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Butte supervisors continue review of zoning ordinance

By ROGER H. AYLWORTH - Staff Writer

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OROVILLE -- A project that is glacial in its pace but meticulous in its process is moving the ordinance that implements the Butte County General Plan 2030 toward its final adoption.

For the second time in two weeks, the Butte County Board of Supervisors conducted a lengthy hearing on aspects of the third draft of the proposed zoning ordinance.

The General Plan establishes the broad-brush policies on how and where development can take place within the county's jurisdiction. The ordinance is the document that establishes the specific zoning and land use options on each individual parcel.

Butte County General Plan 2030 was adopted in October 2010 and, according to Tim Snellings, director of the county's Department of Development Services, "We've been at this zoning ordinance part about a year and a half."

Tuesday, the board worked into the evening, reviewing the maps that are an integral part of the ordinance, and listening to comments, complaints and concerns of citizens about the maps.

Snellings explained the county staff "spent thousands of hours with the community" since the General Plan project began in September 2006.

He said some landowners want "fixes" in their zoning that may not be consistent with the General Plan. In other cases the county staff, explained Snellings, made mistakes in the zoning that are going to get corrected.

"We have these two documents that have to be consistent by state law," said Snellings.

No final decisions were

made in Tuesday's hearing or in the one the week before.

The draft ordinance will now be the subject of an environmental impact review.

Once the EIR is completed, the proposal will go back to the county Planning Commission for additional hearings.

After the ordinance goes through that review sometime in 2012, the measure will be returned to supervisors for more hearings and eventual adoption.

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