CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
COUNTY OF BUTTE
25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE
OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965-3380
 Telephone: (530)-538-7631 Fax: (530)-538-7120

JOHN S. BLACKLOCK
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
June 21, 2001

Tom Lando, City Manager
City of Chico
P.O. Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927

Re: Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Plan - Proposed Final EIR

Dear Tom:

Provided for your convenience is the proposed Final EIR for the Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Plan. I have also included a copy of my memo to the Board of Supervisors (Board) which lays out helpful background information. We will discuss this item with the Board at 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2001. A copy of the proposed Final EIR was also provided to City of Chico Community Development.

The requested action of the Board is to open the public hearing, receive the documents and testimony, and continue the hearing to September 11, 2001. We originally planned for the Board to certify the proposed Final EIR and to direct its transmittal to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) as part of the County’s State Revolving Fund loan application.

Upon receiving a copy of the proposed Final EIR the State Board requested that we allow the appropriate federal agencies additional time to review these documents. Unfortunately we received this request after having published a meeting notice for the June 26, 2001 Board meeting.

If you have any questions please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Eric Miller,
Manager - Program Resource & Development

Attachments

cc: E.C. Ross, City of Chico Public Works
Star Brown, Assistant CAO (letter only)

EAM
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR)

A public review period for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #99102080) will commence on February 26, 2001 and end on April 12, 2001 (45 days) concerning the potential environmental effects of the proposed Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Plan. This plan addresses the conversion of nearly 7,800 units from on-site septic systems to conventional sewer. The project location is within the Chico Urban Area, including areas north and south of Lindo Channel within the City of Chico and the unincorporated area of Butte County, California.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) identifies the following potentially significant environmental effects: Changes to surface water discharge; primary impacts to surface water quality; surface water quality impacts from project area storm water runoff; accidental releases of sewage or other contaminants; increase in air pollutants from grading and construction activities; short-term increases in soil erosion; loss of vegetation; reduction or disturbance of fish and wildlife habitat; short-term impacts on scenic vistas; potential disturbance or destruction of identified and previously unidentified cultural resources; short-term traffic disruptions and delays; short-term disruption of access to adjacent properties; short-term increase in construction-related traffic; short-term conflicts with gas and electric facilities; short-term impacts on telephone service; short-term impacts on water service; short-term impacts on solid waste pickup; accidental release of contaminants to near-surface soils and potential exposure of contaminated subsurface soils; and short-term delays in law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical response time. With the exception of short-term conflicts with existing gas lines, all impacts identified above can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant by mitigation measures included in the DEIR.

All persons interested in reviewing or obtaining copies of the DEIR and/or the Nitrate Compliance Plan are invited to contact the Butte County Administrative Office, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville (530) 538-7631. These documents can also be reviewed in the Butte County Public Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico, and the Meriam Library, 3rd Floor – Special Collections Section, 400 West 1st Street, on the campus of California State University, Chico.

All comments concerning the DEIR must be submitted in writing to the Butte County Department of Development Services on or before April 12, 2001 (postmarks will be accepted). Please direct written comments to Thomas A. Parilo, Director, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA, 95965, (530)538-7601 and also to Randy Chafin, Principal, Cotton/Beland/Associates, 720 Sunrise Avenue, Suite 202-C, Roseville, CA 95661-4509, (916) 780-9390. A public meeting concerning the DEIR is expected to occur in the near future during the 45-day public review period. Further notice of this meeting shall be provided.

February 26, 2001

Thomas A. Parilo, Director
Butte County Dept. of Development Services

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