

Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee

May 1, 2017 from 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Auditor-Treasurer Conference Room

25 County Center Drive, Suite 125, Oroville CA

Minutes

- 1) Self-Introductions (committee members and public)
- 2) Discussion of FAC proposed General Plan and Public Land Use elements – MOTION: Incorporate suggested amendments and submit to Development Services (M-Gosselin, 2nd Schmidt, Approved 4-0)
- 3) Discussion of California Trails Resolution Letter of Support to Senator Jim Nielson
MOTION: Refer to Supervisor Teeter & Trails Committee for review and recommendation for action (M: Gosselin, 2nd Snellings, Approved 4-0)
- 4) Fire Funding Letter – Support requested – Discussion: Where will the funding money come from (Schmidt) MOTION: Recommend Board Letter on a standalone basis using the letter provided as a template (M: Gosselin, 2nd Snellings, Approved 4-0)

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Butte General Plan 2030 – Excerpts

Guiding Principles

+Circulation. Accommodation of all modes of transportation is an important element of the General Plan that will be coordinated with all of the transportation planning agencies.

+Natural Resources and -Environment. The General Plan addresses the protection, enhancement, utilization and management of natural resources and the environment.

+Agriculture. The General Plan addresses agriculture as an important aspect of Butte County's economy that will be protected, maintained, promoted and enhanced.

+Recreational Opportunities and Protection of Cultural Resources. The General Plan addresses the need for new parks and recreation opportunities. Cultural resources that are significant to Butte County's history will be identified and protected.

+Sustainability. The General Plan addresses, identifies and promotes ways to maintain or enhance economic opportunity, viability and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment.

Public Facilities and Services Element

VI. PARKS AND RECREATION

In addition to the municipal and special district facilities, there are a number of ~~federal-Federal~~ and State parks, campgrounds, recreation areas, reserves and trails that offer important recreation opportunities within the county, including Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, various Bureau of Land Management holdings and the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. These opportunities serve both local residents and visitors to Butte County.

Although Butte County's unincorporated area does not have any formal or organized system of trails, ~~federal-Federal~~ and State agencies, municipalities and park and recreation districts maintain a number of developed recreational

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trails in Butte County, including the following:

- + Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Approximately 6 miles of the federally designated Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is located in Lassen National Forest on the eastern Butte-Plumas County border. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provides continuous recreational access from Canada to Mexico and is a very popular route.

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- + The Feather Falls National Recreation Trail. This 3.5-mile trail is located within Plumas National Forest, and provides hiking access to the Feather Falls National Scenic Area and to the Feather Falls, noted as the sixth highest waterfall in the continental United States and third highest waterfall in California. The Feather Falls trail and scenic area is a very popular spring and summer attraction.

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o ~~+~~ Loafer Creek, and Brad Freeman and Dan Beebe Trails. A 17.5-mile loop trail at Loafer Creek and portions of the Brad Freeman and Dan Beebe trails are accessible for hiking, equestrian and bicycle riding at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area.

o The Paradise Pines Property Owners' Association in Magalia offers a hiking trail throughout the area they manage.

o A Class 1 bike trail runs from Chico along the Midway to Jones Avenue in Durham.

o ~~+~~ Chico Recreation and Park District. This District manages a system of trails that serves the Chico area.

o City of Chico/Bidwell Park has numerous non-motorized trails and is a popular destination point.

o Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Forks of Butte Creek and other BLM landholdings provide hunting, fishing, trails, camping and other recreational opportunities.

o Trails maintained by PG&E offer hiking opportunities in the foothill areas.

o Butte County is a gateway to the Plumas and Lassen National Forests, where off-highway motorized roads and trails and non-motorized (hiking/equestrian/biking) trails are located.

Goal PUB-6 Support a comprehensive and high-quality system of recreational open space and facilities.

Policies

Review of proposed actions shall be conducted utilizing public input and such plans shall be coordinated between Butte County and the respective municipal/Federal/State agencies.

PUB-P6.1 Review of development proposals shall be coordinated with public agencies in order to designate sites for new parks and recreation facilities.

PUB-P6.2 ~~National r~~Recreation events, such as marathons, triathalons, bicycle races, bird-watching events, rodeos or fishing tournaments, etc. - shall be encouraged in Butte County, provided that the event pays for all necessary public services.

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Goal PUB7 Encourage local, regional, ~~and State~~ and Federal parks providers to engage in coordinated and cooperative planning efforts. Establish a means of seeking regular public comment and involvement in the planning process.

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Policies

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PUB-P7.1 The County shall coordinate with ~~the~~ municipalities, park and recreation districts, and school districts to plan and 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~~ Federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities.

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PUB-P7.2 Implementation and development of recreation and park facilities within park and recreation district boundaries shall be consistent with the applicable district's master plans.

