

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

This document includes policy ideas that have been developed throughout the General Plan 2030 process. The initial policy alternatives document was approved by the Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2007, during the final meeting of the Alternatives Finalization phase (Meeting Series #2/3). These policy alternatives were intended to establish a framework for the Goals and Policies Development phase of Butte County General Plan 2030 (Meeting Series #5).

This version of the policy alternatives document includes input from the public, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Planning Commission that was received during Meeting Series #5, as well as the final direction from the Board of Supervisors that was provided on February 18 and 19, 2009.

Urban Growth Boundaries and Community Separators

1. **Should the County implement additional urban growth boundaries, and if so, how?**
 - a. Engage unincorporated communities that want to do so in a community planning process, as resources are available, to set a community vision, with the possibility of developing urban growth boundaries as part of that process.
 - b. Work cooperatively with municipalities to establish urban growth boundaries and revenue sharing.
2. **Should Gridley and Biggs have a community separator between them?**
 - a. No comment on this topic; let the municipalities work out through resolution to Question 1.
3. **How should the public be involved in setting urban growth boundaries?**
 - a. Do not change the existing process to establish urban growth boundaries. However, it should be noted that the public must be involved in that process.
4. **What modifications, if any, should be made to the Chico Area Greenline, which establishes a boundary between urban and agricultural uses in the area west of Chico?**
 - a. Do not change the Chico Area Greenline.
 - b. Engage in a collaborative community-level planning process with the City of Chico in the Bell Muir area, as needed.

Note: During the Selection of a Preferred Alternative phase, the Chico Area Greenline had been modified to include the majority of the Bell Muir Study Area on the urban side of the Greenline. This is reflected on the Draft General Plan land use map.

5. How should the County protect the Neal Road Landfill?

- a. Establish a compatibility zone of appropriate width around the landfill that allows uses that are compatible. Compatible uses include the following: uses that do not involve on-going occupation by people (e.g., residential uses); uses that are not bothered by the visual, noise, odor and traffic issues associated with the landfill; and uses that people don't want elsewhere (i.e., uses with their own visual, noise, odor and traffic issues). The compatibility zone will be preliminarily mapped at 2,000 feet around the landfill.

County Character, New Development and Housing

6. **How should the County improve the design and architectural quality of new development?**
 - a. The County should not establish aesthetic design regulations for any uses or specific areas except within municipalities' Spheres of Influence, where the County should adopt the design regulations of the respective municipalities, but only with respect to nondiscretionary criteria that would not require review by a design review board.
 - b. Establish limits on ridgeline development in order to minimize visual impacts. Development guidelines will address the following: building footprint, color (i.e., structure should blend in); setback from edge of ridgeline; vegetative screening; height of structures; fencing; and light pollution. Development standards will allow exceptions if there are no other options on a parcel.

7. **How should the County work to provide more affordable housing? (For the purposes of the General Plan, "affordable housing" is defined as housing that is affordable for "very-low" and "low" income households, which are households that earn no more than 50% and 80% of the County's median income, respectively. "Affordable housing" does not cost more than 30 percent of a household's income.)**

Note: the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors recommended that this question be deferred to the Housing Element Update, which is also underway, and will have its own meeting series.

Regional and Local Coordination

- 8. How should the County more effectively coordinate its planning efforts with those of the five incorporated municipalities, other Counties, and other planning and regulatory agencies?**
- a. Hold annual or more frequent staff level or decision-maker subcommittee meetings with each of the municipalities to discuss planning and land use issues of concern, and publish an annual report of the findings of those meetings.
 - b. Hold public meetings with each of the municipalities to discuss planning and land use issues of concern, and air recordings of these meetings on public access television.
 - c. Work with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to develop a coordinated, countywide growth and annexation strategy.
 - d. Negotiate revenue sharing agreements with the municipalities to ensure that if municipalities annex unincorporated areas, the County will have access to adequate revenues to maintain countywide services that benefit residents of both the County and the municipalities.
 - e. Cooperate to create a broader regional planning authority covering Butte County and its neighboring counties, and identify strategies for coordinated planning in the region.
 - f. Collaborate on planning and building within the municipalities' Spheres of Influence, so that development standards are essentially the same regardless of whether development occurs under municipal or County jurisdiction. The County has already been collaborating with municipalities on development standards, and will continue this collaboration.
 - g. Continue to work with the five municipalities to coordinate development and conservation activities with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) being developed under the auspices of the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG).

h. Coordinate planning efforts with those of special districts and school districts.

9. How should the County work with local unincorporated communities in planning for their futures?

- a. Support planning efforts in unincorporated communities.
- b. Provide staff support for such community planning efforts as available.
- c. Fund the creation of Area Plans (similar to the Durham Dayton Nelson Plan) in communities that request such planning, provided that funding is available.

Agriculture

10. **What, if any, modifications are needed to General Plan Program 2.2 (the Agricultural Buffers policy, which requires a buffer to be established on property proposed for residential development in order to protect, maintain, promote and enhance agricultural uses and resources)?**
 - a. Maintain the Agricultural Buffers Policy and the Agricultural Buffer Guidelines.
 - b. Continue to encourage defensible buffers.

