

Resolution No. PC 22-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BUTTE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACCEPT THE BUTTE COUNTY UPPER RIDGE COMMUNITY PLAN WITH PLAN ADOPTION UPON COMPLETION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE GENERAL PLAN 2040 UPDATE

WHEREAS, the 2018 Camp Fire was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in the United States in over 100 years, damaging and destroying approximately 2,200 homes in the unincorporated community of Magalia, which equaled almost 40 percent of the community's housing stock, significantly affecting the area's population, landscape, and priorities, and highlighting the area's vulnerability to wildland fire; and

WHEREAS, in September 2020, the County adopted Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 20-117 to recognize the Upper Ridge Community Council as representatives of the unincorporated communities of Magalia, Lovelock, Nimshew, and Stirling City, collectively known as Upper Ridge, and to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of the quality of life on the Upper Ridge; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Policy LU-P1.8 of the Butte County General Plan, the County shall support community planning efforts by and for unincorporated communities; and

WHEREAS, according to Butte County General Plan Policy LU-P2.4, as resources become available, the County shall engage willing and interested unincorporated communities in community planning processes to set a community vision and develop Area Plans. Urban growth boundaries, community boundaries, and spheres of influence may be developed as part of such processes; and

WHEREAS, Butte County initiated the creation of a community plan for the unincorporated community of Magalia and immediate surrounding area (Upper Ridge Community Plan), as an amendment to the Butte County General Plan, in a manner set out in Government Code section 65350 et seq. and Butte County Code section 24-277 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, funding for the Upper Ridge Community is provided through the Butte Strong Fund, a partnership of the North Valley Community Foundation, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., and the Aaron Rodgers NorCal Fire Recovery Fund, which aims to provide long-term recovery to communities impacted by the Camp Fire; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the County selected the firm Placeworks to assist with the preparation and drafting of the Upper Ridge Community Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Ridge Community Plan is a planning document that sets a community-supported, long-term vision promoting a thriving, resilient, and sustainable Upper Ridge region and sets forth goals, strategies, and design concepts related to assist in the development of the Plan Area; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Ridge Community Plan Area encompasses the unincorporated community of Magalia and the Paradise Pines neighborhood and is generally bounded by Lake De Sabla to the

north, Coutolenc Road to the east, Centerville and Nimshew Roads to the west, and the Town of Paradise boundary to the south; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Butte County General Plan Policy LU-P7.1, consideration of General Plan amendments shall include broad public participation through the use of public meetings, local groups, questionnaires, and other methods and notification of affected property owners; and

WHEREAS, the County, in coordination with the Upper Ridge Community Council, engaged the community of Magalia to help formulate the Upper Ridge Community Plan, including conducting multiple community workshops, numerous stakeholder group and individual interviews, online surveys, and development of a dedicated project webpage; and

WHEREAS, the County used a combination of outreach methods to encourage community involvement in the planning process for the Upper Ridge Community Plan, including two separate direct mailings to each property owner in and surrounding the Plan Area, posting of flyers throughout the community, email notifications, social media, and posting of planning documents on the project webpage; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Upper Ridge Community Plan was made publicly available from December 10, 2021, through January 14, 2022, online at: <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/urcp> to allow for public review and comment before the Planning Commission's hearing; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on January 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Butte County Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the information in the administrative record, reports, and all oral and written testimony presented to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission further endorsed the public comments by John Stonebraker in Attachment D of the Planning Commission Staff Report, and oral comments made in the hearing chamber by Steve Rodowick; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has determined that the hearing to gather information, seek input from the public, and provide direction on the Draft Upper Ridge Community Plan is statutorily exempt from an environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Butte County Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors accept the Upper Ridge Community Plan, subject to the following findings set forth in Butte County Code section 24-282:

1. The proposed General Plan Amendment is in the public interest;

The Upper Ridge Community Plan is in the public interest and represents the community's vision for a sustainable, attractive, and resilient community. All individuals, groups, and agencies desiring to comment were given adequate opportunity to submit oral and written comments on the Draft Upper Ridge Community Plan. These opportunities for comment meet or exceed the requirements of the Planning and Zoning Law and Butte County Code.

2. The proposed General Plan Amendment is consistent and compatible with the rest of the General Plan;

The Upper Ridge Community Plan is consistent with the Butte County General Plan and will be adopted as an amendment to the General Plan 2040 Update.

3. The potential effects of the proposed General Plan Amendment have been evaluated and have been determined not to be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare; and

The proposed Upper Ridge Community Plan is in the public interest and protects the County's health, safety, and welfare.

4. The proposed General Plan Amendment has been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and CEQA.

The actions by the Planning Commission to gather information and provide direction are statutorily exempt from an environmental review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and CEQA Guidelines Section 15262. Upon acceptance of the draft plan and accompanying strategies by the Board of Supervisors at a future hearing, further analysis, in accordance with CEQA, will be performed through an Environmental Impact Report.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of January 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Donati, Flicker, Hansen, Schleiger, and Chair Roethler

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Ruby Roethler, Chair
Planning Commission
County of Butte, State of California

ATTEST:



Michal Hanson, Secretary
Planning Commission
County of Butte, State of California