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~~PUB-P7.2-3 The County shall establish a Coordinating Committee whose function is to facilitate coordination efforts with State and Federal public land managers. The County shall establish additional mechanisms to solicit public participation and comment involving the utilization, management, enjoyment and sustainability of public lands. Implementation and development of recreation and park facilities within park and recreation district boundaries shall be consistent with the applicable district's master plans.~~

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PUB-P7.4 The County shall coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management, State and Federal Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service and State Parks to develop regional plans, and guide the development of plans and projects affecting the socio economic health and well-being of county residents and visitors, the health and sustainability of the forest ecosystem and water resources, the ability of residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor recreation to include motorized (to include boating, single-track and OHV) and non-motorized (hiking/biking/equestrian/boating) access to public lands and waterways, and the appropriate utilization of public lands for grazing, timber production, hunting and fishing.

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Actions

PUB-A7.1 Assist special districts with strategies for funding, planning and support for recreation and park facility development.

PUB-A7.2 Establish a plan for the distribution of ~~federal~~ Federal and State funds for development and maintenance of programs, facilities and recreational access to local, regional, State and Federal public lands ~~recreation and park programs and facilities~~, which shall include utilization of available grants. Involvement of organized volunteer organizations shall be encouraged to promote user engagement in development and maintenance of public lands recreation.

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Pub-A7.3 Coordinate with private landholders, and local, State and Federal agencies, to promote the safety and well-being of public lands recreationists and residents in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones, with a focus on forest management and fuels reduction projects near infrastructure.

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Goal PUB-8 Coordinate an interconnected, multi-use trail system.
Policies

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PUB-P8.1 The County shall coordinate with the municipalities, ~~and~~ park and recreation districts, Federal or State agencies and private landholders to connect trails between incorporated and unincorporated regions of Butte County.

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PUB-P8.2 The County shall coordinate with local jurisdictions, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, the Department of Water

Resources, the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and ~~Game Wildlife~~ to designate additional shared use (motorized and non-motorized) trails within the boundaries of all public lands and along unpaved County roads, access roads and fire roads.

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PUB-P8.3 The development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements and waterways for new multi-use trails shall be pursued where appropriate.

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PUB-P8.4 The County supports s restoration and development of historic and "legacy" trails, and s development of additional equestrian, hiking and biking trails, including safe routes along roads.

PUB-P8.5 The County supports both existing use and development of additional off-road vehicle trails through private and public lands.

PUB-P8.6 The County supports acquisition of appropriate and adequate funding for the creation and on-going maintenance of trails.

PUB-P8.7 New development projects should incorporate multi-use trails and connections to existing trail networks.

Actions

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PUB-A8.1 Coordinate with State, ~~Federal~~ and recreation districts to seek funding to publish Butte County trail maps for the public. Consider mobile apps, website availability.

PUB-A8.2 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.

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CALIFORNIA GUILD
Senate or Assembly Joint Resolution
RE Creation of a California Non-motorized Trails Master Plan
FEBRUARY 8, 2017 DRAFT

WHEREAS, the state of California has mandated significant emission reduction targets in 2020 and 2050 for future greenhouse gas emissions through the 2006 Global Warming Solutions Actⁱ and the Governor’s Executive Order S-3-05ⁱⁱ, and

WHEREAS, in 1974, California Law established the California Recreational Trails Actⁱⁱⁱ designed to increase accessibility, use and enjoyment of California’s scenic, natural, historic and cultural resources, and

WHEREAS, the California Recreational Trails Act and Plan being developed by the Department of Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, includes both motorized and non-motorized accessibility and use, and

WHEREAS, in order to assist in meeting California’s greenhouse gas emission targets, goals and timelines, an accelerated focus on a California non-motorized trails master plan is urgently needed to create a statewide plan and timeline for a coordinated network of California trails for purposes of walking, hiking, biking , horseback riding and other forms of non-motorized transportation in both urban and rural regions of California, and

WHEREAS, human powered, non-motorized transportation can serve the dual purpose of creating a healthy exercise for citizens while also transporting such citizens from one location to another with a zero carbon footprint , and

WHEREAS, many California municipalities, including multiple public agencies, private organizations and individual citizens are currently in the process of developing their own local trails master plans in their neighborhood, city, county or region, designed to create avenues of environmentally friendly methods of non-motorized transportation which are also likely to result in expanding rural economic development benefits and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report issued by the Governor’s Highway Safety Association, 338 cyclists were killed in collisions with motor vehicles in California between 2010 and 2012, the highest level among states across the nation,^{iv} , and

WHEREAS, other States such as New York^v, have found that a coordinated non-motorized trails network offers a myriad of experiences and health benefits^{vi} including hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and other non-vehicular means, offered by each unique setting, including, but not limited to, short nature walks, exploring greenways, parklands and rural agricultural lands, tourism, including agricultural tourism, and other commercial opportunities in local communities, and

WHEREAS, the federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal-aid program of the United States Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), providing federal funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails in both urban and rural regions for both motorized (M) and non-motorized (NM), recreational trail use,^{vii} and

WHEREAS, California’s rural regions have limited access to a network of non-motorized recreational trails, and