11. **How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its agricultural uses and resources?**
 - a. If approached by a municipality, the County would work with municipalities and regional agencies to consider developing a transfer of development credits program that would allow agricultural landowners to sell credits to develop their land to urban landowners, who would get credit to develop their properties at higher densities than normally allowed under base zoning.
 - b. Work with State and federal agencies to provide and maintain transportation infrastructure to get goods to markets and ports.
 - c. Work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.
 - d. Continue to work with landowners in establishing new and maintaining existing Williamson Act contracts.
 - e. Encourage provision of housing for agricultural employees.
 - f. Ensure sustainable agriculture by encouraging agricultural users to conserve water, plant drought-tolerant crops, and protect natural resources.
 - g. Support agricultural education and research at Butte County educational institutions.
 - h. Create an agricultural mitigation ordinance in which developers will be required to permanently protect agricultural land in place

of land that is proposed for conversion from agricultural to non-agricultural use. This ordinance may include the option of paying an in-lieu fee that would contribute to an agricultural resource protection fund. The ordinance will establish mitigation standards that address the valuation and geographic location of agricultural land. Encourage municipalities in Butte County to adopt similar agricultural mitigation ordinances.

12. How should the County help to protect, maintain, promote and enhance its timber uses and resources?

- a. Encourage regulations and outreach practices that would provide for sustainable forest practices in the county. Support and cooperate with CAL FIRE in their responsibilities related to timber and forest practice laws.
- b. The County should maintain, and amend where appropriate, existing requirements under the Timber Preserve Zone to conserve and enhance timber resources, protect water quality and conservation, and improve fire safety. Work cooperatively with CAL FIRE and the State's timber resources laws and statutes.
- c. Implement community wildfire protection plans and wildfire fuel load measures in coordination with the appropriate government/citizen agency and CAL FIRE.

13. How should the county address the conversion of smaller agricultural parcels to non-agricultural uses?

Note: this issue has been addressed by increasing the minimum parcel sizes in agricultural areas. Specifically, minimum parcel sizes in the Orchard and Field Crops designation would increase from 5 to 40 acres and in the Grazing and Open Land designation from 40 to 160 acres. These designations will include the ability for the Board of Supervisors to allow exceptions to the minimum parcel sizes under certain circumstances. Additional criteria will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors for determining how exceptions would be granted in instances where agricultural viability is called into

question. This will be reviewed during the Draft General Plan/Zoning Ordinance meeting series.

14. How should the County encourage and enhance niche and small-scale specialty agriculture?

- a. Facilitate the establishment of specialty farming areas that grow higher value crops.
- b. Encourage the establishment of small-scale agriculture uses such as specialty crops, organic farming, specialized animal facilities, and agricultural research operations on small parcels of land in existing agricultural areas.
- c. Recognize the role of smaller farms growing specialty products in Butte County. A unique land use and/or zoning designation may be applied to specialty farming areas to recognize the needs of smaller farms, specialty farms, and part-time farmers.
- d. Support agritourism uses such as farmstays, education and local retail sales in the Zoning Ordinance.
- e. Support farmers in diversifying their products.
- f. Allow unique zoning to encourage and enhance specialty agriculture.
- g. Consider impacts to the traditional Native American landscape when developing additional land, including when developing land for agriculture.

15. The Board of Supervisors recently approved changes to the Right to Farm Ordinance to address conflicts between agricultural and non-agriculture land uses. What other strategies should be pursued to address these conflicts, if any?

Note: The CAC, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors concluded that no additional strategies are needed.

16. What strategies should the County use to support the local agricultural economic sector?

- a. Support a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program if one is developed. (Community Supported Agriculture consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or cooperatively, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Typically, members or “share-holders” of the farm or garden pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer’s salary.)
- b. Support the development of an agricultural marketing and tourism program to coordinate private and public initiatives and to integrate them with County business attraction efforts.
- c. Consider providing a regionally focused agricultural center or business park.
- d. Develop a marketing plan to promote agricultural products that are grown in Butte County and develop a “brand recognition” for these products.
- e. Promote agritourism, such as through special events and themed “farm trails” and routes within Butte County’s agricultural areas.
- f. Establish agricultural business and agricultural manufacturing zoning districts that allow retail and industrial uses that support agriculture.
- g. Encourage development of food processing and other facilities that could support production of “value-added” farm products from Butte County.
- h. Support existing grower cooperatives in Butte County.

Water Resources

17. How should the General Plan protect and enhance Butte County's water supply?

- a. Support Area of Origin water rights, the existing water right priority system and the authority to make water management decisions locally to meet our current and future needs thereby protecting Butte County's communities, economy and environment.
- b. Implement and periodically update an Integrated Water Resource Management Plan to ensure the sustainability of water resources for the county.
- c. Continue the Four-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Colusa, Glenn and Tehama counties, and continue to foster regional cooperation with other counties and water districts to plan for and manage water resources in a way that includes sound science and public participation.
- d. Ensure that new development can demonstrate an adequate water supply including an evaluation of potential impacts to surrounding groundwater users and the environment.
- e. Promote agricultural and urban water use efficiency to advance sustainability of water resources.
- f. Require new development to adopt best management practices for water use efficiency.
- g. Seek to fully utilize the County's State Water Project Table A Allocation within Butte County, including consideration of options to transport Feather River water.
- h. Continue to utilize the Butte County Water Commission and the Department of Water and Resource Conservation as an important part of the water resource planning process.
- i. Support solutions to ensure the sustainability of community water demands.
- j. Establish programs to protect and promote groundwater recharge.

