

Butte County Department of Development Services

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Butte County Board of Supervisors
AGENDA REPORT
Butte County General Plan 2030
Draft Climate Action Plan, Work Plan, and EIR Addendum

January 28, 2014

Butte County Board of Supervisors
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA

Subject: Draft Butte County Climate Action Plan, Work Plan, and EIR Addendum

I. RECOMMENDATION

- **Recommended Motion:** Approve the Resolution adopting the Climate Action Plan and approving the EIR Addendum (Attachment A, C, and Attachment G), and approve the Resolution adopting the CAP Work Plan (Attachment B).

II. INTRODUCTION

The Butte County Department of Development Services coordinated preparation of this community-wide Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP), **Attachment C**, with primary project consultant PMC for the unincorporated area of Butte County. The CAP is an implementation mechanism of the County's General Plan adopted in 2010 and amended in 2012, providing

specific measures necessary to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, address climate change adaptation, and improve quality of life in the county.

The CAP mitigates environmental impacts under CEQA for GHG emissions associated with the General Plan's implementation. The CAP also complies with statewide GHG emissions reduction goals identified in Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill (SB) 375. Programs and actions in the CAP will 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 and its associated environmental review will also serve as a Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), simplifying development review for new projects that are consistent with the CAP. For example, prior to a CAP's adoption, when a development application is submitted, information is required on how the project would not have a significant impact related to the contribution of GHG. After the CAP is adopted, a project applicant will be able to reference how the project complies with the CAP and this will be sufficient information to determine compliance with CEQA for significant impacts related to GHG.

The CAP process included an outreach component involving a stakeholder group meeting, Public Workshop, and Butte County Fair Booth. Input received was used to help shape the CAP's overall approach in developing Greenhouse Gas reduction measures for Butte County. The following sections of the staff report provide background and analysis concerning the CAP process, involving five main areas:

1. Community Engagement
2. Inventories of Current Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Forecasts
3. Identification of Emission Reduction Targets
4. Emission Reduction and Adaptation Measures.
5. EIR Addendum

The CAP's overall goal is to accomplish a 15 percent reduction of 2006 GHG emissions by 2020 pursuant to State guidelines. The year 2006 was selected as a base year since that was the baseline year identified in Butte County General Plan 2030 and it complies with State guidelines. In order to quantify this goal, various sectors of the community were inventoried for their various GHG contributions, including government operations. The CAP process then created a variety of GHG emission reduction measures to help achieve the required reduction goal. The CAP also sets forth adaptation measures that will help the County adapt to changing environmental conditions presented by climate change.

Additional coordination with various County departments on the public draft CAP that was released on October 17, 2013 resulted in some minor changes to various CAP measures to provide more clarity and accuracy. These departments included Administration, Public Works, General Services, and County Counsel. Additionally, other more minor changes have been made as follows: 1) the greater detail concerning lead and supportive agencies originally included in the Draft CAP has been moved into the CAP Work Plan, so that assignments can be updated as needed through updates to the Work Plan. 2) Minor edits were performed concerning the lead and responsible agencies as recommended by County staff. All of these changes have been recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on a 5-0 vote, and are incorporated into the new January 28, 2014 Draft CAP provide under **Attachment C**. The specific changes are itemized under **Attachment C-1**.

III. BACKGROUND

In accordance with Butte County General Plan 2030 Conservation and Safety Element Action COS-A1.1, set forth below, Butte County shall prepare, within one year of adoption of General Plan 2030, a Climate Action Plan (CAP), which, in combination with other existing policies and regulations by other agencies and business sectors of the economy, would reduce GHG emissions in the County to a level that would comply with State guidelines. Conservation and Open Space Element Action COS-A1.1 is also identified under General Plan 2030 and the General Plan 2030 Final EIR as required as a means to mitigate environmental impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Conservation and Open Space Element Action COS-A1.1*

Within one year of adoption of General Plan 2030, coordinate with regional agencies to develop a Climate Action Plan, which, in combination with other existing policies and regulations by other agencies and business sectors of the economy, would achieve reduction consistent with State guidelines using methodology deemed appropriate at the time of quantification. Include the following as components in the Climate Action Plan:

- a. Establish a detailed inventory of current (2006) GHG emissions in Butte County, including, but not limited to, residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural emissions.
- b. Forecast GHG emissions for areas within the jurisdictional control of the County for “business as usual” conditions in 2020.
- c. Identify methods to reduce GHG emissions to a level that would achieve reduction consistent with State guidelines at the time of quantification.