WHEREAS, there is currently no completion deadline to complete and connect these many diverse and separate trails into a state-wide coordinated non-motorized transportation network in both urban and rural areas, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly hereby concurring, that the Legislature hereby requests the Governor to designate the State Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Transportation, in partnership with other relevant federal, state, regional and local agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens, to accelerate the planning, creation and completion timeline for a California Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan in both urban and rural areas to expand opportunities for all California citizens to benefit from the creation of a viable recreational, tourist and economic development option in the daily life of California citizens, while reducing the overall usage of fossil-fuel powered vehicles for public transportation and creating a more safe environment for pedestrians & bicyclists to utilize non-motorized transportation trails networks to walk or ride, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of California, and the Assembly hereby concurring, requests the Governor to request the President, Members of Congress, and the United States Department of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), through its Recreational Trails Program, to dedicate increased funding to California to accelerate and support planning and development of a California Non-Motorized Trails Master Plan as an expanded network of non-motorized recreational trails in both rural and urban regions of the State and to accelerate the completion of existing non-motorized recreational trails including, but not limited to, the California Coastal Trail, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the United States Department of Federal Highway Administration, to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States and to the author for appropriate distribution.

ⁱ California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Resources Board, Assembly Bill 32 Overview, <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>

ⁱⁱ Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Executive Order S.3-05, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=1861>

ⁱⁱⁱ California Public Resources Code, Division 5, Parks and Monuments, Chapter 1, Article 6, California Recreational Trails (5070-5077.8), https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=5.&title=&part=&chapter=1.&article=6.

^{iv} Hirsch, Jerry, “Bicycle traffic deaths soar, California leads nation,” Los Angeles Times, October 27, 2014, <http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-california-leads-national-bicycle-deaths-20141027-story.html>

^v “Governor Cuomo Pitches the 20th Proposal of 2017 State of the State: Complete the Empire State Trail by 2020,” January 10, 2017, Albany, New York, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-presents-20th-proposal-2017-state-state-complete-empire-state-trail-2020>

^{vi} Esch, Mary, “Cuomo Pitches 750-mile biking-hiking trail plan for NY State,” Associated Press, 1/10/17, <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/e62c982b21414d429dfb9fc919e70c07/cuomo-pitches-750-mile-biking-hiking-trail-plan-ny-state>

^{vii} New York State of Opportunity, Regional Economic Development Councils, 2015 Regional Economic Development Council Awards, https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/REDCAwardsBooklet2015_2.pdf

Diana Rude’
Legislative Advocate
CA Guild
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PARTNER CAUCUS on FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING SOLUTIONS

APRIL XX, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Office of Management & Budget

Dear Secretary Zinke, Secretary Perdue, Director Mulvaney,

The undersigned organizations represent the Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions, comprised of a diverse group of international, national, and local organizations. The caucus seeks a comprehensive solution to the wildfire suppression funding issue. We urge the new administration to address the budgeting problem associated with federal wildfire suppression by supporting a comprehensive fire funding solution that solves the borrowing issue *and* the erosion of budgets due to increasing wildfire suppression costs.

In January 2009, our diverse coalition of organizations came together to find a solution to the repeated fire transfers, and corresponding reductions to other agency programs – many of which reduce long-term fire risk. The Partner Caucus represents a diverse set of international, national and local organizations interested in sustainable land management on private, tribal, municipal, state, and federal lands.

Critical landscape management activities, longer fire seasons, increased development in the wildland-urban interface, and millions of acres of forests with fuel loads exceeding the historic range of variability are among the many factors contributing to increased costs of wildfire response in the United States. This creates a crippling burden on the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service's land management functions as they shift resources to fund essential suppression activities – effectively delaying and terminating projects that improve forest resilience and help to reduce wildfire risk. In the last several years more than fifty percent of the Forest Service's budget has been consumed by fighting wildfires. Consequently, landscape management has been negatively impacted across all lands including national forests and on DOI lands, such as our national parks, *and* state and private lands.

Many proposals of the past few years would ban the practice of transferring additional funds when appropriated funding is spent, but that is only a partial fix in addressing the impacts from rising wildland firefighting costs. These proposals do not address the larger problem of

PARTNER CAUCUS on FIRE SUPPRESSION FUNDING SOLUTIONS

APRIL XX, 2017

shifting funding from non-fire programs to fire programs, which results from the way firefighting funds are calculated, budgeted, and allocated. As that ten-year average is used to calculate suppression increases, and as budgets remain relatively flat, less is available for forest management and restoration, research, recreation, and other critical private and public land objectives.

A comprehensive fire funding fix would 1) address the continued erosion of agency budgets that results from the increasing ten-year average, and stabilize the level of funding for suppression within the agencies; 2) access disaster funding for extraordinarily costly fires, including those that may be calculated as part of the ten-year average; and 3) significantly reduce the need to transfer from non-suppression accounts and programs. To meet all these criteria, we recommend any fire funding proposals similar to the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, that would freeze the ten-year average and access disaster funding for levels beyond that amount. We additionally support accountability measures to ensure cost containment.

Thank you for your consideration and for addressing this important discussion of wildfire suppression funding challenges. It is critical that the administration and Congress take action this year to solve this critical issue. We look forward to continuing to work together to come to a comprehensive solution.

Sincerely,

Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solution

List of XXX Partner Caucus Signers:

For information regarding this letter or members of the Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions, please contact Cecilia Clavet, cclavet@tnc.org, 703-841-7425.