- k. Seek funds and develop programs that improve the scientific understanding of our aquifer systems, and potential factors related to the sustainability of our water resources.
- l. Continue to regulate groundwater transfers and substitution programs in order to protect the sustainability of the County's economy, communities and ecosystem.
- m. Continue to ensure the sustainability of groundwater resources (groundwater levels, groundwater quality and avoidance of land subsidence) through a basin management objective program that relies on management at the local level, utilizes sound scientific data and assures compliance.
- n. Seek funding for and conduct comprehensive, county-wide mapping of water resources.
- o. Seek funding for and conduct comprehensive mapping of groundwater recharge areas.
- p. Seek funding for and conduct scientific analysis of the costs and water supply impacts of groundwater pumping.
- q. Protect groundwater recharge through the establishment of Recharge Zones in which development will be limited and historical groundwater recharge rates will be monitored.

Note: The Policy Alternatives document had originally asked for strengthening the Butte County Ordinance that governs groundwater transfer (Chapter 33) and changes to the Basin Management Objective process (governed by Chapter 33 (a)). The Board directed that changes to Chapter 33 and 33A be pursued separately from the Butte County General Plan 2030 Goals and Policies process and that these changes would be discussed as a stand-alone agenda item at the Board. This item would be handled by the Department of Water & Resource Conservation.

18. How should the General Plan seek to maintain and enhance Butte County's water quality?

- a. Develop water quality protection policies based on strategies to preserve and restore natural infrastructure, reduce runoff, and encourage more efficient use of water supplies. These include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Expand monitoring and reporting efforts of Butte County's Department of Water and Resource Conservation.
 - ii. Promote low impact development that has low amounts of impervious area and incorporates best management practices.
 - iii. Educate the public to limit pollution from pesticides and nutrients in urban and domestic settings.
 - iv. Maintain existing regulations that protect water quality from agricultural uses.
 - v. Establish grading and construction regulations to minimize erosion and urban stormwater runoff.
 - vi. Promote the recharge of wetland areas.
 - vii. Develop domestic well standards and programs to ensure that groundwater resources are protected, including a requirement for water quality testing with the drilling of new domestic wells.
 - viii. Support establishment of a system for proper disposal of expired medications.
 - ix. Design new developments to minimize runoff and pollution.
 - x. Encourage landscapes to be drought-and pest-tolerant.
 - xi. Promote opportunities to recover and utilize wastewater.
 - xii. Encourage the use of reclaimed wastewater for agriculture and landscape irrigation supply water. Encourage dual plumbing that allows graywater from showers, sinks and

washers to be reused for irrigation in the infrastructure of new developments.

- b. Continue educational programs on water quality and water resources.
- c. Integrate watershed plans with county planning and programs.

19. How should septic systems and package sewage treatment plants be regulated to support water quality?

- a. Support on-going efforts of the Butte County Public Health Department to update on-site wastewater policies and standards.
- b. Allow case-by-case assessments of septic and other wastewater treatment systems to determine appropriate system designs and densities and allow consideration of new technologies supported by State and County practices.

20. How should the County minimize flood hazards?

- a. Plan development in areas mapped by FEMA as within the flood plain to appropriately address flood issues.
- b. Support and seek funding for studies of levee stability throughout the county for the levees the State owns.
- c. Continue to seek funding to stabilize the Magalia Dam.
- d. Develop a plan and seek funding to address stormwater management problems in the Keefer Slough/Rock Creek area.
- e. Protect existing flood control facilities.
- f. Maintain watershed health.
- g. Manage watersheds to minimize flooding.

Economic Development

21. How should the County seek to improve the local economy, attract higher wage jobs, and improve its fiscal health?

- a. Create a bold, powerful, forward-looking countywide Economic Development Strategy that identifies key sectors and lands for business expansion in the county and programs to achieve that expansion. This strategy may include the following:
 - i. Create a County-level economic development function.
 - ii. Partner with educational institutions and businesses to develop flexible Research & Development and incubator space in the county.
 - iii. Develop programs to retain Butte County's college graduates as county residents and employees.
 - iv. Develop programs to recruit new, high-quality workers to Butte County.
 - v. Provide fiscal incentives, such as tax exemptions, to attract new industry.
 - vi. Provide additional support for local Chambers of Commerce and organizations that support small businesses.
 - vii. Promote local tourism and visitor-oriented recreation through more aggressive marketing programs (see question 22).
 - viii. Support existing and seek to attract new manufacturing, commercial and office uses (see question 23).
 - ix. Promote the agricultural sector through adoption of various policies (see question 16).
 - x. Promote sustainable business and the development of new economic opportunities related to renewable energy.
 - xi. Utilize existing workforce studies.