- d. Quantify the 2030 reductions in GHG emissions from the identified methods.
- e. Require monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions.
- f. Establish a schedule of actions for implementation through 2020.
- g. Identify funding sources for implementation through 2020.
- h. Identify a process to set a reduction goal for 2030 by 2020.
- i. Update the Climate Action Plan by 2020 to include reduction measures to achieve the adopted 2030 reduction goal.
- j. Develop a Climate Change Preparedness Plan that will prepare for the impacts of climate change on the County's economic and natural ecosystems and promote a climate-resilient community.

* Action COS A-1.1 is a required CEQA mitigation of the growth impacts under General Plan 2030 as identified in the certified General Plan 2030 Final EIR

The Draft CAP supports and directly implements many of the General Plan's goals, policies, and actions. This relationship with the General Plan is referenced under Table A-1 under Appendix A of the Draft CAP (Pages A-1 thru A-3). This table demonstrates the close relationship of the CAP to the General Plan. The CAP serves as an important implementation tool of the numerous actions vetted and adopted through the General Plan 2030 process.

General Plan 2030 policies and actions provide a comprehensive framework for reducing GHG emissions in the County. In particular, the Climate Action Plan requirements under Action COS-A1.1 would assist California in meeting the reduction goals for the year 2020 that are embodied in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32), and would ensure that GHG emissions in Butte County would not contribute considerably to cumulative GHG emissions and associated climate change effects.

The County had participated in grant applications in 2011 and 2012 under the California Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program for funding the preparation of a CAP, offered through the State's Strategic Growth Council, with letters of support from Sierra Club, Butte County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC), Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD), and the Cities of Oroville and Gridley. Unfortunately, this funding was not granted for those years and this hindered CAP completion within the initial 1-year time frame required by the General Plan. The current CAP project, supported by the County, does not rely upon grant funding.

Butte County Sustainability Report

A Sustainability Report prepared by County staff and reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on August 14, 2012, also recognized the importance of the preparation of a CAP to address climate change and energy efficiency.

The Sustainability Report states that ideas and policies established in General Plan 2030 can address the one aspect of climate change that is under human control – GHG emissions. To this end, General Plan 2030 identified a community-driven and collaboratively-created CAP as a key Action Item. The CAP is critical to taking the County’s commitment to sustainability to the next level by establishing a quantifiable GHG emissions reduction target and monitoring the County’s progress towards agreed upon outcomes.

The Sustainability Report also states that efforts to reduce GHG emissions can benefit Butte County’s economy, by using energy more efficiently, harnessing renewable energy to power our buildings, enhancing access to sustainable transportation modes, and recycling our waste, we can keep dollars in our local economy, create new green jobs and improve community quality of life. Additionally, these measures position the County to be more fiscally sound as traditional forms of energy becomes less available and more expensive to purchase.

The Sustainability Report also points out that the same principles and approaches that will be developed through the CAP can apply to County operations. The Report further states that actions to reduce the contribution of GHG emissions from Butte County operations must be taken as a matter of leadership and legal compliance.

December 12, 2013 Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Draft CAP

The Butte County Planning Commission held a public hearing and approved a Resolution recommending approval of the Draft CAP, Work Plan, and EIR addendum to the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2013. Summary Notes from this meeting are provided under **Attachment D**.

The Planning Commission asked staff to follow-up on one issue related to the positive influences of groundwater recharge on reducing pumping costs and therefore reducing GHG production was discussed. By recharging the water table AG pumps will be used less often, reducing consumption.

Staff discussed this issue with Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Director Paul Gosselin. Mr. Gosselin highlighted the various policies and programs related to the promotion of groundwater recharge including:

- Butte County’s Integrated Water resource Plan (IWRP)
- County Groundwater Management Plan
- Butte County General Plan, Water Resources Element
- Department of Water and Resource Conservation 2011-2015 Strategic and Operational Plan

Streamlining under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The CAP provides a framework for the County to reduce community-wide GHG emissions, to simplify the environmental review process for new development, and to review and process projects in a timely and more predictable manner.

