

**Butte County General Plan 2030
CAC Meeting
November 5, 2009
Butte College, Oroville, CA
Draft General Plan (Meeting Series #7-2c)
Meeting Summary**

This is a summary of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting held on November 5, 2009 at Butte College in Oroville. The CAC meeting included a brief presentation by Design, Community & Environment, the County's General Plan 2030 lead consultant, followed by a public comment period and a CAC discussion about the Public Review Draft General Plan 2030 Economic Development, Health and Safety, and Public Facilities and Services Elements.

Sixteen members of the CAC attended the meeting, as well as nine members of the public. In addition, Stuart Edell, Butte County Public Works Department Deputy Director, provided information and expertise related to flooding and flood policies; Vance Severin of the Butte County Public Health Department provided information about the County's On-Site Wastewater Treatment Ordinance, which is underway; and John Gulserian of the Butte County Office of Emergency Management provided information about emergency evacuation. This summary is organized according to the meeting agenda.

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Meeting** – Tim Snellings, Director, Development Services, welcomed the group and provided an overview of the meeting. In addition, Dan Breedon, Principal Planner, Development Services, provided a summary of comments and letters received from the public and various public entities on General Plan 2030, which had been distributed to CAC members.
2. **Overview of Public Workshop Input on Economic Development, Health and Safety, and Public Facilities and Services Elements** – Tanya Sundberg from Design Community & Environment provided an overview of the input on the Economic Development, Health and Safety, and Public Facilities and Services Elements from the September 17, 2009 Public Workshop on Butte County General Plan 2030.
3. **Questions and Answers** – During this agenda item, CAC member Jeff Carter presented a proposed rewrite of the General Plan 2030 vision statement in Section F of Chapter 1, Introduction. During the October 22, 2009 CAC meeting, the CAC supported Mr. Carter's recommendation that he rewrite the vision statement to be more specific and focused on concentrating growth and development around the existing urban areas and infrastructure and to be more reflective of a Butte County

perspective. The CAC reviewed the proposed rewrite, and recommended that the Board replace the vision statement with the rewritten version, with minor edits. The rewritten version, with minor edits requested by the CAC, is attached to this summary.

4. **Public Comment Period** – A member of the public provided the following comment:

Public Facilities and Services Element

- ◆ Policy PUB-P12.3 states “New community sewerage systems shall be managed by a public County sanitation district. Proponents shall demonstrate the financial viability of constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed community sewerage system.” The speaker indicated that private entities should be able to manage wastewater treatment systems, and this policy should not preclude the ability for private companies to manage wastewater treatment systems.

5. **CAC Review of Economic Development Element** – CAC members provided the following direction. Unless otherwise indicated, the CAC did not vote on their recommendations; instead, the facilitator asked CAC to confirm by voice or nodding that they agreed with the group’s consensus.

- ◆ Table ED-1 contains a typographical error: the employment projection for retail trade in 2016 should be 12,300 jobs instead of 112,300.
- ◆ Policy ED-P1.1 should be revised as follows: “The County’s priority for future growth is creating sustainable jobs and providing a living wage to families to reduce poverty.”
- ◆ Policy ED-P1.4 should be revised as follows: “Products and services for County operations ~~shall~~ should be purchased from Butte County locally-owned businesses whenever possible.”
- ◆ Policy ED-P1.5 should be revised as follows: “The County supports education and job training for those county residents currently employed, dislocated, or unemployed in order to enhance existing skill levels and provide for job advancement, and supports removal of impediments to gainful employment for County residents.” There was some disagreement among the CAC about whether this new text should also list examples of impediments. Some members supported listing the following examples: “lack of transportation, child care, job training, vocational education and other factors.” Others felt that there is a much longer list of possible impediments, and none should be singled out for inclusion in a list of examples.
- ◆ Action ED-A1.2b, which lists a possible component of the countywide Tourism Development Strategy, should be revised as follows: “Collaborating with existing tourism and recreation groups, such as the Central Sacramento Valley

Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, ~~and~~ local Chambers of Commerce, ~~and~~ out-of-state groups.”

- ◆ Action ED-A1.3a lists an industrial and commercial inventory as a possible component of the strategy to support the local manufacturing, office and commercial sectors. This item should be deleted from Action ED-A1.3a and instead become a new standalone action item as follows: “Work with the five incorporated municipalities and economic development entities to jointly fund the development of, maintain, and embrace a countywide inventory of available industrial and commercial land and buildings. If the incorporated municipalities do not cooperate in this action, conduct an inventory of commercial and industrial land in the unincorporated county.”

6. **CAC Review of Public Facilities and Services Element** – CAC members provided the following direction. Unless otherwise indicated, the CAC did not vote on their recommendations, but indicated overall consensus.