- b. Prioritize projects through permit streamlining in those areas where the County receives above-average property tax share (relative to property tax shares that the County receives elsewhere in the unincorporated area).
- c. Require concurrency of development in mixed-use developments so that revenue-generating non-residential uses do not appreciably lag residential development.
- d. Subject large developments that may not be served at adequate levels (e.g., staffing, equipment and facilities) by existing public services to a requirement to undergo “Planned Development” review before gaining full entitlements to develop. As part of such approval, require preparation of a fiscal impact analysis (in addition to a public facilities financing plan, as described in Policy (e) below) and any required mitigation measures, to ensure that the County will be able to maintain adequate service levels and ensure fiscal sustainability.
- e. Through the “Planned Development” review process, ensure that new developments that will not be adequately served by existing infrastructure and facilities and/or through the adopted countywide impact fee program prepare a public facilities financing plan, which identifies the needed public improvements and establishes a plan to pay for and develop the required public improvements.
- f. When it is to the County’s advantage, negotiate development agreements with sponsors of projects requiring discretionary approvals to ensure that the County’s interests will be protected. Terms of development agreements need to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, considering the potential costs and benefits to the County from a given development along with the project’s ability to shoulder the requirements of the agreement and remain financially feasible and competitive in the marketplace. All development agreements should include sunset provisions.
- g. Where development is more appropriate to occur via annexation to a municipality, negotiate revenue sharing agreements, either on a master revenue sharing agreement basis or on a case-by-case

- basis, to ensure that if municipalities annex unincorporated areas, the County will have access to adequate revenues to maintain countywide services that will extend to new development in the municipalities.
- h. Prepare an updated capital improvement plan that identifies the new public facilities that will be needed in order to maintain the desired service levels through General Plan buildout.
 - i. Use the updated capital improvement plan along with the new general plan development assumptions to develop an updated development impact fee program, to ensure that new development pays its fair share of public improvement costs for countywide infrastructure and facilities.
 - j. Should it be desirable to charge fees that are less than what is necessary to completely fund new development's share of projected countywide costs (e.g., for economic development purposes), identify and allocate adequate funds from other sources to make the impact fee program whole.
 - k. Utilize developer agreements as a tool to implement public facilities financing plans and to secure various benefits from significant new development projects.
 - l. Pursue agreements with the municipalities of Butte County whereby the municipalities would collect impact fees on the County's behalf from new development in their jurisdiction that would generate demand for County public facilities. At a minimum, incorporate such agreements into new annexation proceedings but seek a blanket agreement that covers all new development within municipalities that would generate demand for County services.
 - m. Review the County's current practice of setting aside a portion of General Fund monies each year in order to fund existing development's share of new public facilities costs (i.e., that portion that cannot be charged to a development impact fee program) and determine if set-asides are adequate. If current set-asides are not adequate, seek to increase set-asides accordingly or to develop other sources of revenues to generate funds.

- n. Where County redevelopment project areas generate tax increment funds, strategically use these funds to pay for existing development's share of public improvement costs when other financing options do not exist.
- o. Pursue grant funds to help pay for existing development's share of new public improvement costs.
- p. Consider formation of Redevelopment Project Areas or Infrastructure Financing Districts where such mechanisms can provide financing tools to help pay for existing development's share of new public improvement costs.
- q. Initiate talks on a countywide basis to have municipalities collaborate with the County to generate funds to help pay for the share of County public improvement costs that are attributable to existing development within the municipalities. This could include exploring such mechanisms as the municipalities agreeing to set aside a portion of annual revenues to help pay for existing development's share, or the municipalities collaborating with the County to promote and gain voter approval for a countywide measure that would generate needed funds.

22. What strategies should the County use to support the local tourism economic sector?

- a. Create a bold, powerful, forward-looking countywide Tourism Development Strategy that may include the following:
 - i. Encourage the preservation and use of historic sites as tourist destinations.
 - ii. Encourage tour bus companies to visit to historic sites in Butte County.
 - iii. Celebrate Native American heritage in marketing Butte County as a tourist destination, in consultation with local tribes.

- iv. Promote Butte County as a destination for large events such as conferences and sporting events, and support the development of conference centers, hotels, restaurants and transit options to serve large events.
- v. Promote Butte County as a destination for recreational, cultural, and amenity-based tourism by supporting the development of RV parks, agricultural tourism, performing arts centers, bird-watching, wildflower viewing areas and similar facilities.
- vi. Create a County-level function to increase coordination of tourism and recreation development at a range of scales, including with other counties, with the municipalities in Butte County, among the various sectors of Butte County tourism, and through public/private partnerships.
- vii. Increase the transient occupancy tax, and use the increase exclusively to fund tourism development efforts.
- viii. Prioritize transportation infrastructure improvements that would support tourism, such as improved roadway access to Lake Oroville.
- ix. Promote the development of high-quality tourist amenities, such as hotels and restaurants, in scenic areas such as the Feather River Canyon, Table Mountain and Lake Oroville.
- x. Establish a visitor's center for Butte County.
- xi. Establish a visitor center in each County library.
- xii. Encourage appropriate agencies to consider recreation in determining water levels for Lake Oroville and the Afterbay.
- xiii. Add signage on Interstate 5 encouraging travelers to visit Butte County.
- xiv. Involve existing groups such as the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Area Council and local Chambers of Commerce.

- xv. Encourage the County's municipalities to use a portion of their transient occupancy taxes for tourism development and coordinated tourism development efforts and planning.