Most large new development projects must undergo a lengthy CEQA review process to analyze and disclose potential environmental impacts. New projects that the County considers to be consistent with the CAP can avoid analyzing specific impacts on climate change, although these projects may still be required to analyze other potential environmental impacts in a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report. By identifying a menu of measures in this CAP, the County is providing applicants with a recommended list of ways to reduce GHG emissions, reducing the workload for project applicants. Applicants can incorporate CAP measures within proposed projects, knowing that they meet the County’s expectations as set forth in the CAP.

The Butte County CAP and accompanying environmental documentation provide these benefits based on consistency with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1). County staff will use a project checklist to analyze the consistency of new projects subject to CEQA with applicable CAP measures.

IV. ANALYSIS

Draft CAP Process

The County contracted with the consultant PMC who prepared the Draft CAP in coordination with County staff. Key work products completed by PMC, in addition to, and in support of the Draft CAP, include:

1. **Community Engagement.** This included outreach to the Farm Bureau concerning GHG reduction strategies, a Community Open House, and operation of a booth devoted to the CAP at the Butte County Fair.
2. **Detailed Inventory of Current Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Forecasts.** This included baseline inventories associated with, 1) emissions from local government operations, and 2) emissions associated with all activities taking place within the community.
3. **Identify Emission Reduction Target and Evaluate Emission Reduction Measures.** This included:
 - a. The completion of an **emission reduction target** pursuant to the General Plan and State guidelines.
 - b. **Emission reduction measures and adaptation/resilience measures** tailored to unincorporated Butte County and County operations necessary to achieve the reduction target.
4. **CAP Work Plan.** Attaining CAP reduction goals requires County leadership to execute measures and report progress. The Work Plan identifies responsible departments and key implementation considerations for each CAP measure. The CAP Work Plan includes a Monitoring and Reporting tool to be used by County staff to monitor the annual progress toward the GHG reduction target.
5. **EIR Addendum.** The EIR Addendum addresses environmental review in compliance with CEQA.

Further discussions concerning each of the five above topics are provided below, summarized from the CAP, and the EIR Addendum.

1. **Community Engagement**

Prior to completion of the CAP staff met with key stakeholders and County Department Heads to receive input on potential strategies for emission reductions. Staff additionally held two community events to receive input from the general public, including a Public Workshop and staffing of a booth at the Butte County Fair, described below. The Draft CAP was made publicly available during an official 30-day public review period from October 17, 2013 through November 18, 2013 online at ButteCap.net, at all Butte County Branch Libraries, and at the Development Services office. Development Services additionally made notice of the availability of the Draft CAP through the General Plan 2030 listserve email service, which includes over 900 email addresses. The Public Draft CAP was downloaded over 150 times via ButteCap.net.

Copies of the Public Draft CAP were also provided to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, and other key stakeholders including the Butte County Farm Bureau, Valley Contractors Exchange, Butte Environmental Council, Butte County Association of Governments, and the Butte County Air Quality Management District.

Display ads of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission hearings were provided in all County newspapers informing the public of the hearings and the availability of the Draft CAP and EIR Addendum.

Throughout the review period and at the time of the writing of this staff report, no public comments have been received concerning the Draft CAP or EIR Addendum.

Agricultural Stakeholder Meeting

On March 20, 2013, PMC and County staff met with Farm Bureau representatives and the Agriculture Commissioner to discuss agricultural emissions and potential strategies for emission reductions. Input from this stakeholder group meeting was included in the formation of the agriculture reduction measures contained within the CAP. Valuable local information was obtained from those present concerning residue burning, livestock, farm equipment, agricultural irrigation pumps, pesticide application, fertilizer/lime/urea application, and other issues related to agriculture.

CAP Public Workshop

On May 14, 2013 the Department of Development Services, in coordination with PMC hosted a community wide open house meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the CAP process, share initial ideas regarding the CAP, and provide input on policies and programs. Members of the public also participated in a polling exercise to learn about their general understanding and preferences regarding GHG emission reduction requirements and policy. After the presentations, the audience was invited to provide input through various posters and provide questions and comments to staff. About 70 people participated in the various activities provided at the workshop. Public comment received at the meeting was collected and reviewed for applicability to the Draft CAP. A meeting summary for this event is provided under **Attachment E**.

CAP Butte County Fair Booth

From August 22 – 25, 2013, Development Services and PMC staff hosted an interactive booth at the Butte County Fair in Gridley. Visitors to the Fair booth were asked to participate in a brief

activity relating to differing policy topics. Participants who successfully completed the activity and provided input were awarded a CAP-Pack for their efforts. About 70 people participated in the booth activities during the fair. In addition to those who participated, many more provided feedback, viewed information, picked up handouts, and spoke with staff. A summary for this event is provided under **Attachment F**.

