General, any General Plan that has not been revised in 10 years pursuant to the Government Code.

Development Services staff provided the attached response to OPR's inquiry. The response provides information on the current dates of adoption of the various elements in the current Butte County General Plan, and also provides background and current activity associated with Butte County General Plan 2030. No further response from Butte County to OPR is required at this time. Development Services will continue to keep OPR apprised of the progress on Butte County General Plan 2030.

3. Administrative Drafts for Butte County General Plan 2030

With the completion of the Housing Element Meeting Series on May 29, 2009, and subsequent adoption hearing on August 25, 2009, Development Services General Plan 2030 staff will be devoting much of this summer to the review of various administrative draft products as well as making preparations for the upcoming meeting series devoted to the Draft General Plan (Meeting Series #7) and Zoning Ordinance (Meeting Series #8). Administrative reviews will begin on June 15 for the Draft Butte County General Plan 2030

Document, July 17 for the Draft Zoning Ordinance, and August 20 for the Draft EIR. An administrative review provides staff with the opportunity to ensure that all of these important products are of the highest possible quality and are ready for future use by the public and decision-makers during each meeting series, when they will receive further review and input from the public and decision-makers. Development Services staff is also arranging meeting places and dates for the Draft General Plan Meeting Series (planned to start in September) and the Draft Zoning Ordinance Meeting Series (planned to start in November). Information on these meetings will be widely distributed through emails, direct mail, display ads, website postings, updates and other means.