23. What strategies should the County use to support the local manufacturing, office and commercial sectors?

- a. Create a bold, powerful, forward-looking countywide strategy to support the local manufacturing, office and commercial sectors. This strategy may include the following:
 - i. Allow an increased range of light industrial uses by right in Industrial zones where applicants can demonstrate that adequate existing services are already available.
 - ii. Cooperate with the municipalities to jointly plan for regional manufacturing, office and commercial development.
 - iii. Support training at trade and professional schools, such as Butte College, and promote expanded vocational programs.
 - iv. Improve infrastructure to support manufacturing, office and commercial development, and encourage airport, highway and rail development.
 - v. Support businesses and entrepreneurs by streamlining permit processes, providing information on County permit processes, and reducing permit fees for small business owners.
 - vi. Address new and emerging green technologies and businesses in the Zoning Ordinance such as production and distribution of biofuels and other forms of alternative energy.
 - vii. Create an inventory of available industrial and commercial land and buildings.

Transportation

24. How should the County maintain and improve road conditions and safe traffic flow?

- a. The County should review and update its Public Works roadway improvement standards on a periodic basis to ensure they reflect current design requirements, new regulatory standards, and/or the adopted improvement standards of adjacent local jurisdictions.
- b. Seek new and protect existing local, State and federal funding for necessary increased road maintenance and rehabilitation.
- c. Coordinate with other State, county and local agencies to improve major travel corridors for the movement of goods and services to and from Interstate 5.
- d. Condition new development to pay established traffic impact fees in order to fund construction and improvement of affected roadways.
- e. Institute Permanent Road Divisions (PRD's) per established County policies to form assessment districts to fund maintenance on local roads constructed as part of approved new development.
- f. Prior to approval of significant new development, require traffic studies to assess nexus impacts to roadway and intersection capacities and ensure that they are adequately addressed.
- g. In consultation with the Butte County Fire Department and CAL FIRE, identify and complete roadside fuel reduction projects and maintain necessary clearance zones on critical roads for fire safety and visibility.

25. How should the General Plan address bicycle issues?

- a. Support the County Bicycle Master Plan effort for unincorporated areas currently under study by the Department of Public Works.

- b. Create and maintain a GIS mapping database of current and proposed bicycle routes and facilities countywide.
- c. Seek available local, State and federal funding for new bicycle facilities that encourage commuting and recreation.
- d. Where appropriate, condition new development to provide adequate pedestrian, bicycle and multi-use facilities, as indicated in the Bicycle Master Plans of the County and adjacent jurisdictions and as necessary to incorporate and integrate circulation and recreational use.
- e. Provide appropriate bicycle amenities at all County facilities and park-and-ride lots, including bicycle racks and storage facilities.
- f. Ensure new bicycle routes and paths create a safe bicycle environment.
- g. Require designated bicycle lanes to be clearly demarcated from vehicle travel lanes and to meet the adopted standards for Class II bike lanes.
- h. Support the planning and construction of bicycle lanes and routes to facilitate commuting and, where appropriate, recreational use.
- i. Plan bicycle facilities to provide connections to transit, and support efforts to expand accommodation of bicycles aboard buses.

26. How can the County help decrease reliance on automobile travel?

- a. Support walkable and mixed use neighborhoods that provide shopping, services and jobs near to housing.
- b. Provide sidewalks and multi-use trails in urbanized areas.
- c. Ensure that the Zoning Ordinance provides opportunities for basic retail services in rural unincorporated communities where appropriate.

- d. Encourage new neighborhoods and subdivisions to utilize a connected grid, or modified grid pattern of streets including short block lengths.
- e. Seek alternative sources of funding for public transit, such as advertising revenue from buses and bus shelters.
- f. When economically feasible, support improved public transit service to rural areas of the county, including expanded service geographically, more frequent buses at key times of the day, and improved transit amenities, such as bus shelters.
- g. Support improved regional bus service to major cities and destinations outside of Butte County.
- h. Develop a plan to support improved connections to other regional transportation services such as rail and regional/national bus lines and to connect Butte County communities with each other.
- i. Seek funding to develop a plan to support and promote rail service that would connect Butte County with other regions and would connect Butte County communities with each other.
- j. Establish “slow streets” in appropriate locations. Slow streets are alternative routes to fast roadways that utilize traffic calming signs and physical barriers to slow down traffic.
- k. Encourage carpooling through the allowance of additional carpool pickup and park-and-ride locations.
- l. Encourage carpooling among County employees.
- m. Develop regulations to support and encourage home occupations.
- n. New neighborhoods shall be designed to provide bike and pedestrian connectivity between streets.
- o. Support, wherever feasible, public transit as a viable and attractive alternative to the use of single occupant motor vehicles through the promotion and expansion of a public transit system.

- p. Encourage employers to provide transit subsidies, bicycle facilities, and alternative work schedules, ridesharing, telecommuting and work-at-home programs, employee education, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools.
- q. Promote and adequately advertise for shuttles from local transit stations to special event centers.

26A. Should the County consider adopting a different level of service (LOS) standard?