2. Detailed Inventories and Forecasts of Current Greenhouse Gas Emissions

A greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast lays the groundwork for the CAP planning process. This inventory and GHG forecasts are provided for the unincorporated community as well as for Butte County government operations. These inventories use calendar year 2006 data from everyday activities such as the electricity used in homes, miles traveled in vehicles, and natural gas used in government facilities to estimate GHG emissions. The 2006 baseline year has been selected for consistency with state guidance and the General Plan.

Community Inventory

In support of the CAP, PMC completed a peer review of the Butte County 2006 baseline community GHG emissions inventory (Community Inventory) and 2020 and 2030 emissions forecasts originally prepared for *Butte County General Plan 2030*. The purpose of the peer review is to confirm the accuracy of the existing GHG emissions inventory and forecasts, and to identify areas where the inventory or forecast should be updated to meet current industry standards and protocols. The peer review is an important first step in developing an accurate emission forecast and reduction target for the CAP.

The inventory calculates GHG emissions for activities that take place within unincorporated Butte County. All GHG emissions in the inventory are shown in a common unit: metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, or MTCO₂e. The GHG emissions inventory analyzes several community sources for unincorporated Butte County in 2006. Of inventoried emissions (911,630 MTCO₂e), over three-quarters result from just three sectors: agriculture, on-road transportation, and residential energy use.

Although agriculture is the largest sector in the community inventory (with 43% of the total emissions, at 390,400 MTCO₂e), when compared acre-by-acre to urban uses, agriculture is a lower producer of GHG emissions. These results indicate that each average acre of new residential, commercial, or industrial land could result in emissions of up to nine times that of an acre of agricultural land. This information focuses solely on inventoried sectors in the Butte

community inventory that are easily allocated to land use types. But in general, agricultural land can be up to 100 times less intensive than urban land when accounting for all inventory emissions. This analysis does not factor in the benefits of agricultural land in sequestering¹ GHG, rather it only accounts for the production of GHG.

¹Carbon sequestration is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is taken by trees, grasses, and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and rocks) and soils.

Government Operations Inventory

PMC completed a 2006 GHG emissions inventory for government operations and 2020 and 2030 GHG forecasts. A government operations inventory had not been completed as part of the previous inventory completed under the General Plan. The Government Operations Inventory builds upon efforts undertaken by the Butte County Sustainability Work Team that created the *Butte County 2012 Sustainability Report* (Sustainability Report). The Sustainability Report summarizes County activities across a number of sustainability issue areas (e.g., energy use, water consumption, solid waste generation), and presents County accomplishments, challenges, and future goals. Emissions from the referenced sources in 2006 totaled 30,010 metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions (MTCO₂e).

Under the Government Operations Inventory the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility was the largest source of emissions in 2006, resulting in 13,700 MTCO₂e (46% of total emissions). Employee commute and travel was the second-largest sector, resulting in 6,030 MTCO₂e (20% of total emissions). Building energy emissions (5,840 MTCO₂e, 19%) and vehicle fleet emissions (4,340 MTCO₂e, 14%) were the third- and fourth-largest emissions sources. Lighting, water and wastewater, and government-generated solid waste together resulted in 100 MTCO₂e (less than 1% of total emissions).

Generally, government operations GHG emissions are considered a subset of community-wide emissions because most government activities occur within the government's jurisdictional boundary. This is not the case, though, for unincorporated county governments whose government operations may occur within the boundaries of other jurisdictions (County facilities in the City of Oroville, for example). Since it is infeasible to accurately identify which government operations emissions occur within the unincorporated parts of the county, the Government Operations Inventory and Community Inventory are treated as separate, non-comparable items.

Emission Forecasts

A business-as-usual (BAU) emissions forecast estimates how GHG emissions would grow over time if no action is taken at the federal, state, or local level to reduce them. An emissions forecast was prepared for Butte County, assuming 2006 activity rates (e.g., energy consumption per household, waste disposed per person) remain constant. The forecast addresses 2020 and 2030. The 2020 target year corresponds to AB 32, while the 2030 target year corresponds to the General Plan. Under the anticipated growth scenario, BAU community emissions would increase to 1,015,260 MTCO₂e by 2020, or 11% above 2006 emissions. By 2030, emissions would grow to approximately 1,111,120 MTCO₂e, or 22% above 2006 emissions

Government operations emissions would grow by 12% (3,650 MTCO₂e) from 2006 to 2020, and by 20% (5,910 MTCO₂e) from 2006 to 2030 under a business-as-usual scenario. Most of this increase is related to anticipated growth in service population within the unincorporated County under the General Plan, which would directly increase emissions in the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility and lighting sectors, and would indirectly increase emissions in remaining government operations sectors by increasing need for County staff, buildings, and services.

