

BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2030



Butte County | *October 26, 2010*



DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR

- ◆ EIR assesses General Plan 2030, including the land use map.
- ◆ EIR does not assess the following:
 - ◆ Revised Zoning Ordinance (will be assessed under a separate environmental document)
 - ◆ Housing Element (already assessed under a previous environmental document)



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR - PROCESS

- ◆ Notice of Preparation filed on September 15, 2008.
- ◆ Scoping meeting before Planning Commission on October 1, 2008.
- ◆ Draft EIR circulated for public review between April 8, 2010 and June 7, 2010.
- ◆ Public hearing before the Planning Commission on April 22, 2010.
- ◆ Final EIR published August 30, 2010.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – PROGRAM EIR

- ◆ Program EIR examines broad policy objectives, alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures.
- ◆ Provides opportunity for more exhaustive consideration of impacts and alternatives than would be practical within project-level EIRs.
- ◆ Environmental review for subsequent projects can be limited to project-specific impacts not analyzed in General Plan program EIR.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- ◆ The Draft EIR evaluates 15 issue areas:
 - Aesthetics
 - Agriculture
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Geology, Soils, & Mineral Resources
 - Hazards & Safety
 - Hydrology & Water Quality
 - Land Use
 - Noise
 - Population & Housing
 - Public Services & Recreation
 - Transportation & Circulation
 - Utilities
 - Greenhouse Gases



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

- ◆ Butte County General Plan 2030 has been developed to be largely self-mitigating, meaning the goals, policies, and actions as well as the General Plan land use map included in the Plan avoid significant environmental impacts.
- ◆ While the General Plan strives for self-mitigation, 24 significant environmental impacts have been identified.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

- ◆ Significant project impacts in the following issue areas:
 - Agriculture (two impacts)
 - Hydrology and Water Quality (two impacts)
 - Noise (one impact)
 - Transportation and Circulation (13 impacts)



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

- ◆ Cumulative analysis considered growth and development allowed by General Plan 2030, together with growth from incorporated municipalities and adjacent counties.
- ◆ Significant cumulative impacts in the following issue areas:
 - Agriculture
 - Biological Resources
 - Hydrology & Water Quality
 - Noise
 - Transportation & Circulation
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

- ◆ All 24 impacts are considered significant and unavoidable, meaning they cannot be avoided even with the implementation of mitigation measures.
- ◆ Of the 24 significant and unavoidable impacts, 13 impacts related to Transportation and Circulation provide specific mitigation; however, they are still considered unavoidable after mitigation.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR

- ◆ Final EIR is an addendum to the Draft EIR.
- ◆ Purpose of Final EIR is to respond to comments on the Draft EIR and make revisions to the Draft EIR as necessary to respond to those comments.
- ◆ Organization of Final EIR:
 - Introduction
 - Report Summary
 - Revisions for the Draft EIR
 - List of Commentors
 - Comments and Responses
 - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Written comments submitted by:
 - Five State and regional agencies
 - Four County agencies
 - Two local governments and municipal providers
 - Two non-profit associations (five letters)
 - Two members of the public (four letters/emails)
- ◆ Two commentors at the Planning Commission Public Hearing on April 22, 2010.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Many comments concerned inconsistencies between General Plan 2030 and the ALUCP.
 - In response to these comments, revised the Airport Overlay and modified policies and actions to ensure consistency with the ALUCP.
 - Because of these changes, the references in the Draft EIR to an ALUCP overrule were removed in the Final EIR, and two significant land use impacts were eliminated.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Some comments requested that the EIR evaluate impacts for individual “growth areas.”
 - General Plan 2030 is a countywide plan and does not identify “growth areas.” The EIR evaluates this countywide plan, not just specific areas of the county.
 - Program EIRs are not project-specific and do not evaluate impacts of specific development projects that could be proposed under the General Plan. Such projects will require separate environmental review.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Some comments questioned the buildout estimates.
 - The EIR evaluates the projected development that will occur under the General Plan through the year 2030 (“projected 2030 buildout”).
 - Projected 2030 buildout is a “reasonably foreseeable” outcome of the project.
 - Although there is capacity to accommodate development beyond the year 2030, it is probable that Butte County will adopt a new General Plan by then.
 - The EIR also presents a qualitative analysis of impacts resulting from maximum theoretical buildout.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Some comments concern the lack of enforceability of General Plan policies.
 - General Plan policies are statements of County regulation.
 - Some policies are required; some are encouraged.
 - The EIR only relies on enforceable policies and other regulations to mitigate impacts.
 - Some non-enforceable policies are cited in the Draft EIR, but only to add support to enforceable policies.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Some comments concerned potential impacts from increased water demands.
 - Draft EIR includes qualitative assessment of groundwater supply impacts and a quantitative assessment of surface water supply impacts.
 - Draft EIR concluded less-than-significant impacts for both analyses due to policies and actions in General Plan 2030, in conjunction with other County, State, and federal regulations. In particular, Policy W-P2.9 requires that new development demonstrate adequate water supply.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – FINAL EIR COMMENTS

- ◆ Some comments suggested that the General Plan promotes sprawl.
 - The General Plan includes policies that direct growth to existing urbanized areas.
 - Policy LU-PI5.2 requires that new urban development be primarily located in or immediately adjoining already urbanized areas.
 - Policies LU-P8.3, LU-P8.4, LU-P8.5, and LU-PI5.3 promote efficient infill development.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – REVISION

- ◆ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics requested a revision to page 3-37 of the Final EIR (referencing page 4.9-40 of the Draft EIR) to clarify the relationship between the General Plan and the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- ◆ County staff finds that the requested change is not substantial in nature, but helps to define roles and responsibilities, and supports this change.
- ◆ Therefore, staff recommends that the revised language be read into the record and an erratum listing this change be prepared.



GENERAL PLAN 2030 EIR – REVISION

The County's General Plan 2030 includes an Airport Overlay General Plan designation that applies to areas that are within the Airport Land Use Commission's Airport Land Use Land Use Compatibility Zones as defined in the 2000 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP). Properties within the Airport Overlay are subject to additional restrictions under the ALUCP, such as lot sizes, density, intensity, use and height and location of structures. In addition, land uses and densities within the Airport Land Use Compatibility Zones Airport Overlay must comply with the regulations of the current adopted ALUCP. ~~where those allowed land uses and densities differ from General Plan 2030 land use designations unless a deviation from the ALUCP is approved by a two-thirds majority of the Butte County Board of Supervisors.~~ If the ALUC determines that the General Plan or individual project uses and densities are inconsistent with the ALUCP standards, the County may overrule the ALUC by a two-thirds majority vote of the Butte County Board of Supervisors. The County can then approve the plan or project over the recommendation of the ALUC.



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