- a. Level of Service (LOS) for County-maintained roads and State highways within the unincorporated areas of the County shall not be worse than LOS C, except that the County should match the LOS policy of the pertinent municipality within the municipalities' Spheres of Influence. Level of Service will be as defined in the latest edition of the Highway Capacity Manual (Transportation Research Board, National Research Council) and calculated using the methodologies contained in that manual. Analysis periods shall be based on Peak Hour traffic volumes or as otherwise based on the professional judgment of the County Director of Public Works.

Scenic Highways

27. How should the County protect and enhance its network of scenic highways and/or create additional scenic highways?

- a. Revisit the scenic highways program, considering the potential designation of new scenic highways, removal of existing scenic highway designations, and modifications to the scenic highway standards.

Utilities and Public Services

28. How should the County ensure that the infrastructure needs of new development are met?

- a. Assess infrastructure capacity for projected build out and ensure that adequate infrastructure capacity requirements are provided as conditions of project approval.
- b. Set development fees so that needed infrastructure is adequately funded proportionately to the cost of providing infrastructure.
- c. Require new development to provide its own infrastructure in conjunction with each project as it is built.
- d. Work with municipalities and service providers to ensure that services are available for new development and consistent with master plans.
- e. Consider creation of additional assessment districts, Community Service Agencies and/or special districts to fund and manage new and improved infrastructure.

29. How should the General Plan address the provision of sheriff and fire service in rural areas?

- a. Educate residents about the realities of rural living and expectations regarding response times for critical services.
- b. Explore additional funding opportunities for sheriff and fire services, such as Community Facilities Districts and Community Service Agencies to fund both capital and on-going operational costs.
- c. Support expansion of volunteer services for fire and sheriff.
- d. Implement the adopted Standards of Cover for fire protection.
- e. Require defensible space, fire safe building construction, fuel management and wildfire preparedness, particularly by working in collaboration with appropriate government/citizen agencies, the Butte County Fire Department, the municipalities and State agencies, including CAL FIRE.

- f. Require defensible space and projects which remove ladder fuels to reduce the risk of wildfire.
 - g. Set impact fees proportionately to the cost of providing sheriff services.
 - h. Set impact fees proportionately to the cost of providing fire services.
 - i. Create communities that are resistant to wildfire by reducing risks through the community wildfire protection plans and fire safe councils.
 - j. Integrate State fire safe regulations (California Public Resources Code Sections 4290 and 4291) cooperatively with CAL FIRE and the Butte County Fire Department.
- 30. How should the County work with schools to ensure adequate provision of schools and to minimize the impacts of new development on existing school facilities?**
- a. Incorporate new school sites into future growth areas as appropriate.
 - b. Pursue funding for improvements to safe routes to schools where there are existing problems.
 - c. Require private school developers to locate schools such that safe routes are possible, and to construct those safe routes when constructing new roadways and sidewalks.
 - d. Coordinate infrastructure development projects to minimize cost to the public of building schools as needed.
 - e. To the extent allowed by law, approve new development only if either the County or the applicable School District finds that existing or planned schools will be adequate to serve it.
 - f. Coordinate with school districts to determine and plan for capacity issues over time.
 - g. Seek to coordinate with school districts on the location and design of new schools.

Airports

31. How can the County most effectively limit land use conflicts around its airports?

- a. Consider the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan in General Plan and Zoning decisions, and be consistent with it where appropriate.
- b. Encourage the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) to consider revising density requirements in some compatibility zones where inconsistencies occur.

Parks and Recreation

32. How should the General Plan address parks and recreation issues?

- a. Work with the municipalities and park and recreation districts to develop additional regional and community parks, support and coordinate park master plans, and coordinate financing for recreation and park facilities.
- b. Establish policies to allow the collection of Quimby Act fees to support park development.
- c. Allow zoning density increases when small parks are incorporated into development projects.
- d. Encourage national recreation events in Butte County, such as marathons, bicycle races, bird-watching events, rodeos or fishing tournaments.
- e. Institute Mello-Roos and/or lighting districts to fund ongoing maintenance and operation of parks and recreation facilities.
- f. Encourage development of public land agreements to allow use of publicly-owned lands for the development of recreation and park resources.
- g. Work with park and recreation districts to establish a plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities.
- h. Establish a program that identifies strategies for the County to assist with funding, planning and support for recreation and park facility development.

Trails

33. How should the General Plan address recreational trails facilities, such as hiking, bicycle, equestrian and off-highway vehicle trails?

- a. Cooperate with appropriate agencies to conduct a countywide trails planning study to identify new needed routes and connections to the existing trails network, as well as to address funding and management of trail facilities.
- b. Work with the municipalities and park and recreation districts to provide connections between trails in incorporated and unincorporated regions of Butte County.
- c. Work with local jurisdictions, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, and the Department of Water Resources to designate additional shared use trails along unpaved County roads, access roads and fire roads.
- d. Pursue development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements and waterways for new multi-use trails where appropriate.
- e. Support development of additional equestrian trails, including safe routes along roads.
- f. Support development of additional off-road vehicle trails.
- g. Publish Butte County trail maps for the public.
- h. Require that new development incorporate multi-use trails and connections to existing trail networks.
- i. Support acquisition of appropriate and adequate funding for the creation and on-going maintenance of trails.