The Community and Government Operations Inventories and Forecast are discussed in more detail under Pages ES-2 & ES-3 and Chapter 2, Pages 11-17.

3. Identify Emission Reduction Target and Evaluate Emission Reduction Measures

Emission Reduction Targets

PMC provided recommended GHG reduction goals for the Butte County CAP based upon the government operations inventory, community-wide inventory, Butte County General Plan 2030 and State and regional guidance. The reduction goal provides an overall objective for the CAP and a benchmark to assess progress. Following the adoption of AB 32, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), identifying a State-recommended reduction goal for local governments to achieve 1990 emissions levels by 2020, which the Scoping Plan equates to an approximate 15% reduction below existing emissions. Based on this guidance, air districts and local jurisdictions throughout California have interpreted “existing emissions” as baseline emissions occurring between 2005 and 2008. The CAP therefore includes the following reduction goals:

- A community emissions reduction goal of **15% below baseline 2006 emissions levels by 2020** as the equivalent of the 1990 emissions goal adopted in General Plan 2030.
- Community emissions reduction goals of 42% below baseline 2006 emissions levels by 2030 to align with the interim reductions that would be needed to demonstrate progress toward the reduction goal of Executive Order S-3-05.
- A government operations emissions reduction goal of **15% below baseline 2006 emissions levels by 2020**.

A 15% reduction goal below 2006 emissions by 2020 is consistent with statewide guidance for implementing the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, identified in the AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan. By referring to 2006 emissions levels rather than estimating 1990 emissions, this reduction goal ensures that the CAP is premised on transparent and readily available data from the County's GHG emissions inventory.

Butte County is doing its part to implement policies and programs that conserve resources and reduce emissions. The County has a successful track record of supporting programs and initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and emission reductions at the local level. Specific actions taken by the County since 2006 to reduce emissions include:

- 1-megawatt solar array at the Butte County Government Center and planned improvements
- Solar photovoltaic array installations via the California Solar Initiative and Butte College solar arrays
- Reductions in crop residue burning
- Reductions in fertilizer and pesticide use and conversion to less GHG-intensive crops
- Increased solid waste diversion rate
- Landfill gas power plan at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility
- Annexations of land to cities
- Increase proportion of multi-family units
- Complete streets ordinance

Other County actions that support the CAP but are not quantified for GHG emissions credit include:

- Waste franchise agreements to reduce redundant dump truck trips throughout the County (in process as of fall 2013)
- County policy to encourage purchase of environmentally preferable products
- County policy for all new County facilities to meet LEED Silver standards or its equivalency
- One of the first online Building Permit processes in the state for rooftop solar PV installation

The state has also taken action by passing a full range of environmental laws that are actively reducing emissions throughout California. These activities and requirements have already set the County on a path to achieve its reduction goals. Together, state and local accomplishments are expected to reduce 2020 community emissions to 3% below baseline levels.

Assessing the benefits of state and local accomplishments gives the County credit for work done to date and helps the community better understand the anticipated GHG emissions from the activities of residents, employees, businesses, and government. Accounting for reductions from both local and state actions, the unincorporated Butte County community needs to reduce emissions by an additional 108,330 MTCO₂e by 2020 to achieve the emissions reduction goal of 774,890 MTCO₂e (15% below 2006 baseline levels).

