



Butte County General Plan Update 2040 Environmental Justice Stakeholder Meeting

Online Meeting
Tuesday, July 27, 2021

At this meeting held on July 27, 2021, Butte County engaged in a thoughtful discussion about environmental justice with 18 representatives from various local and regional groups (listed below). The meeting focused on identifying the breadth and geographic scope of environmental justice issues facing unincorporated communities in Butte County, confirming where impacted communities are located and how to engage with them, and discussing how to address environmental justice in the updated General Plan. This meeting was held virtually over Zoom.

The County's Director of Development Services, Paula Daneluk, began the meeting by providing a land acknowledgement as follows: "Let us acknowledge the original caretakers of this land: the Maidu, Mechoopda, Nisenan, Konkow, and Yana people and their allies. We respect the strength of this land and what it means to be Maidu, Mechoopda, Nisenan, Konkow, or Yana."

County staff and consultants delivered a brief presentation followed by an open-ended question and answer session, after which the group broke into small groups for a facilitated discussion around the topic of environmental justice. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants reconvened in the main "room" for a summary report out from each group and a discussion of next steps. A recording of the meeting is posted to the project webpage, <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/generalplanupdate>.

Participants

The communities and organizations represented at the stakeholder meeting are listed below.

- Communities represented
 - Chico
 - Magalia
- Organizations represented
 - Butte County Air Quality Management District
 - Butte County Environmental Health
 - Butte County Fire Safe Council
 - Butte County Local Food Network
 - Butte County Public Health
 - Butte County Superintendent of Schools
 - Cal Water
 - Everybody Healthy Body
 - Jesus Center
 - LEAD
 - Magalia Community Park and Community Center
 - Paradise Ridge Democrats
 - Upper Ridge Community Council



Presentation

County staff and consultants presented an overview of the Butte County General Plan Update 2040, including information about the Update's focus on environmental justice, and shared the State of California's definition of environmental justice: "the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." The meeting presentation slides are posted to the project webpage, <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/generalplanupdate>.

Small Group Discussion Summary

Meeting participants were moved into three virtual "breakout rooms". Each group discussed three questions regarding environmental justice. Meeting participants were encouraged to discuss their perspectives and ideas in response to the specific questions. Note-takers captured comments in a shared Google Doc visible on the screen. The three questions are presented below in **bold**, followed by a bulleted list summarizing responses.

1. Key Issues: Senate Bill 1000 requires the County to improve a range of conditions in disadvantaged communities. Specifically, we need to develop policies to address:

- **Pollution exposure and air quality**
- **Public facilities and services**
- **Food access**
- **Safe and sanitary homes**
- **Physical activity**
- **Community engagement**

What do you see as the key issues related to these six topics in Butte County? Are there other aspects to environmental justice you would like to see the General Plan address?

- Key issues for Upper Ridge communities
 - Need for housing for low-income residents of all demographic groups.
 - Cannot build multi-family housing due to lack of sewer.
 - Need help clearing vegetation.
 - Need help preparing for disasters and/or extreme heat.
 - Public safety power shutoffs create issues for low-income communities.
 - Lack of community space that people of all ages can enjoy together.
 - Homelessness.
- Access to healthy food and services
 - Lack of access to food for children.
 - High food insecurity rates with growing food deserts and lack of healthy foods.
 - The USDA has federal grants/loans for disadvantaged communities to start farms, farmers markets, and other community agriculturally based uses.
 - Mobile farmers markets are a great tactic to deliver fresh produce.
 - Services are sparse, especially after losses from fires.
 - Lack of digital connectivity.
 - Lack of economic security for those who need it most.
 - Lack of doctors and/or general medical care.



- Need very walkable communities that link to services, commercial spaces, and parks.
- Youth in the community need more access to physical activity opportunities.
- Trauma
 - Repetitive disasters have unknown consequences on the community.
 - Lack of social and emotional learning tools and support to dispel emotional trauma from disasters.
 - Smell of smoke can be triggering.
- Evacuation
 - Evacuation is a cause of anxiety.
 - Evacuation routes and communication need improvements.
 - Designated evacuation routes in high fire hazard areas.
- Environmental and Fire Hazards
 - Wildfire threat.
 - Disaster preparation.
 - Air quality.
 - Pollution issues with well water.
 - Deforestation.
 - Impacts from pesticide use.
- Miscellaneous
 - An increase in population has caused an increase in waste.
 - More drug related activity.
 - Many days of school lost for children because of disasters.
 - Community choice energy is important.
 - Electric cars vs. public or active transportation mode shifts.
 - Too many liquor and smoke stores.
 - Remove the fee to dispose of green waste.
 - Not much control over landlords and ensuring they provide healthy places to live.

2. Locations: Where are disadvantaged communities located in unincorporated Butte County?

- Any post-Camp Fire community
- Anywhere with persons living without heat or utilities
- Magalia
- Bangor
- Berry Creek (due to drought issues)
- Chapman
- Cherokee
- Concow
- DeSabra
- Feather Falls
- Forbestown
- Lovelock
- Nimshe
- Palermo (drainage/flooding issues)
- Stirling City
- Southside Oroville



3. Engagement: What are the best ways to engage each disadvantaged community as part of the General Plan Update?

- Tactics for engagement
 - Low-technology (boards and posters; Upper Ridge Community Plan outreach was great example).
 - Distribute door-to-door or direct mailers.
 - Join in on pre-existing community events.
 - Provide incentive for participating in engagement opportunities, for example, host a workshop on how to use Zoom and use that as an opportunity to engage.
 - Go where they are (churches, food banks, etc.).
 - Social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.).
 - Engage with local leaders.
 - Reach-out directly to community-based groups, such as:
 - CMA Church in Paradise
 - Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)
 - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 - Hispanic cultural centers
 - Hmong Cultural Center
 - Local Hispanic radio
 - Mobile farms markets
 - NVCSS- Promotors
 - South Oroville African American Family Cultural Center
 - Tribal leaders
 - Offer free food and/or childcare at meetings.
 - Offer incentives such as gift cards
 - Make link between General Plan and the lives of the people you are engaging with.
- Additional Comments
 - There is general distrust of government in disadvantaged communities.
 - These communities need to know that engagement is important.