Natural Resources and Habitat

- 34. How should the General Plan address preservation of important habitat areas, including riparian (river and stream) corridors, vernal pools, oak woodlands and deer migration routes?**
- a. Mitigate impacts of development important habitat areas.
 - b. Utilize conservation easements to protect habitat areas and corridors.
 - c. Encourage clustered development in areas of known sensitive habitat.
 - d. Establish flexible development standards calling for clustered development and critical habitat preservation in deer migration areas and other sensitive habitat areas. Such standards will be developed and reviewed in conjunction with the Draft General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
 - e. Require setbacks and buffers as appropriate for new development along riparian corridors and adjacent to sensitive habitat.
 - f. Provide incentives to developers to preserve and maintain important habitat areas.
 - g. Establish a mitigation bank program for sensitive habitat area impacts using mitigation fees on new development as a funding mechanism.
 - h. Conduct a study to develop an approach to protecting significant specimen trees and tree groves.
 - i. Create guidelines for evaluating project impacts to habitat, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified.
 - j. Coordinate with the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP).
 - k. Coordinate with federal and State agencies that protect natural resources to ensure that their input is received in a timely manner.

- l. Coordinate with the municipalities and other jurisdictions on natural resources and habitat planning.
- m. Encourage the protection of creeks, wetlands and other natural areas.
- n. Where landscaping is required, give consideration to native tree and plant species, including those valued for traditional Native American cultural uses.

Green Building and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

35. How should the County encourage the development of sustainable communities and energy-efficient and cost-savings buildings?

- a. Expand General Plan policies to include green building principles.
- b. Provide incentives for the construction of green buildings, such as expedited permitting or reduced building fees, provided that building fee reductions are covered through outside funding sources (e.g., grants) and not from the General Fund.
- c. Require developers to give homebuyers the option of having renewable heat and power incorporated into new homes.
- d. Encourage solar-oriented design in new residential development.
- e. Encourage new development to provide above-ground and natural stormwater facilities.
- f. Require that new development meet the guidelines of the California Energy Star New Homes Program.
- g. Require all new County buildings to adhere to green building standards such as LEED or Greenpoint systems, and use these buildings to demonstrate green building practices to builders, developers, homeowners, etc.
- h. Continue to use alternative energy sources such as solar for county facilities, which sets an example for others to follow.
- i. Provide education to builders, developers and homeowners regarding green building practices.
- j. Encourage all new subdivisions and developments to meet green planning standards such as LEED-ND.
- k. Review zoning ordinance and building codes to allow for energy efficient technologies so long as they do not conflict with other goals in the General Plan.
- l. Address existing problems by pursuing grants for energy efficiency.

- m. Encourage renewable design and grid-neutral development.
- n. Comply with State green building standards, which are scheduled to be approved in 2010, including requirements about low- or no-toxicity building materials.
- o. Encourage the use of building design and materials to promote groundwater recharge in development.
- p. Create fire-wise communities through building and landscape design standards.
- q. Work cooperatively with the municipalities to ensure consistent standards for green building codes and other methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county.

36. In response to Chapter 488 of the California Health and Safety Code (Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act), in what specific ways could the County, and county residents, help to minimize contributions to global warming and depletion of natural resources?

- a. In response to Chapter 488 of the California Health and Safety Code (Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act), the County will develop a climate action plan that sets a goal with strategies to achieve it in cooperation with multiple partners. The Climate Action Plan may include the following:
 - i. Where emissions from new development cannot be mitigated on-site, off-site mitigations should be considered as appropriate, coordinating with the Butte County Air Quality Management District.
 - ii. Maximize air quality benefits through selective use of landscaping vegetation which is low in emission of volatile organic compounds (VOC), and through re-vegetation of appropriate areas.
 - iii. To the extent required by law, evaluate greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate them.

- iv. Consider replacing County fleet vehicles with lowest emission technology vehicles, wherever possible.
- v. Encourage developments and street systems that support the use of Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEV).
- vi. Provide fee exemptions, subsidized fees or other incentives for homeowners to install renewable energy systems such as solar and wind power, provided that subsidies are covered through outside funding sources (e.g., grants) and not from the General Fund.
- vii. Provide fee exemptions, subsidized fees or other incentives or sponsorship for purchase of energy efficient appliances, provided that subsidies are covered through outside funding sources (e.g., grants) and not from the General Fund.
- viii. Provide fee exemptions, subsidized fees or other incentives or sponsorship for building retrofits, such as installation of thermally efficient windows and extra insulation, provided that subsidies are covered through outside funding sources (e.g., grants) and not from the General Fund.
- ix. Set and develop an action program to achieve more aggressive recycling goals.
- x. Develop and publicize a certified green business/institution program for the County.
- xi. Establish a motor vehicle emissions budget, including a plan to reduce motor vehicle emissions.