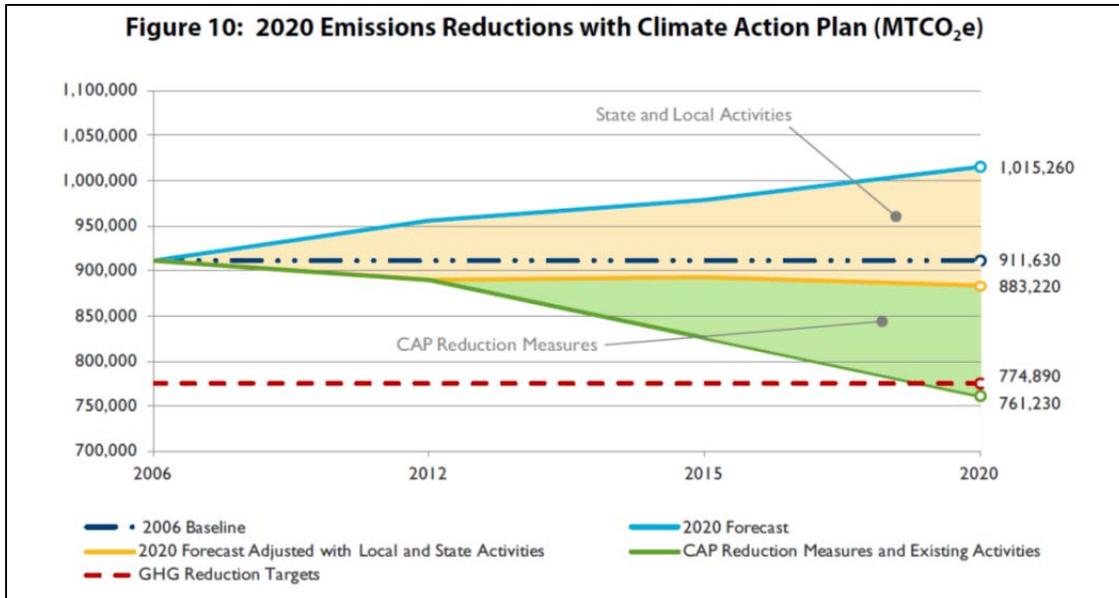
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Targets are discussed in more detail under CAP Chapter 3, Pages 19 - 25.

Emission Reduction Measures

The reduction measures included in Chapter 4 of the CAP identify actions that can be implemented to reduce emissions and achieve the 15% reduction goal by 2020. Strategies focus on agriculture, renewable energy generation, and voluntary energy efficiency upgrades to achieve most GHG reductions. Implementing the CAP would reduce community emissions 16.5% below 2006 levels by 2020, allowing Butte County to surpass the 15% reduction goal. The largest share of these reductions comes from energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, although reduction measures in all sectors are needed to meet and exceed the 2020 goal.

Government operations emissions and the associated reduction target are distinct from community emissions. Implementation of the government operations measures would reduce 2020 emissions by 10,290 MTCO₂e, or 33% below baseline levels. The government operations strategy primarily depends on documenting the methane captured at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, retrofitting government buildings to be more energy efficient, and encouraging employees to reduce miles traveled commuting to work and conducting government business.

The reductions provided by the measures contained in the Draft CAP are best shown under Figure 10 from the Draft CAP:



The emissions reductions listed under the CAP are the outcome of a rigorous process conducted to identify the most appropriate strategies for Butte County and to quantify their effect on GHG emissions. Chapter 4 of the CAP provides a detailed explanation of all of the measures by topic area. Each measure is provided with the following information:

- a. Description
- b. Actions
- c. Who’s Responsible
- d. Amount of GHG Reduction (in MTCO₂e)
- e. Community Benefits

Emissions Reduction Measures are discussed in more detail under CAP Chapter 4, Pages 26 - 56.

Adaptation Measures

Butte County faces a number of current hazards and vulnerabilities that would be exacerbated under a changing climate. The adopted General Plan vision and policies support a Butte County with well-planned and resilient communities with adequate public services and facilities. General Plan Policy COS A.1.1, which supports the creation of the CAP also supports the development of a Climate Change Preparedness Plan that will prepare for the impacts of climate change on the County’s economic and natural ecosystems and promote a climate-resilient community. The Climate Change Preparedness Plan is included in the Draft CAP under

Chapter 5. Through the adaptation measures set forth under Chapter 5, natural resources will be protected and enhanced, and the County's agriculture will continue to thrive. Hazards such as flooding and fire that may be exacerbated by climate change will be anticipated and minimized.

Adaptation measures are provided under Chapter 5 of the CAP to help Butte County prepare for and adjust to the effects of climate change. Examples include establishing cooling centers during heat waves, promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to reduce peak load demand, and developing low-impact development standards to reduce stormwater runoff and increase groundwater recharge. The County will estimate the cost and benefit of each action and, if proven feasible, pursue each action when resources become available.

Adaptation Measures are discussed in more detail under CAP Chapter 5, Pages 57 - 62.

