

December 19, 2010

Subject: Butte County General Plan 2030 Lawsuit

To: Butte County Board of Supervisors

From: Butte Environmental Council

We encourage each of you to immediately ask the County professional staff to find ways to remedy the problems that have culminated in BEC's legal challenge to the General Plan 2030. Citizens should not go without a viable plan that promotes food and water security and provides for health and safety in the coming years. BEC insists that the plan be improved to meet at least the minimum requirements of State law.

Recommended Actions to Remedy the Problems:

- 1) Conduct a water analysis with the general plan. Analyze the impacts of water for all the housing allowed in the plan.
- 2) Strengthen the Water Resources Element and Action Plan to analyze water resources as a first priority in the upcoming budget. Remove the wording "if feasible" to doing water resource assessments.
- 3) Budget in the next fiscal year for broadening the County's data collection and analysis of well performance, creek flows, and groundwater recharge information in a manner that is useful for land use planning and the sustainable use of water resources. Apply for grants to study water resources for purposes that best serve the residents of Butte County.
- 4) Identify the specific gaps in knowledge about the natural water system in Butte County, and formulate ways to study those areas.
- 5) Reverse land use changes made in the General Plan 2030, where they have been changed to residential, everywhere water resources may not support densification. Restore Agriculture or Open Space and Grazing land use designations in those areas.
- 6) Name the major evacuation route that BCAG has found to be the most physically feasible through route for the Paradise ridge and surrounding canyons, and work with BCAG to update that study and to identify additional evacuation routes. Include policy and action statements in the general plan to implement the findings.

BEC urges the Board of Supervisors to remedy the problems with the above actions.