Cultural Resources and Tribal Coordination

37. How should the County respect Native American culture and planning concerns?

- a. Establish Memoranda of Agreement regarding development consultation procedures with local Indian tribes. These Memoranda may include the following:
 - i. Addition of a General Plan policy that establishes a process for consultation regarding proposed development projects with local Indian tribes at the earliest possible time.
 - ii. Development of a formal consultation protocol that provides adequate review time for tribes to review and respond, and that includes a definition of terms, notification procedures, review periods, and procedures regarding sharing of confidential information.
 - iii. Development and adoption of a Cultural Resources Management Plan for the County, including policies and procedures for the curation and disposition of objects, and protection, preservation and long-term monitoring of Traditional Cultural Properties. Include a Native American Cultural Resources Inventory in a Countywide reassessment of cultural resources. Use ethnographies as one source of information for non-archaeological Native American sites.
 - iv. Adoption of standards in coordination with local tribes for County and private development retention of professional archaeologists and cultural resource specialists to monitor construction on sensitive sites. Standards for professional archaeologists should meet or exceed US Department of Interior standards.
 - v. Guidelines for engagement with local Indian tribes to create a confidential cultural resources inventory of the county and development of a reliable and trustworthy system and relationship between local tribes and the County to protect confidential tribal information.

- vi. Re-evaluation of sites of past archaeological investigations that may be impacted by proposed development to assess cultural sensitivity, using state-of-the-art methods.
 - vii. Recognition of the importance to Native Americans of natural resources, including oak woodlands, deer herds, water bodies and riparian corridors, as well as aquatic, riparian and upland plant and animal species. Recognition of the importance to local Native American tribes of gathering and use sites, as well as other traditional tribal cultural places. Consideration of the use of these resources and sites by contemporary Native Americans in planning for land use, development and management. Consultation and other coordination with local Native American tribes to preserve these habitats, resources, sites and species.
 - viii. Establishment of protection measures to acknowledge and protect traditional tribal cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights.
- b. Create a dialog with local Native American tribes for collaboration on tribal land use plans.
 - c. Consult with local tribes to develop and update a native tree and plant species list to be used for required landscaping.

37A. How should the County address local historic and cultural resources?

- a. Seek to protect significant archaeological and historical resources.
- b. Define types and categories of historic and cultural resources in the county, including sources of information necessary for cultural resource evaluation and the development of appropriate mitigation measures.
- c. Compile an inventory of known cultural resources, including historic and prehistoric resources and important, local agricultural and historic landscapes. Examples of such landscapes include rock walls, barns, silos, agricultural land use

patterns, grange halls and historic farmhouses, as well as linear features such as historic roads, emigrant and Native American trails, flumes, ditches and historic highways. Other examples include citrus colony land use patterns such as those in Palermo and Durham.

- d. Once this inventory is created, create a mechanism for updating it that recognizes the potential for on-going improvement in information about these resources.
- e. As part of CEQA and NEPA projects, conduct on-going re-evaluation of surface and subsurface cultural resources in the county. Create guidelines for evaluating project impacts to these resources, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified. Project evaluations should involve consultation with the Northeast Information Center.
- f. Require discretionary review for demolition applications on potentially important historic sites.
- g. Develop and adopt incentives to support the preservation of historic and cultural resources, including Mills Act incentives, incentives contingent on adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and incentives or an expanded list of applicable properties for the historic building code.
- h. Continue to consult with the Northeast Information Center as well as appropriate historic and preservation professionals when re-using historic sites.
- i. Coordinate historic and cultural resources management with nearby jurisdictions, including the five incorporated municipalities, the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, other planning and regulatory agencies, and local tribes.
- j. Preserve local historic records.
- k. Recognize the importance of viewsheds to historic resources as well as specific viewsheds as cultural places to Native Americans.

1. Educate the public and the development community about important cultural and historic resources.

Community Health and Safety

38. How should the County address community health and safety?

- a. Access available State-generated community health information, such as incidence of diabetes or heart disease, and make this information available when making decisions about the built environment that could affect community health.
- b. Promote healthy communities by modeling healthy practices in County offices and County-sponsored events, for example, by offering safe and ample bicycle parking at County offices or by offering healthy food choices at County events.
- c. Work to improve access to markets, gardens, parks and transportation in low-income neighborhoods.
- d. Encourage community gardens and farmers markets to provide access to healthy and local foods.
- e. Continue to work collaboratively with vector control, Mosquito Abatement Districts and other agencies to protect public health in Butte County.
- f. Create a physical infrastructure in our communities to promote public health.
- g. Promote opportunities for physical activities, such as walking and biking, and encourage patterns of new development that promote physical activity and encourage bicycling, walking and transit.
- h. Ensure adequate lighting for newly developed streets, bike paths, parks and recreation facilities.
- i. Implement traffic calming measures to reduce traffic speed and promote bicyclist and pedestrian safety, and include safe routes to school in all newly developed neighborhoods.
- j. Create communities where there is a sense of well-being and families and neighbors can socialize, interact and play.
- k. Encourage connectivity and a sense of community in all newly developed neighborhoods.

- l. Consider safety concerns like adequate lighting and crosswalks.
- m. Create a General Plan that can change to meet new and emerging health challenges.
- n. Ensure that the General Plan is kept up to date.
- o. County staff will report to the Board of Supervisors regularly with recommendations on ways that the County may address newly emerging public health concerns.
- p. Department of Development Services staff will meet regularly with Department of Public Health Staff to review emerging health issues.

39. How should the County address youth services?

- a. Consider the services needed by youth in transit planning.
(Note: this policy should be included in the Circulation Element.)
- b. Seek funding for the Safe Routes to Schools program.

Noise

40. How should the County address noise issues?

- a. Establish a noise ordinance.