4. CAP Work Plan & Monitoring and Reporting Tools

CAP Work Plan (Attachment B)

Achieving the GHG reduction goal by 2020 is a challenging task requiring a coordinated work effort. Attaining CAP reduction goals will require County leadership to execute measures and report progress. Chapter 6 of the CAP presents an overview of the County's Work Plan. The Work Plan is necessary to achieve emissions reduction and adaptation goals, monitor implementation, and demonstrate progress. Recognizing that the CAP is a strategic plan that may evolve over time, the Work Plan provides an initial framework and a means for County staff to revisit CAP measures and respond to new opportunities or successes.

The work plan itself will be approved by separate resolution of the Board of Supervisors and may be revised or updated independent of an amendment to the CAP, therefore it is, not included in the CAP. The CAP Work Plan and related Resolution is provided under **Attachment B**.

The Work Plan identifies each Emission Reduction and Adaptation Measure set forth under Chapter 4 and 5 of the CAP and provides the following additional information for each measure and adaptation strategy:

- Time Frame (by 2014, 2016, 2018, or 2020)
- Lead Agency/Additional Supportive Agencies
- Estimated Staff Time

Monitoring and Reporting Tools

To demonstrate progress toward plan goals, the County will use a monitoring and reporting tool. Using the same technical data that informed development of the CAP, the tool will allow County staff to evaluate CAP progress using quantitative and qualitative progress information. The monitoring and reporting tool estimates emissions changes in the unincorporated County year-by-year using publicly available data and tracks progress for each measure, including initiation dates and performance.

Certain measures may exceed expectations and provide more cost-effective options to reduce emissions. Other measures may not meet anticipated reductions. Development Services will use the monitoring and reporting tool to provide updates to decision-makers in order to reassess funding decisions and allocation of staff time. Annual updates using the monitoring and reporting tool also allow the County to reduce the need for a full re-inventory of GHG emissions to evaluate progress.

The CAP Work Plan and Monitoring and Reporting Tools are discussed in more detail under CAP Chapter 6, Pages 63 – 65.

5. EIR Addendum (Attachment A, Approving Resolution; Attachment G, EIR Addendum)

An EIR Addendum has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164 to serve as an Addendum to the previously certified Butte County General Plan Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2008092062). The EIR Addendum was circulated to the State Clearinghouse, which provided the addendum to appropriate State agencies. The review period closed on November 20, 2013 and no State Responsible or Trustee Agencies responded with any comment.

The CAP implements one of the actions and mitigations of the Butte County General Plan to reduce GHG emissions (see General Plan Action COS-A1.1). The Addendum addresses potential environmental impacts of proposed CAP measures and actions. Future projects will rely on the Addendum to ensure that future development and planning activities within the unincorporated County conform to the objectives of the Climate Action Plan and state climate change legislation.

The environmental analysis provided in Section 3.0 of the Addendum provides substantial evidence to support that none of the circumstances set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 would result from adoption and implementation of the proposed CAP. CEQA Guidelines Section

15162 and the Addendum's consistency with these guidelines are addressed in the Addendum.

The Climate Action Plan and the EIR Addendum to the General Plan EIR were available for review by the public and interested parties, agencies, and organizations from October 17, 2013 to November 20, 2013. The documents were also available for public review online at www.buttecap.net, and at the Department of Development Services. Throughout the review period and at the time of the writing of this staff report, no public comments have been received concerning the EIR Addendum.

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the EIR Addendum (**Attachment G**) through the attached Resolution (**Attachment A**).

V. NEXT STEPS

Provided the Board of Supervisors approves the Draft CAP, implementation of the CAP's measures and adaptation strategies will take place in accordance with the CAP Work Plan. The CAP will be monitored for achievements and reports will be provided annually to the Board of Supervisors on CAP performance. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Principal Planner Dan Breedon at 538-7629 or Tim Snellings at 538-6821.

Sincerely,

Tim Snellings, Director
Butte County Department of Development Services

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution Adopting the CAP, and the EIR Addendum
- B. Resolution Adopting the CAP Work Plan
- C. Butte County CAP, January 28, 2014
 - C.1. Text Changes made to the Public Draft CAP
- D. December 12, 2013, Planning Commission Meeting Summary
- E. CAP Public Workshop Meeting Summary
- F. CAP Butte County Fair Booth Activity Summary
- G. CAP EIR Addendum