Sheriff Services

- ◆ Add a new policy to establish an advisory board to provide oversight and support for sheriff services. This would not be an incident review panel, but a way to offer citizen input in Sheriff policies. *Note: This is also an item that the CAC recommended during Meeting Series #5, which was ultimately not approved by the Board of Supervisors.*

Public Education

- ◆ Revise Policy PUB-P4.7 as follows: “To the extent allowed by law, new development shall be approved only if ~~either~~ the County ~~or~~ and the applicable School District finds that existing or planned schools will be adequate to serve it.”
- ◆ In either the Public Education or the Public Health section, a new policy should be added that supports the provision of basic health and medical services in schools.

Libraries

- ◆ Revise Policy PUB-P5.1 as follows: “Funding of library operations should be maintained or expanded ~~as the budget allows.~~”
- ◆ Revise Action PUB-A5.2 as follows: “Pursue joint-use agreements with schools, universities, social service agencies, cultural institutions, and other organizations in communities to provide services where County library facilities are infeasible.”

Parks and Recreation

- ◆ County staff and consultants should work closely with the park and recreation districts' input on General Plan 2030 and provide further recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission.
- ◆ The background text on page 312 about the Loafer Creek and Freeman Trail should be revised to indicate that the trail allows bicycles, as well as equestrians.
- ◆ Policy PUB-P6.4 states: "Allowed densities shall be increased when small parks are incorporated into development projects." This policy should be revised to define small parks. The CAC also supported the additional text proposed by the park and recreation districts: "Smaller parks must meet standards set in district master plans."
- ◆ Policy PUB-P7.1 should be revised as follows: "The County shall work with the municipalities, ~~and~~ park and recreation districts, and schools to develop additional regional and community parks, support and coordinate park master plans, coordinate financing for recreation and park facilities, and plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities."
- ◆ Policy PUB-P8.2 should be revised as follows: "The County shall work with local jurisdictions, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, ~~and~~ the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Fish and Game to designate additional shared use trails along unpaved County roads, access roads, and fire roads."
- ◆ Some CAC members were concerned about including "levee tops" in Policy PUB-P8.3, which states: "The development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements, and waterways for new multi-use trails shall be pursued where appropriate," due to the potential of off-road vehicles to cause erosion and other damage to levees. However, other CAC members use levee tops for hiking or fishing and felt that they should be considered as possible locations for new trails. Ultimately, the CAC did not recommend a specific change to this policy.

Solid Waste and Waste Diversion

- ◆ There is a typographical error in the background information section on page 315: Neal Road Facility is misspelled.
- ◆ Goal PUB-10 should be revised as follows: "Increase opportunities for safe ~~disposal or~~ recycling of electronic waste (e-waste) and hazardous waste by residents and businesses in Butte County." Disposal of e-waste is not allowed under current regulations; only recycling.
- ◆ Policy PUB-P10.1 should be revised as follows: "The County supports the continued operation of household and business hazardous material waste drop-

off facilities.”

- ◆ Policy PUB-P10.2 should be revised as follows: “The County supports the continued operation of the existing public education program on the importance of disposing of household and business wastes at appropriate collection sites.”
- ◆ Add a new policy to Goal PUB-11 as follows: “The County supports private and public composting facilities.”
- ◆ Action PUB-A11.1 should be revised as follows: “Continue to implement and expand the County’s action program to achieve more aggressive recycling goals, including recycling of construction materials.”

7. **CAC Review of Health and Safety Element** – CAC members provided the following direction. In most instances, the CAC did not vote on their recommendations; instead, the facilitator obtained consensus from the CAC, unless otherwise indicated.

Noise

- ◆ In the list of stationary noise sources on page 245, “cutting equipment” is mentioned twice.
- ◆ The noise ordinance called for in Action HS-A1.1 should address music and associated vibration impacts. However, the text of the action will not be revised.

Flood Hazards and Dam Inundation

- ◆ Figure HS-2, which shows dam inundation areas, should be updated to include additional dam inundation areas, including the Magalia Dam and Almanor Dam, to be consistent with the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ◆ Action HS-A2.2 should be revised as follows: “Amend the Flood Protection Ordinance to reflect the standards of Policy HS-P2.4 and FEMA-adopted ~~200~~ 100-year floodplain maps.”

Seismic and Geologic Hazards

- ◆ The legend for Figure HS-3, Butte County Fault Lines, should be amended, since the “Big Bend, Inactive” item is listed twice.

Fire Hazards

- ◆ Figure HS-7, Fire Hazard Severity Zones, should also show the Federal Responsibility Areas, which are not classified by CAL FIRE.
- ◆ The first sentence in the third paragraph on page 275 should be revised as follows: “To address wildland fire hazards, CAL FIRE, BCFD, and the Butte County Fire Safe Council have collaborated to develop the Butte Unit

Community Wildfire Protection Plan, ~~also called~~ and CAL FIRE and BCFD maintain the Fire Management Plan.”

