

# **Butte County Department of Development Services**

TIM SNELLINGS, DIRECTOR | PETE CALARCO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



7 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 538-7601 Telephone  
[www.buttecounty.net/dds](http://www.buttecounty.net/dds)  
[www.buttegeneralplan.net](http://www.buttegeneralplan.net)

ADMINISTRATION \* BUILDING \* PLANNING

## **2013 USERS GROUP YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **2013 Year in Review - Key Issues Discussed at the Butte County Users' Group Meetings**

#### **GENERAL PLAN & ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) **Draft Climate Action Plan** – Introduction and overview of the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP is a required action in General Plan 2030. The CAP contains programs and actions that are designed to help the County sustain its natural resources, grow efficiently, ensure long-term resiliency to a changing environmental and economic climate, and improve transportation. The CAP also supports statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals identified in Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill (SB) 375. Additional information can be found at <http://www.buttecap.net/>. This item will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in early 2014.
- 2) **Oroville Area Greening Plan** – Discussion of the Greening Plan efforts under the Sustainable Growth Council Urban Greening Grant program. This is a collaborative effort guided by Butte County Development Services with the City of Oroville and the Feather River Recreation and Parks District. The plan is in process and will be completed in 2014.

#### **ORDINANCES & IMPROVEMENT STANDARDS**

- 3) **Building Code Update Cycle** – Introduction of the code update process. The update was presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 22, 2013. The Board continued the item for additional discussion. The ordinance was adopted on November 12, 2013.
- 4) **Noise Control Ordinance** – This is a new ordinance for Butte County consistent with the General Plan 2030 Noise Element. The ordinance was adopted by the Board on March 12, 2013. Code Enforcement staff responds to complaints. A consulting firm has been retained where noise measuring expertise is needed.

- 5) **Community Recycled Water (Wastewater) Ordinance, Oversight Entity & EIR** – Public Works coordinated with Environmental Health and Development Services and the Users’ Group on drafting a revised approved for the oversight entity. Public Works presented the approach of using a County Service Area (CSA) on a project basis for the oversight entity on areas that are not served by an existing sewer district. Development Services is working on a CEQA document for the Wastewater Ordinance that has been prepared by Environmental Health. The Ordinance with the environmental document will be presented to the Board in 2014.
- 6) **Countywide Impact Fee Ordinance** – In 2012, the Board adopted an updated nexus study for the impact fees. County Finance worked with several departments, including Development Services and Public Works on preparing updates to the County ordinance. Generally, the fees for commercial were reduced and the residential was about the same. There were several ordinance chapters as part of the update. These were approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 8, 2013.
- 7) **Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance** – Development Services worked with the Northern California Regional Land Trust organization on preparing an ordinance consistent with General Plan 2030 Action Item AG-A2.1 found in the Agricultural Element. This ordinance was presented to the Planning Commission in November 2013 for a recommendation to the Board. The Planning Commission continued the item to January 2014 for additional review.
- 8) **Subdivision Ordinance & Improvement Standards Updates** – The Users’ Group started a list of items to address in an update of the Subdivision ordinance. This will continue to be a work effort of the Users’ Group into 2014.
- 9) **Zoning Ordinance Amendments** – Staff presented zoning ordinance amendments including adjustments, improvements, corrections to the recently adopted Zoning Ordinance (originally approved on November 6, 2012) to the Planning Commission on July 25, 2013 for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors adopted the amendments on September 10, 2013.
- 10) **Draft Grading Ordinance Amendments** – Overview of proposed amendments to the County Grading Ordinance, Butte County Code Chapter 13. This draft is an outcome of the Board of Supervisors’ direction to staff regarding the Grading Ordinance on September 24, 2013. (Mike Crump, Director, Public Works)

## **DEVELOPMENT & PROCESS ISSUES**

- 11) **Floodplain Administration** – Briefing on the County staff review of State Central Valley Flood Protection Plan regional planning effort. Public Works staff continues to attend the meetings and brief the Users’ Group on the floodplain planning program.

- 12) **Grading Permit Issues & Exploratory Well requirements** – Discuss preliminary draft concepts for revisions to Butte County Code Chapter 13 – Grading Ordinance. This discussion will also include the relationship to the Butte County Exploratory Well process.
- 13) **Oroville Enterprise Zone Expiration** – The Enterprise Zone will cease December 31, 2013. The incentives that are part of the Enterprise Zone will also expire. There may be other incentives in the future.
- 14) **Planning Division Fee Schedule Update** – Implementing the new fee schedule. The Planning Division has implemented the new Planning Fee Schedule. These changes included reduced fees for Zoning Administrator action items. An informational update will be presented to the Board in March 2014.

### **PERMIT STREAMLINING/PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

- 15) **Zoning Administrator** – With the adoption of the updated Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator is a new hearing function in Butte County. There were 7 noticed public hearings held with a total of 13 projects approved by the Zoning Administrator. These included 8 Legal Lot Determinations, 3 Minor Use Permits and 2 Tentative Parcel Map applications. The results of the Zoning Administrator can be viewed the same day of the public hearing through the TrakIT Project Search tool in the Department website. The Action Summary and meeting recordings are also posted on the website:

<http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Meetings/ZoningAdministrator.aspx>

- 16) **Storm Drain Leach Trench Permits** – Introduction of an updated process for permitting storm drain leach trench construction. Public Works and Environmental Health have implemented an improved review process. While the Storm Drain Leach Trench permits are not very common, this new system simplifies the process for the applicant.
- 17) **Building Division Issues Update** – An update on issues from the Building Division including 2012 permit statistics, customer service and front lobby improvements and setting up for the 2013 Code Update. A customer service training program was developed internally with the land use departments. Staff improved the layout of the front lobby. Additionally, one of the office areas was improved to serve as a training/meeting room that converts to an Emergency Operations/Disaster Recovery Center if needed.