- ◆ The background text on page 277 in Section A.3, Evacuation and Access, should be revised to clarify that although work is underway to address evacuation in the Magalia and Upper Ridge areas, it won’t be sufficient to address all of the evacuation issues.
- ◆ Policy HS-P11.3 should be revised as follows: “The County supports the Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan, ~~in~~ the Butte County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (MHMP),² and the Butte Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan prepared by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and will cooperate with the Butte County Fire Department and the Butte County Fire Safe Council in implementing these plans.”
- ◆ Action HS-A11.3 should be revised as follows: “Continue coordination with other agencies and organizations in developing and conducting outreach programs to promote fire safety and education about evacuation processes through education of residents in fire-prone areas.”
- ◆ Action HS-A13.1 should be revised as follows: “Delineate and publish alternative evacuation routes for ~~developing~~ communities in foothill and mountain areas with high fire hazard potential.”
- ◆ Action HS-A13.2 should be revised as follows: “~~Seek funding to conduct a study to identify one or two~~ Construct alternative evacuation routes for the Upper Ridge and other areas in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. ~~Once the routes are identified through the study, seek funding to implement the necessary improvements to the routes.~~”

Hazardous Materials

- ◆ The second and third sentences on page 285, which provides background information about hazardous waste disposal, should be revised as follows: “This facility is located adjacent to the Chico Airport at ~~444~~ 1101 Marauder Street, Chico. ~~North Waste Systems~~ “Recology Butte Colusa Counties” in Oroville and Waste Management, Inc. in Gridley also operate household hazardous waste facilities. A new facility in Paradise ~~is due to~~ opened in on November 7, 2009.”

8. **Other CAC Comments on Land Use Element-** The CAC also suggested that the Land Use Element reflect areas with existing conservation easements on the land use map. However, it was noted that some conservation easements are confidential.

9. **Final Recommendation by CAC** - The CAC unanimously recommended the transmittal of all of their recommendations on the Draft Butte County General Plan 2030 completed at the October 22, October 29 and November 5, 2009 CAC meetings to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission for consideration and approval.

Vision Butte County

Recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee on November 5, 2009

F. Butte County in 2030

Butte County is defined by its rich landscape of valley, hills and mountains and the rivers and creeks that transect them.

The valley is bountiful in the crops it produces and the open space and natural resources it provides. The hills and mountains east of the valley frame the valley and complement its bounty with their own wealth of timber, mineral and biological and ecological resources and recreational opportunities.

The rivers and creeks, the lifeblood of this landscape, provide natural corridors for the wildlife and native plants that sustain the County's rural and natural setting.

The County's settlers, early or most recent, have recognized and valued this unique landscape. They have established their settlements in small, compact urban developments – they incorporated communities of Gridley, Biggs, Oroville, Paradise and Chico and such unincorporated areas as Palermo, Thermalito, Berry Creek, Yankee Hill, Forest Ranch, Cohasset and Durham-Dayton-Nelson – so as to preserve as much of the surrounding natural landscape as possible, thus wisely using land while conserving the County's rich resources. In this manner the County's settlers to date have created a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community.

The County's current residents, in adopting this General Plan, wish to preserve and enhance the legacy of their forebears, namely, sustainable development, so that Butte County in 2030 will be familiar and comfortable to existing County residents and a desirable place to live for future County residents.

To this end, this General Plan envisions and supports a Butte County in 2030 where:

Urban development will be primarily centralized within and adjacent to the existing municipal limits and larger unincorporated communities. Urban development will have efficient, reliable public facilities and infrastructure. Employment centers and a range of services will be located near residential areas so that people spend less time in their cars. Residential communities will be walkable, bicycle facilities will be provided, and there will be access to public transit.

Small unincorporated areas will be well-planned through community-driven planning processes so that community character is preserved and adequate public services and facilities are provided. Rural residential development will be limited and will strive to be compatible with agricultural and environmental uses, and will address wildfire risks and public services needs.

Agriculture and open space will continue to dominate Butte County's landscape and be an important part of the County's culture and economy. Existing agricultural areas will be maintained and an array of agricultural services will support agriculture while providing new jobs to Butte County residents.

At the same time, new and innovative high-technology business will be located in Butte County, including green business and industry, attracted in part to the natural and urban environment of the County and in part to the opportunities for partnerships with Butte County's educational institutions. Butte County's residents will have a choice of housing types to best suit their individual lifestyles.

County youth will have safe places to socialize, job and volunteer opportunities, and access to higher education and support services. They will be able to safely walk, bike or take transit to school, and recreational programs will fulfill their after-school needs.

Butte County will have safe, clean water for agriculture, residents and businesses. Water resources will be protected through proper planning and regulation, as well as continued research and monitoring by Butte County and its partners in watershed planning.

Wildlife and native plants will survive and thrive in healthy ecosystems. Sensitive natural resources, including deer herd migration areas, will be protected, and Butte County will continue to coordinate with the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan. Residents of and visitors to Butte County will be able to enjoy the area's wealth of natural beauty, recreational opportunities and amenities.

And, finally, as the cumulative result of the above, Butte County's residents will have access to healthy living and lifestyle options. Through implementation of this General Plan, Butte County in 2030 will be an economically and environmentally sustainable community, the residents of which will enjoy a high quality of life, as did their forebears.